



New South Wales

Legislative Assembly

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES (HANSARD)

**Fifty-Seventh Parliament
First Session**

Tuesday, 16 March 2021

Authorised by the Parliament of New South Wales

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 16 March 2021

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

The Speaker read the prayer and acknowledgement of country.

Notices

PRESENTATION

[During the giving of notices of motions]

The SPEAKER: I remind the member for Newcastle not to read notices of motions as statements with emotive inflection.

Bills

COVID-19 LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (STRONGER COMMUNITIES AND HEALTH) BILL 2021

Second Reading Debate

Debate resumed from 18 February 2021.

Mr PAUL LYNCH (Liverpool) (12:16): I lead for the Opposition on the COVID-19 Legislation Amendment (Stronger Communities and Health) Bill 2021. The Opposition does not oppose the bill, which follows legislation in March and May of last year that was specifically to introduce a number of emergency measures in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. That legislation included the COVID-19 Legislation Amendment (Emergency Measures) Act 2020, the COVID-19 Legislation Amendment (Emergency Measures—Attorney General) Act 2020 and the COVID-19 Legislation Amendment (Emergency Measures—Miscellaneous) Act 2020. The vast bulk of those legislative provisions were temporary, as was appropriate, and included sunset clauses. Many of the provisions will expire shortly, on 26 March this year.

This bill will extend some of those provisions for a further six months until 26 September this year. Additionally, they may be further extended by regulation for an additional six months. I note the Attorney's explanation in his second reading speech that this time frame coincides with the projected vaccination rollout times. It is noteworthy and a good principle that no Henry VIII clauses are being extended. Such clauses are always challenging at the level of principle and can only be justified in the most extreme of circumstances. There are no provisions in this bill that were not in previous legislation. They largely relate to allowing courts, tribunals and correctional services to continue to provide services safely during the pandemic.

The ways in which courts and tribunals have operated during the pandemic have varied and I have had some concerns put to me about the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal [NCAT], which I would like to put on the record. Whilst the originating process can be filed electronically at NCAT, other documentation apparently cannot. It has been put to me that that means that when other documents have to be filed in proceedings, they have to be delivered to a box in the lift foyer outside the locked Sydney Registry Office. Granted the potential sensitivity of such documents—for example, financial records—that seems somewhat less than satisfactory. I do not expect the Attorney General to respond in reply, but I would like to think that matter might be addressed. I should also note that there are some items unrelated to the pandemic that are in the bill. These are amendments to the not yet commenced Mental Health and Cognitive Impairment Forensic Provisions Act 2020. I note the Attorney General's comments that these provide clarification and amend minor drafting errors. The Opposition does not oppose the bill.

Ms MELANIE GIBBONS (Holsworthy) (12:20): I speak in support of the COVID-19 Legislation Amendment (Stronger Communities and Health) Bill 2021. I thank the Attorney General, the Hon. Mark Speakman, for introducing the bill. The bill proposes to extend a number of emergency measures that were implemented as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The extension is temporary and will continue until September 2021, with the option of a further six-month extension if necessary. The bill, and the extension period it proposes, is necessary in keeping the citizens of New South Wales protected from COVID-19. Although Australia has dealt with the pandemic significantly well compared to other countries, COVID-19 still poses a considerable risk to New South Wales and therefore legislation is required to keep our communities safe.

The bill proposes to extend implemented measures to do with court, tribunal and correctional services to ensure that their services can still safely operate during the pandemic. The New South Wales Government passed legislation in March and May of last year that implemented temporary measures to manage the pandemic. The provisions enclosed in those bills included a finishing date to ensure they only remained operational for as long as they were required. The Holsworthy electorate and south-west Sydney had its fair share of COVID-19 outbreaks. In particular, the Crossroads Hotel, Casula, outbreak impacted my local community significantly, and it was the first outbreak in New South Wales to impact a community. That is why I welcome the extension of the temporary measures that the bill outlines, as it aims to keep communities safe from the health risks.

The bill seeks to extend the implemented temporary measures until 26 September 2021, in conjunction with the projected rollout of the vaccine to New South Wales citizens. It also incorporates some flexibility, given the unpredictable nature of the pandemic and potential outbreaks. It is important to note that extraordinary regulation-making powers are not going to be extended as part of the bill. Furthermore, there are no new COVID-19 emergency provisions proposed under the bill. Schedule 1.23 to the bill recommends the temporary extension of the provisions under the Public Health Act 2010. One of those provisions allows a police officer to arrest a person who is suspected upon reasonable grounds of breaching a public health order relating to the COVID-19 pandemic. On being arrested, the person may be returned to their house or place of residence or the specific place that the public health order requires them to stay. That is required to remain implemented for the next six months to ensure that there is a streamlined and structured approach to deal with breaches of the public health orders. It will also allow police officers to be able to have the adequate powers to respond to someone contravening the orders.

Schedule 1.15 to the bill proposes the temporary extension of part 5 of chapter 7 of the Criminal Procedure Act. That permits a judge to order that a relevant witness can give evidence by having it recorded in advance of the trial at a pre-recorded evidence hearing. The evidence will then be viewed at the trial. Further, section 365 of the Act provides that a court can make an order that the accused person can be tried by a judge alone. That can be done if the accused and the prosecutor consent to it being a judge-only trial and if it is done in the interests of justice. It will streamline the process of judge-alone trials given the climate of the pandemic but will also preserve the accused person's right to being tried by a jury, should they prefer it.

Schedule 1.17 extends temporary provisions in section 22C of the Evidence (Audio and Audio Visual Links) Act 1998, which enables increased use of audiovisual links for court proceedings. This is to decrease in-person court appearances during the pandemic, due to the health risks they pose. It provides a presumption in favour of audiovisual links for bail appearances and provides the courts with the power to use audiovisual links at hearings and trials. The bill extends provisions that facilitate reduced in-person attendance at courts. For example, section 182 of the Criminal Procedure Act 1986 provides additional circumstances under which pleas can be lodged in writing instead of in person. Written pleas are allowed temporarily where the accused person has been granted or refused bail or where bail has been dispensed with. The extension of that provision is required to ensure that in-person contact with the court system is reduced. That complements other operational changes like increasing the use of electronic communication and enhanced hygiene practices.

Schedules 1.5 and 1.13 to the bill make sure that powers remain present in the Youth Justice system and the adult correctional system to ensure that offenders, staff and the wider community are protected from COVID-19. Some of those powers include permitting the Commissioner of Corrective Services and the Secretary of the Department of Communities and Justice to prevent visits to correctional facilities and youth detention centres in an effort to stop the spread of the virus. Those powers have been necessary during the pandemic and have been utilised based on health advice. Those powers also allow for individuals to be screened and to prevent them from entering the facility if they do not pass the screening test. It is important to note that, while in-person visits have been limited and suspended, inmates are able to use post, telephone, email, audiovisual link and other means to communicate and connect with family, friends and legal advisers.

Schedule 1.3 to the bill further extends the operation of sections 9A and 14A of the Children (Community Service Orders) Act 1987, which enables the Children's Court to continue to make children's community service orders during the pandemic. Generally the court must be satisfied that there is community service work available before imposing a community service order. Section 9A allows the court to impose a community service order when it is appropriate to do so. If COVID-19 affects the availability of that work, the order can still be imposed with the understanding that the work will become available during the term of the order. Section 14A of the Act allows a young person to be allowed to report to a Youth Justice officer through audiovisual link or telephone to ensure they fulfil the requirement to turn up to a nominated place to commence community service, as COVID-19 has obviously presented challenges to meeting in person. This will allow for flexibility when imposing children's community service orders. It is important to maintain that to ensure that those orders can be used as a sentencing option for young people during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Schedule 1.1 to the bill extends section 54 of the Child Protection (Working with Children) Act 2012. That allows the Children's Guardian to continue to exercise discretion to extend the duration of a Working With Children Check clearance beyond five years in suitable and appropriate circumstances. That will enable frontline workers who provide services to children and for those who work with vulnerable children to continue to work in their roles without the need to review their Working With Children Check clearance for a period of time. If there are any further lockdown periods or outbreaks, that provision will ensure that those important workers can continue to work with children. Further to that, section 54 enables flexibility with the renewal process of the Working With Children Check by removing barriers that would possibly affect clearance renewals and the ability of an individual to work with children. That was exercised in 2020 for Working With Children Checks that were going to expire during March and September; they were extended by six months so that individuals were not required to physically attend a Service NSW centre when public health restrictions were in place.

It is necessary for the Children's Guardian to continue to have that discretion in case further lockdowns take place, which could prevent those services that involve working with children from continuing. To further ensure that child safety is prioritised, other ongoing monitoring measures will still apply, including that carers in out-of-home care settings can still provide certified copies of proof-of-identity documents to foster care agencies instead of visiting a Service NSW centre in person. Without those provisions the community would not have been able to operate and provide services in a safe manner. It is important that the citizens of New South Wales remain protected throughout the course of the pandemic. The bill extends those emergency measures that have been implemented to ensure we are kept safe. Extending those provisions is a response to the evolving and unpredictable nature of the pandemic.

Before I commend the bill to the House, which I will do in a moment, and while we are talking about COVID-19, I will take the opportunity to thank some of those important people who have worked tirelessly to help the community during the pandemic. Obviously first and foremost I thank those frontline workers who are out there day in and day out—whether that is in our hospital system, the quarantine system or wherever they may be—supporting our community to continue to be safe. I also thank the Hon. Gladys Berejiklian, Chief Health Officer Dr Kerry Chant, and Minister for Health and Medical Research Brad Hazzard.

Those people have continued to inform and protect our State throughout the duration of COVID-19 and been available to all of us at short notice to help answer our questions and put our minds at ease. I acknowledge Minister for Customer Service Victor Dominello for his effort in creating the Service NSW app to ensure that our residents are kept protected, Rob Stokes for the changes he very quickly implemented, and Minister for Transport and Roads Andrew Constance for getting us to our jobs as safely as possible when needed. I would like to thank all of our community groups as well, and I will do that at a later stage. With that, I commend the bill to the House.

Ms JODIE HARRISON (Charlestown) (12:30): As the shadow Attorney General indicated, the Opposition will support the COVID-19 Legislation Amendment (Stronger Communities and Health) Bill 2021. Over the past year the COVID-19 pandemic has posed unprecedented challenges. Our communities have had to adapt to whole new ways of learning, socialising, doing business and staying well. I note that this bill does not propose any new emergency measures. Instead, it will extend certain emergency measures already implemented in response to the pandemic until September this year, with an option of a further six-month extension by regulation should that be required. The bill will also make some minor amendments to various other unrelated pieces of legislation to correct some drafting errors.

In these turbulent times we cannot know the future. Our systems need to be prepared to cope with any eventuality. It has been some time since the last major outbreak in New South Wales, but experiences at the beginning of this year and in recent days emphasise that COVID-19 poses an ongoing public health risk. Our government agencies and services need to have the ability to properly respond to any new cluster as necessary. With new and highly transmissible strains appearing around the world, we cannot risk another debacle like the *Ruby Princess*. Through Australia in general, and New South Wales in particular, we have fared well throughout the crisis when compared with other countries. The damage done by the pandemic will take a long time to address and heal, but so much of our success is owed to our fantastic frontline health workers and public service. Their dedication, innovation and commitment to keeping our State healthy has been instrumental and will continue to be so. The willingness of ordinary people to stay home, to sacrifice, to follow the guidelines set out by NSW Health and to take responsibility for themselves, their friends and their family is to be applauded.

Our State's continued good health and success would not have been possible without everybody pitching in. In the Charlestown electorate, local entrepreneurs and innovators pivoted to address the needs of the pandemic. Restaurants and cafes started offering take-out or delivery, businesses shifted to working online and clothing stores started manufacturing and selling masks. Local inventors even developed and manufactured a prototype ventilator to help increase stock should we in New South Wales face a situation similar to New York, Milan or London and an overwhelming demand might threaten to force our doctors to ration health care. Every day

residents of the Charlestown electorate stepped up too by supporting those in quarantine, checking in on elderly neighbours, helping friends and loved ones and often even strangers to survive and flourish in trying times. I am so proud of my electorate for the way we have faced and overcome the challenges of COVID-19 together.

I am so proud of this State's committed and professional public servants, especially our frontline workers, who did so much to keep us safe. They include teachers, who had to pivot to online learning with next to no warning and far too little support; hospital workers, who kept showing up to work despite the potential danger; our emergency services personnel, whose lifesaving work cannot be done remotely; our early childhood educators, who kept the doors of their centres open to ensure that parents could keep working; and retail workers, who have often been looked down upon but who proved absolutely essential in the midst of this crisis. Many of them copped abuse from frightened and agitated shoppers, but they still stocked shelves, got food into our pantries and made sure that everyone got the toilet paper they needed. Without all of those people pitching in and doing their part no amount of legislation or regulation could have kept our State functioning. They deserve our appreciation and support, and to have their wages and rights at work protected.

I have some concerns about the current situation. We all know that it has been a difficult time for many. The economic impacts of lockdown and the recession will be felt for years to come. Inequalities have been exacerbated and disadvantage entrenched. Opportunities lost and dreams deferred will have knock-on effects for a generation of young people. In his second reading speech the Attorney General expressed thanks for the trust the Parliament has placed in the Government to navigate through the pandemic. In times of genuine crisis I think all of us in this place are able to put aside party affiliations and political ambition to focus on the good of our State, and we have generally seen that over the past year regarding COVID. This Parliament must not be treated as a rubber stamp for the decisions of the Executive, nor should the pandemic be used to shield Government Ministers and backbenchers from needed scrutiny.

We are elected to this place by our constituents to represent their interests at all times. This can and must include holding the Government to account, even during times of crisis. In our parliamentary democracy nothing, not a natural disaster or a global pandemic, can be allowed to stand in the way of accountability. Last year the Government was struck by an avalanche of controversies, most particularly the catastrophic revelations of corporate malfeasance and wage theft at icare. At the height of that controversy, with new revelations about mismanagement and political interference coming every day, the Government refused to recall Parliament to answer questions. At the time we were told that there was nothing the Government needed Parliament's approval for. This is a despicable attitude.

I say again: We in this place are not a rubber stamp for the Premier and her Cabinet. We are not here to allow bad Government actions to pass by without appropriate scrutiny—from icare to ICAC hearings, to dodgy deals by backbenchers and questionable ministerial ethics. Our job as elected members of the New South Wales Parliament is to hold the Government to account. Yes, in times of crisis we hope that the Government can indeed be trusted to do what is right for our State, but with that trust comes an expectation of accountability, transparency and honesty. The Government—with some notable exceptions—handled the pandemic as well as can be expected. However, the trust we as MPs and the public at large have invested in the Government has been tested again and again in recent times.

We must have the capacity to return to the trials of the COVID-19 pandemic, whatever they might be. I implore the Government to stop using the pandemic and the trust of the public as a shield from much-needed scrutiny. I once again thank the many workers who kept our State functioning during this crisis. I extend my thanks to New South Wales government agencies and their hardworking staff for adjusting to the demands of COVID. Without them and the perseverance and adaptability of every person in this State, we would not be where we are now. I support the bill.

Mr MARK COURE (Oatley) (12:37): I support the COVID-19 Legislation Amendment (Stronger Communities and Health) Bill 2021. I particularly focus on getting the implementation right, which is crucial to the success of any legislation that passes through the Parliament. The bill will significantly assist with the implementation of the Mental Health and Cognitive Impairment Forensic Provisions Act 2020. The Mental Health Cognitive Impairment Forensic Provisions Act 2020—the new Act—was introduced to Parliament in June 2020 and passed without amendment. The new Act implements the majority of the New South Wales Law Reform Commission's recommendations in report 138, *Criminal Responsibility and Consequences*, and replaces the Mental Health (Forensic Provisions) Act 1990.

The COVID-19 Legislation Amendment (Stronger Communities and Health) Bill 2021 recognises that people who come into contact with the criminal justice system and have mental health impairment or cognitive impairment may need to be dealt with via the forensic mental health pathway. It also takes into account the safety and experiences of victims and prioritises the safety of the community. The new Act updates the language of forensic mental health and includes definitions of both mental health impairment and cognitive impairment,

ensuring that forensic mental health is not limited in its application to people with mental illness. The new Act provides for the following: diversion for some people in the Local Court who are accused of low-level offending and have a mental health or cognitive impairment that can be treated or supported in the community. Eligibility for diversion is determined by a few factors, including any history of prior diversion orders and the safety of the community.

The second point that is also included in the new Act is a modernised test for the defence of mental health impairment or cognitive impairment in serious matters, known at common law as the defence of mental illness; and a new special verdict of act proven but not criminally responsible—previously not guilty by reason of mental illness—which assists victims and, more importantly, reflects the intention of the special verdict. The third point in the new Act is a statutory test for whether a person is fit to be tried, which codifies the common law and adds new considerations into fitness, such as whether modifications or assistance can be given to enable a person to meet the fitness criteria. A fourth point is more efficient interactions between the courts and the Mental Health Review Tribunal, streamlining processes that may otherwise delay finalisation of a matter and ensuring that defendants and, of course, victims have their matters dealt with in an efficient and effective way.

The new Act strikes, I think, the right balance between the needs of victims, the safety of the community and the needs of the offender. It says that the law will deal with people accused of low-level offending differently, contingent on that person seeking treatment and support, and reducing the likelihood of reoffending. It also says that unfit people who are accused of serious offences should not be tried using ordinary criminal processes but that the matter should be resolved in a special hearing as soon as possible. The new Act also reasserts that the safety of the community is primary in all decision-making, including by the court or the Mental Health Review Tribunal.

Implementation of the new Act required significant system updates for New South Wales courts and for the Mental Health Review Tribunal. It also required development of training materials for magistrates, judges, tribunal members and legal practitioners. It necessitated further training for forensic mental health specialists and all those who work in the system. In the course of those updates, both the Local Court of New South Wales and the Mental Health Review Tribunal asked for minor updates and clarifications to the Act. In particular, the Local Court of New South Wales sought information on the operation of the new Act in the summary jurisdiction, and the Mental Health Review Tribunal sought clarifications as to how the new Act will operate towards serious offences when a person becomes a forensic patient.

The Local Court of New South Wales asked for two amendments. First, the court asked for the removal of the words "on application" in part 2 of the new Act, which could unintentionally trigger the special jurisdiction of the Local Court. This has now been removed by schedule 2 [1] to the bill. Secondly, the Local Court asked for a clarifying amendment to the transitional provisions. This amendment ensures that magistrates are aware that a person whose matter has already started in the court prior to the new Act commencing and is applying for a diversion order is to be dealt with under sections 32 or 33 of the former Act. This has been clarified by schedule 2 [4] to the bill.

The Mental Health Review Tribunal also sought two other clarifying amendments. The first related to one of the more complex interactions between the courts and the Mental Health Review Tribunal, when a person who has been found unfit to be tried and has been tried at a special hearing is given a limiting term by the court. The transitional provision amendment makes clear that a person who has received the limiting term and has been referred to the tribunal will finish that process under the old Act. That means they will come back before the court for a disposition order, which is a step that has been removed under the new Act. The second amendment fixes an inadvertent inclusion of the words "this Division" in section 77 of the new Act. The list goes on. The Department of Communities and Justice has consulted the Mental Health Review Tribunal, the Local Court of New South Wales, the Children's Court of New South Wales, Legal Aid NSW and the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions. The amendments are necessary for a clear transition from the old Act to the new, modern and supported forensic mental health regime. They have been informed by consultation with key stakeholders across New South Wales. I am pleased to support the bill in this House.

Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore) (12:45): As members know, almost a year ago the Government introduced the first COVID-19 emergency bill into this Parliament. This is an extraordinary time in the history of our State and indeed the world; all of us have had to adapt quickly to many changes as we work together to contain the spread of COVID-19. Our frontline workers delivering essential services, particularly in health, worked around the clock to figure out how to deal with the virus. Some people suffered loss of employment or a reduction of employment. Many started working from home and had to find new ways to work. Parents were encouraged to keep their children home from school, which created a lot of challenges for our children and young people and also for parents; they had to adapt to learning remotely for a period.

We limited our movements, and contact with friends and families was also limited in order to keep our nearest and dearest safe and well. Those many changes brought new challenges for us. No-one had an instruction manual on living through a global pandemic. Nobody knew what would happen or exactly what to do. We did know that we had to listen to our public health experts and that physical distancing and staying apart could keep us together. By and large, the people of New South Wales have done all that we have asked of them—all that we have asked of each other—and with good grace. Each of the States and Territories through the National Cabinet, led by our first Ministers, has risen to the challenges of the pandemic compared with the rest of the world. One year on, we have recorded over 5,000 COVID-19 cases in New South Wales, many from overseas as we continue to support the safe return home of Australians via hotel quarantine.

We have done more than five million COVID-19 tests in New South Wales. Although New South Wales has fared relatively well in managing this global pandemic, tragically 56 people in our State have lost their lives due to COVID-19. We continue to extend our thoughts to the families and loved ones of those people who lost their lives. The past year has been a particularly difficult and trying time for many. Throughout this period we have been even more fortunate and grateful than usual to have been led by the most amazing public health team. I take this opportunity to acknowledge, in particular, the incredible work and dedication of our State's Chief Health Officer, Dr Kerry Chant. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic Dr Chant has been a constant, trusted presence, providing vital health information to keep us all informed and safe.

Last week we celebrated International Women's Day. I know many of my colleagues in the Chamber were at the breakfast event acknowledging Dr Chant's outstanding achievements when she was named the NSW Premier's Woman of the Year—the highest honour in these annual awards that were held just last week. Dr Chant is a role model and an inspiration. She has led a remarkable public health response throughout the pandemic, which has been acknowledged and applauded throughout the world. I add my voice to the chorus in extending my thanks and appreciation to Dr Chant. I note that when accepting the Premier's award Dr Chant acknowledged the role that the broader team plays in the work that she has been able to deliver and in ensuring that we are all safe and well. I also acknowledge the excellent work of other senior health management, including the Secretary of NSW Health, Elizabeth Koff, and Deputy Secretary Susan Pearce, and, of course, our frontline health staff. Those frontline staff include nurses, doctors, allied health staff, pathology staff, cleaners, security personnel, contact tracers and administrative staff.

Yesterday I had the great privilege of going to Royal North Shore Hospital and meeting with some of our newest nurses in the intensive care unit, critical care, surgery and neonatal intensive care unit. I met with a number of our new nurses. I got to experience them undertaking a simulated exercise where they saved our friend James, a manikin who had gone into distress. These are students who have only just completed their studies and chosen to go into critical care at a time of the global pandemic when their own health could be significantly at risk, as we have seen across the world the impact of COVID on people within our medical professions—the number of people infected and the number of people who have unfortunately died. Yet these students have chosen critical care. They have chosen to put themselves on the front line to keep us safe and well. I should not have been shocked but I was shocked, stunned and in awe of their responsiveness yesterday, only three weeks in to being part of the Royal North Shore Hospital ICU team. They were able to respond to uncertainty with calmness, professionalism and skill. I know we are in very safe hands with those professionals even just at the beginning of their career and journey.

As I mentioned I also met with members of the neonatal intensive care unit team on their first day, so they had not yet been able to provide any critical care to babies needing it. But we spoke about the level of care and responsibility on each of them when it comes to some of the uncertainty around children and new babies in intensive care and critical care. We also spoke about the fear that parents will have and some of the challenges that parents and new mothers have with attachment, bonding and feeding, and how their role is not only to care for a very small, precious, vulnerable and fragile baby but also for the family around them.

Having had my own son, Henry, six months ago tomorrow at Royal North Shore Hospital, and thankfully not having to have any critical care treatment, I know the remarkable work of the midwifery practice and the obstetricians. Having had a baby during a pandemic, it was a very interesting experience, particularly considering two years previously I had a child in normal circumstances—the old normal. So I just got the opportunity on a very regular basis to observe the individuals within our health system—their excellence, their grace, their focus on the patient and the patient's family and not on themselves, and their diligence and perseverance. Our appreciation and respect for them is paramount.

This time last year it was pretty scary. We were all very anxious and uncertain. When we think back to March last year, the uncertainty and fear about our future, how long it would take to get back to a sense of normal, whether or not there were additional risks for each of us—as I said, I was a pregnant woman with no certainty around the globe about what COVID-19 meant for pregnant women or for an unborn baby—we did not even

know that a vaccine could be produced this rapidly with the amount of global focus and resources put to that task. The idea that less than a year later we have multiple vaccines is a cause for optimism coming out of all that fear and anxiety.

On Monday 22 February the COVID-19 vaccination program commenced in New South Wales. This marked a significant milestone in entering the next stage of managing this pandemic. Our frontline workers were the first in line for vaccination, as they should be. Over 35,000 jabs have been delivered to frontline workers in the first three weeks of the Pfizer vaccine rollout in New South Wales. We have now commenced the rollout of the second vaccine in New South Wales, the AstraZeneca vaccine, with many clinics opening in regional areas over the next few weeks. I note the Premier told us again today how grateful she was to get the AstraZeneca vaccine and encouraged all of us in the community to also take on the vaccine when it is available to them.

We have made significant progress. However, this pandemic is not over. On the weekend, a hotel quarantine worker tested positive to COVID-19. This worker had received the first of two doses of the Pfizer vaccine. This broke a remarkable streak of 55 days without any locally acquired cases of COVID-19 here in New South Wales. This—combined with the northern beaches outbreak over the Christmas and new year period, other outbreaks across the Greater Sydney region and recent outbreaks in Victoria and Queensland—demonstrates that COVID-19 continues to pose public health risks to the New South Wales community. The emergence of new and more transmissible strains of the virus will be an ongoing challenge. This recent case is yet another reminder that, despite our many successes in containing COVID-19, we cannot relax or let down our guard.

We need to remain vigilant. We live with the constant threat of this virus even now as we embark on this new phase and start to roll out a promising vaccination program. The public health risks are likely to continue until broad community vaccination is achieved. Until such time we must remain vigilant and continue COVID-safe practices. But that is why we know that we are in the safest possible hands with our health system. That is why the measures in this bill are so important and still necessary to help us manage the COVID-19 pandemic. As well as we see it being managed, the pandemic is not over. I am pleased to support the bill.

Mr ALEX GREENWICH (Sydney) (12:54): The COVID-19 Legislation Amendment (Stronger Communities and Health) Bill 2021 extends for six more months some of the emergency and extraordinary powers introduced last year to deal with the pandemic. It allows a further six-month extension by regulation. COVID-19 continues to wreak havoc across the world, with over 2½ million deaths attributed to the disease in just over a year and over 21 million cases currently active. Thankfully, Australia—especially New South Wales under the leadership of the Premier and Minister Hazzard—has avoided a health crisis. However, the need for social-distancing powers remains as the disease continues to escape hotel quarantine and has the ability to spread quickly through the community. The World Health Organization has warned that the pandemic is unlikely to finish by the end of the year, even with concerted efforts to vaccinate populations, because it will take time to fully vaccinate enough people across the globe to stop infections and to determine the effectiveness of the vaccines in the face of new variants.

Hopefully, for New South Wales another year in the shadow of COVID-19 will not mean significant health challenges outside of rolling out vaccines, but certainly it will mean more economic pain, with a focus on certain industries and jobs. Industries that rely on tourism, like accommodation and travel; on guaranteed open borders, like touring; and on crowds, like live music, will be hit hard. Last year many businesses managed to stay afloat only because of JobKeeper and grants. JobKeeper is set to disappear at the end of the month, and we risk a wave of business collapses and unemployment. In particular, I worry about businesses in Sydney's central business district that rely on trade from city office workers, such as restaurants, bars, cafes and copy services. The CBD economy is in crisis. More people are returning to the office; however, numbers are still very low. Many office towers are tenanted by multinational companies that have global return-to-work policies based on cities with poorer COVID-19 outcomes.

Maximum CBD occupancy rates are around 25 per cent—far short of pre-pandemic levels. That is unlikely to change any time soon. At the height of the pandemic trade dropped to as low as 90 per cent for many CBD small businesses. It has not been restored to more than 50 per cent since. Those businesses are trapped in long-term leases entered into before the pandemic and have not been able to negotiate rent reductions with their landlords that would enable them to survive. If business owners terminate their leases, their landlords can take their large security deposits or pursue them in court for the sale of their homes, which are often used to secure guarantees. When JobKeeper is withdrawn, those businesses will need additional financial assistance to continue operating or protections against losing their security bonds and other guarantees if they cease. I have written to the Treasurer to ask for a recovery package to protect this cohort.

The New South Wales Government has still not provided a package to save the State's dedicated live music venues. Last year I sponsored a petition signed by over 20,000 people in just over 24 hours in support of live music venues. Those venues are the lifeblood of our music industry, fostering the careers of homegrown talent

that we export to the world. They also support local industries like restaurants and bars. Dedicated live music venues suffered prolonged closures and severely reduced audiences, and hired additional staff to comply with health orders. They will not survive the loss of JobKeeper.

I was disappointed to read that Venue 505 will close at the end of the month despite the Government having told me it would work with venues to develop a survival package, as has been done in Victoria, South Australia, Queensland and indeed across the globe. If existing dedicated venues close, recovery in the live music industry will be longer and more challenging and New South Wales will cease to be the cultural world leader we are renowned to be. The Government has said it is committed to a vibrant live music industry. I again urge it to work with dedicated live music venues to save them from collapse.

The end of JobKeeper also poses significant risks to workers across the board, particularly low-income workers in the food and beverage, hospitality, entertainment and retail industries for whom work depends on their employer receiving JobKeeper. Without JobKeeper, many will lose their jobs at the same time. The Government must prepare for this new wave of unemployment. I welcome the commitment to extend the moratorium on residential tenancy evictions, but we also need better protections to ensure that landlords and tenants negotiate in good faith. We urgently need to remove "no grounds" evictions. The need for the bill shows that the pandemic is not over and is going to be with us for at least another six months. Beyond ensuring that social distancing can continue we now need to go to protecting the most vulnerable, including vulnerable small businesses, from economic fallout.

Mr PETER SIDGREAVES (Camden) (12:59): I contribute to debate on the COVID-19 Legislation Amendment (Stronger Communities and Health) Bill 2021. Schedules 1.5 and 1.13 to the bill contain amendments to the Children (Detention Centres) Act 1987 and the Crimes (Administration of Sentences) Act 1999 respectively. The purpose of these amendments is to extend the power of the Commissioner of Corrective Services and the Secretary of the Department of Communities and Justice to restrict visits to correctional centres and Youth Justice NSW detention centres. The amendments also extend the power of the Commissioner of Corrective Services to grant parole to inmates of prescribed classes.

The provisions were originally legislated by this Parliament in March 2020 under the COVID-19 Legislation Amendment (Emergency Measures) Bill 2020 as temporary emergency measures in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. They are necessary to protect the health of inmates, detainees, staff and the community from the continued public health risk posed by COVID-19. These powers remain an important mitigation tool should COVID-19 enter custodial facilities, which could have devastating consequences. However, these powers are not the only protective measures in place to address the heightened risk that COVID-19 poses in correctional facilities. They complement the proactive steps that Corrective Services and Youth Justice have taken to minimise the risk to inmates, detainees, staff and the community.

Youth Justice has implemented a comprehensive pandemic plan across its operations. A working group oversees all COVID-19-related activities, action plans, systems and processes across Youth Justice in line with information from Justice Health. Young people in Youth Justice custody are temperature checked each morning and mostly housed in single rooms with a private toilet and shower. All new intakes into Youth Justice custody undergo COVID-19 testing by Justice Health and are placed into quarantine for 14 days. Anyone supervising or interacting with young people in a Youth Justice centre is required to undertake social distancing and hygiene practices and to wear a mask when required in line with NSW Health advice. Youth Justice staff who exhibit flu-like symptoms do not attend work and instead self-isolate and are tested for COVID-19. Staff can return to duties once they obtain a negative COVID-19 test result and they no longer have flu-like symptoms. Special leave is available for staff who are excluded from the workplace, for example, because they have attended a hotspot or are otherwise required to self-isolate by NSW Health.

Corrective Services continues to work in partnership with Justice Health and NSW Health to manage COVID-19 risks. The coronavirus command post was established in March 2020 to be the central point of contact for advice across Corrective Services. As more of the operations of Corrective Services return to COVID Safe business as usual, the operations of the command post are winding down. In the case of further outbreaks the command post will be reinstated as required. Each correctional centre also has a pandemic action plan that is updated to respond to changing circumstances. New receptions and offenders transported by police to correctional centres or court cells are temperature checked and screened for COVID-19 symptoms. All new inmates entering correctional centres are tested for COVID-19 and quarantined in a designated area separate from the general inmate population for 14 days. After this quarantine period, Justice Health assesses the inmate and advises if they can be managed within the general inmate population. Any inmate with flu-like symptoms or suspected of having COVID-19 is isolated and referred to Justice Health for assessment. Inmates are only returned to the general population once they are cleared by Justice Health.

Corrective Services has made a number of modifications to its centres in response to the COVID-19 emergency. Additional thermal digital devices have been installed at all large correctional centres to identify and prevent any febrile staff member or authorised visitor from entering. Isolation hubs have been established at several correctional centres to manage any inmate who tests positive to COVID-19. A field hospital at the Metropolitan Reception and Remand Centre has been established to manage any positive COVID-19 inmate who becomes acutely unwell. Protocols are in place to ensure that Corrective Services staff do not attend work if they have returned from overseas, have spent time in any locations requiring mandatory self-isolation or quarantine and COVID-19 testing, have been in contact with an infected person in the last 14 days, or display flu-like symptoms.

Justice Health has identified and is closely monitoring inmates at increased risk of infection, including those with a history of chronic illness and the aged. Additional audiovisual link technology has been made available for family visits, with more than 210,000 video visits facilitated for inmates and detainees as at 14 March 2021. Corrective Services and Youth Justice are to be commended for proactively developing and implementing these COVID Safe practices during this challenging and unprecedented time. Since the outbreak of the COVID-19 health emergency, there have been no recorded COVID-19 cases in Youth Justice. Corrective Services received its first and only COVID-19 positive inmate on 26 July 2020, after his arrival in New South Wales from Victoria. At all times the inmate was treated as a suspected case and isolated appropriately. On testing positive for COVID-19, the inmate was transferred to a special isolation hub.

The inmate was transferred out of the isolation hub on 21 August 2020 after a negative test result and clearance from Justice Health. There was no spread of infection, and there have been no other confirmed cases amongst inmates since. This is quite remarkable and is a testament to the swift and proactive COVID Safe measures adopted by Youth Justice and Corrective Services to protect the health of inmates and detainees and maintain the security of correctional facilities in New South Wales during the COVID-19 health emergency. I am pleased to support the amendments in the bill, which ensure the right balance between protecting the health of inmates and detainees and safeguarding the continued good order and security of correctional facilities.

Mr JAMES GRIFFIN (Manly) (13:08): I am pleased to support the COVID-19 Legislation Amendment (Stronger Communities and Health) Bill 2021. Of course, it was almost a year ago that this Government first introduced the COVID-19 emergency bill to this Parliament, and it was a great honour and privilege to be here on that particular day and participate in the debate. Indeed, it was a challenging time not only here in New South Wales but also around the world. As a result, we needed to move quickly, be innovative and agile, and put in place the best measures that we possibly could as a government to ensure that we kept our citizens safe and, equally, that businesses could continue to operate and manage when and where they needed throughout the pandemic. The extent of the particular amendments to legislation and regulations has been quite significant, and many of them will need to be repealed. However, some of those changes have been a blessing for organisations by allowing them to be more agile in providing their services to people across the State, demonstrating that a lot of regulations were a hindrance to businesses.

Of course, there was no textbook or playbook for governments around Australia and the world on managing the pandemic, but we have done a fantastic job in New South Wales. I take this opportunity to acknowledge the hard work of our State's Chief Health Officer, Dr Kerry Chant, who recently won the NSW Premier's Woman of the Year award, and the health Minister, who has done an outstanding job. I also acknowledge the excellent work of other senior health management, including the Secretary of NSW Health, Elizabeth Koff, and Deputy Secretary Susan Pearce. Behind them—or in front of them, I should say—our frontline health staff have worked so hard. They include nurses, doctors, allied health staff, pathology staff, cleaners, security personnel, contact tracers and administrative staff.

I can speak specifically to the challenges that we experienced on the northern beaches over the Christmas and new year period. The sudden nature of the outbreak meant that a lot of businesses had purchased perishable goods and stock in anticipation of what they thought would be a strong trade weekend, which would have provided them with revenue off the back of what had been a difficult year. Of course, last summer we missed out on much of the trade that we would usually see in Manly because of the bushfires and the poor experience of people coming to the beaches. The legislation and the repeal of regulations allowed our local businesses on the northern beaches to get on with trading. In the hospitality industry, many restaurants and cafes pivoted to provide takeaway services—when ordinarily they would not have—maintaining their cash flow at a time when they needed it the most.

One of the more interesting regulations that was repealed was the ability for restaurants to provide alcohol as part of the takeaway service. For many of the local restaurants in Manly, that small change allowed them to monetise their wine and alcohol stock, which otherwise would have sat on the shelves for months because people could not go to restaurants. Small changes like allowing people to order takeaway alcohol with their food might

ordinarily have been seen as a bold move, but the results have demonstrated that perhaps there is no need to bring that regulation back into place. The outbreak on the northern beaches over the Christmas and new year period demonstrated that we must remain vigilant. Despite our success in containing COVID-19 over the past year and the challenges that we have overcome, we simply cannot relax and let down our guard. Until the vaccine is rolled out, COVID is something we must live and deal with. The public health risks will continue until broad community vaccination is achieved. That is why measures contained in this bill are so important and still necessary to help us manage the COVID-19 pandemic.

The proposed reforms stretch from the Public Health Act to the Crimes Act to the Criminal Procedure Act, and they also propose the correction of minor drafting errors in the Mental Health and Cognitive Impairment Forensic Provisions Act 2020 prior to its intended commencement by proclamation in late March 2021. There has been significant stakeholder management and engagement in understanding this bill. Many organisations have been consulted and the challenges discussed, including the heads of jurisdiction of the NSW Police Force, Legal Aid NSW, the Public Defenders Office, the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, the Office of the Children's Guardian, the New South Wales Bar Association, the Law Society of New South Wales and the Aboriginal Legal Service. The emergency provisions proposed for extension will cover a variety of different ministries and portfolios, including Health and Stronger Communities. The Stronger Communities cluster includes, for example, the Child Protection (Working with Children) Act 2012. Section 54 of the Act allows the period for a Working With Children Check clearance to be extended at the discretion of the Children's Guardian.

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

Announcements

BOOTS FOR ALL

The SPEAKER: I acknowledge that the Minister for Sport, Multiculturalism, Seniors and Veterans and I will host a promotional event for the Boots For All organisation tomorrow from 10.00 a.m. to 11.30 a.m. It will be held in the rooftop garden on level 9. Boots For All breaks down barriers to sport participation, and strengthens communities by collecting and distributing quality new and near-new sporting equipment for vulnerable Australians. If members come along tomorrow they should bring any of their old boots, or their kids' old boots—as long as they are still wearable—and they can have their photo taken with sporting stars from football, A-League, NRL, NSW Rugby or AFL. If members do not have any boots or old equipment, they can go up to level 9 and have their photo taken anyway.

CENTENARY OF THE ELECTION OF EDITH DIRCKSEY COWAN

The SPEAKER: The Presiding Officers of the Parliament of Western Australia have requested that we mark the occasion of the election of the first woman member of an Australian Parliament, Edith Cowan, on 12 March 1921—100 years ago. Edith Cowan was elected to the Parliament of Western Australia and this year marks the centenary of her election. Although she served only one term, her legacy is significant. Should members wish to obtain an Edith Cowan centenary resources pack, they should contact the Parliamentary Education Office at the Parliament of Western Australia.

RETIREMENT OF LES GÖNYE, DEPUTY CLERK

The SPEAKER: This is an important pre-announcement—and I will have some more effusive remarks to make closer to the relevant date. The Clerk received a letter dated 25 February 2021 from our Deputy Clerk, Les Gönye, providing notice of his impending retirement. He will be proceeding on long service leave from Monday 31 May this year, although technically his last day of service will be on Friday 10 February 2023. We will mark his retirement at a later date, but I did want to notify the House.

Members

MINISTRY

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN: On behalf of Ms Gladys Berejiklian: I inform the House that on 3 March 2021 His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor:

Accepted the resignation of Anthony John Sidoti, MP, as Minister and as a member of the Executive Council.

Appointed the Hon. Dr Geoffrey Lee, MP, as Minister for Sport, Multiculturalism, Seniors and Veterans.

PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIES

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN: I inform the House that on 15 February 2021 the Hon. Taylor Mitchell Martin, MLC, was appointed Parliamentary Secretary for the Hunter and Cost of Living.

*Bills***STRATA SCHEMES MANAGEMENT AMENDMENT (SUSTAINABILITY INFRASTRUCTURE)
BILL 2020****WARNERVALE AIRPORT (RESTRICTIONS) REPEAL BILL 2020****ROAD TRANSPORT LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (DRINK AND DRUG DRIVING OFFENCE)
BILL 2021****Assent**

The SPEAKER: I report receipt of messages from Her Excellency the Governor assenting to three bills.

*Governor***ADMINISTRATION OF THE GOVERNMENT**

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

*Question Time***BRINGELLY LAND REZONING**

Ms JODI McKAY (Strathfield) (14:22): My question is directed to the Premier. As a result of her Government's proposed rezoning, land owned in Bringelly by Theo Koutsomihalis has plummeted from a value of \$11 million to nothing more than a gold coin. Does the Premier agree with the member for Mulgoa that the planned rezoning of people's homes and farms is legalised theft?

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN (Willoughby—Premier) (14:22): I acknowledge all the residents of western Sydney who bring issues to the Government—as they should—on matters which concern them. It is appropriate for me to outline the Government's vision for western Sydney and the process that it is currently undertaking. We know that whenever there is monumental change and we are implementing a major vision, some always feel that they perhaps are not part of the process as much as they would like. It is important to state at this stage that the Government, the planning Minister and the Greater Sydney Commission outlined our vision for the three cities strategy. As members know, the three cities are Sydney East, which is where we are now; Parramatta, which is our central city; and the Western Parkland City, which very proudly today we named Bradfield.

The Western Parkland City was called the Western Parkland City for a reason. Into the future, it will create 200,000 jobs. Already we have attracted 18 major corporations that are going to set up shop, but we called it the parkland city because we want it to attract the best jobs, to have the best transport and infrastructure and to be extremely liveable. We know that into the future at times there could be changes in land use depending on what the government of the day sees fit for the future of the State. We also appreciate that it is always difficult when people plan for their future and it is disrupted because the government of the day announces a new policy position that may alter people's perceptions of what that future may look like.

Ms Jodi McKay: Point of order—

The SPEAKER: Order! The Premier is answering the question seriously. Members will remain silent while I hear from the Leader of the Opposition.

Ms Jodi McKay: My point of order is under Standing Order 129. The member for Mulgoa, a Liberal member, described it as "legalised theft". Does the Premier agree with one of her MPs, who described it as "legalised theft"?

The SPEAKER: The Premier is responding to the question.

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: The Opposition asked a question. It should at least allow me to answer it and provide context as to the Government's decision-making. I commend the members for Mulgoa and Camden and other members who have raised concerns on behalf of their local residents. The Government is going through the process of listening to those concerns and addressing them. But it is also appropriate for us not only to address those specific concerns of residents but also to focus on what this means for residents in western Sydney, their children, grandchildren, and successive generations. It is also extremely important, as even those opposite would accept, that the Government has probity issues it has to go through. It has to go through important issues regarding evaluating market rates as opposed to speculative rates.

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

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: The easy thing to do would be what the Opposition did in government, that is, have ad hoc measures where big developers come in, purchase up—

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

Mr Greg Warren: Point of order: My point of order is under Standing Order 129. The question was very clear: Does the Premier agree with the member for Mulgoa when she stated that this is legalised theft by the Premier's Government?

The SPEAKER: The Premier is being relevant.

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: These are complex issues, which I know the relevant Ministers have already undertaken to continue to go through. As has been highlighted, those relevant Ministers have already engaged in conversations and that will continue. But a number of principles are at play here. Firstly, there is the Government's commitment to build a new city that has good quality of life, good infrastructure, good residential amenity as well as the 200,000 jobs of the future. It is important to get that balance right. Secondly, not only is it important to protect the rights of residents but it is also important to protect the principle where governments should not speculate on future prices. Governments should do the right thing by everybody, hear the matter and make sure everybody is treated fairly.

BRADFIELD CITY

Mr PETER SIDGREAVES (Camden) (14:28): Will the Premier update the House on how western Sydney's new city, Bradfield, will secure the region's future as its jobs and skills capital?

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN (Willoughby—Premier) (14:28): I again commend the member for Camden for his question and the representations he has provided to me personally on behalf of concerned residents. I make very clear that the members for Camden and Mulgoa have raised the concerns impacting some of their constituents in the appropriate way and the Government is always willing and ready to listen to those concerns. It is also important to note the huge inroads the New South Wales Government has made in our vision to deliver the jobs of the future. Because when people are standing in the great city of Parramatta, they will not be looking east for the best jobs in advanced manufacturing, logistics, agribusiness and a whole range of other areas. They will be looking west to the new aerotropolis, which today we proudly announced will be called Bradfield in the future. As we know, the Nancy-Bird Walton Airport is taking shape. It will be operational in just a few years. I recognise the efforts of that wonderful aviator, who made such a huge contribution to the industry globally.

But right on the doorstep and at the core of the new city we are building, the new city of Bradfield will ensure that 200,000 jobs of the future are created across the next decade—jobs that currently do not exist in most parts of the world or anywhere in Australia. This is not just a project for a new city for New South Wales or western Sydney; it is a new city for all of Australia. Already 18 companies from around the world and around Australia have put up their hands and signed memorandums of understanding with the Government to say that they want to set up shop there. Because irrespective of what those opposite say, the Liberals and The Nationals are the parties for the workers. We want to support the future jobs. We want to make sure—

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

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: Those opposite are a bit sensitive about that. They do not stand for anything. They know that we stand for workers, jobs and those who want to have a go. I do not know what they stand for. Does anyone know what they stand for? I have no idea.

Mr Greg Warren: Point of order: My point of order is under Standing Order 73. If the Premier would like to debate how Labor always has and always will support workers, I say bring it on.

The SPEAKER: There is not a point of order.

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: We have a new contender for the leadership in the member for Campbelltown. We know this is a sensitive issue for those opposite and that when you talk about the hardworking men and women of New South Wales, they know it is the Liberals and The Nationals that support their efforts. We are the ones creating jobs. This is why the city of Bradfield and the surrounding communities will have those jobs of the future. This is why global companies across Japan, Europe, the UK and North America have already given a big tick to setting up shop there. Whether it is advanced manufacturing or whether it is—the headquarters of the CSIRO will be setting up shop there, moving from Sydney and going to the new western Sydney airport. For the first time, when that airport is open, we will be able to get fresh produce from the Central West of New South Wales to markets in Asia, which are—

Ms Kate Washington: With all the water that they have got out there that you have stolen?

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

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: I do not really know what to make of that interjection, but we will move on. Interestingly, when we were doing our research and making sure we had the best and brightest from Australia and around the world planning this new city, we also got feedback from other cities around the world that have gone down this path. We said to them, "What is the one regret you have? What is the one thing you would like to see done differently?" They said it is to make sure it is liveable, there is open space and sufficient opportunity for communities to raise families and for entertainment precincts to occur. It was with some interest that I noted some complaining about us already starting to build the metro out there. Well, it takes years to build a metro, if people have not realised that. What are paddocks today will be the cities of tomorrow. [*Extension of time*]

The SPEAKER: Order! I call the member for Port Stephens to order for the second time. The member for Rockdale keeps talking. I remind him to keep quiet. I call the member for Rockdale to order for the first time.

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: It is very difficult to make your way to the site of the new airport without driving along one of the brand-new roads that our Government has built.

Mr Greg Warren: And all the homes you're ripping away.

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: Well, actually, if you have gone past that journey, at the moment there is not that much there, I say to the member for Campbelltown.

Mr Greg Warren: There are people's homes.

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: I am talking about the airport site—are you at least listening to what I am saying? But what is important is our Government is not just focused on next year or the year after that; we are focused on the next generation of jobs and what is going to give our State and the next generation of our citizens the best opportunities to have a good quality of life, to work hard, to get the best jobs and make sure—

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Keira will come to order. The member for Port Stephens will come to order.

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: I also acknowledge in this place the work of the Minister for Western Sydney, Minister Ayres, the member for Penrith, who ensured that the public consultation process on the naming of the city today was robust. I am advised that over 4,000 different names were put to the panel and I am very pleased that it came to the conclusion that it did. I hope that in a generation our citizens do not go back and read the interjections of those opposite in this *Hansard*. For people listening to the interjections of those opposite today, it is no secret or surprise why they are doing so badly. They do not care about the workers and they do not care about the people. They just care about themselves.

BRINGELLY LAND REZONING

Mr GREG WARREN (Campbelltown) (14:35): My question is directed to the Premier. The Premier was in Bringelly this morning and drove right past the homes and farms of hardworking families that the Government is ripping away from them. Why will she not meet with them?

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN (Willoughby—Premier) (14:35): I acknowledge the question from the member for Campbelltown. First and foremost, I thank the members who have raised those issues. I thank the Ministers who are going through the process of listening to those concerns. I ask those opposite to please make a decision, firstly, as to whether or not they support the new airport city. Secondly, why do—

Mr Greg Warren: Point of order—

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: I have not finished my answer.

The SPEAKER: The Clerk will stop the clock. The Premier is 30 seconds into her answer. I remind members that if they are going to take a point of order on relevance, I do not want to hear it.

Mr Greg Warren: The Premier asked a question. I would like to answer it. The Premier asked a question of the Opposition: Do we support the airport? Of course we support the airport, but we also support the families with homes that the Government is ripping away.

The SPEAKER: The member will resume his seat. I call the member for Campbelltown to order for the first time.

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: If those opposite have part of a response to the new Bradfield city that we are building, I ask them to please bring those suggestions forward. Is it that they do not support open space in those communities? Is it that they do not support a rail line? Is it that they do not support a major road?

Ms Jodi McKay: Point of order: My point of order relates to Standing Order 129, taking the Speaker's advice. The question was very specific: Why will the Premier not meet with the residents? Will the Premier meet with them?

The SPEAKER: The Premier is aware of the question. She was only one minute into her answer.

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: I know what these processes are like; I have been a Minister for Transport. Whenever you build a major—

The SPEAKER: Order! I call the member for Bankstown to order for the second time. I call the member for Canterbury to order for the second time. I call the member for Macquarie Fields to order for the first time. I call the member for Keira to order for the first time. I call the member for Monaro to order for the first time. I call the member for Baulkham Hills to order for the first time. If I knew who it was who just screamed out, that member would be close to being asked to leave the Chamber. The Premier has the call.

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: The point I was trying to make before I was screamed at unnecessarily is this: every time—

The SPEAKER: Order! The Clerk will stop the clock. I call the member for Macquarie Fields to order for the second time. I call the member for Canterbury to order for the third time. I call the member for South Coast to order for the first time. That behaviour is unacceptable and ongoing. The Premier deserves to give her answer in silence. The Premier has the call.

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: The point I was making is that whenever our Government announces a major project, the Opposition criticises it—whether it is a new metro, a new road, a new city, a new hospital or a new school. Tell us what you support. What do you stand for? You do not support the workers, you do not support major projects, you do not support health, you do not support education—

Mr Greg Warren: Point of order: My point of order relates to Standing Order 129. Why will the Premier not meet with those residents?

The SPEAKER: The Premier is being relevant, but I ask her to answer that direct question at some stage.

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: I say to those opposite that they have a chance now to change their ways or they have the chance to stay the same. What we are seeing today is more of the same.

Ms Jodi McKay: Point of order: The question is why will the Premier not meet with the residents?

Ms Sophie Cotsis: Because she's a coward.

Ms Jodi McKay: Yes, she is a coward; exactly. The Premier should answer the question: Why will she not meet with the residents?

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: What we have seen today is a demonstration of more of the same. The Labor Party has the choice: Do they think more of the same is good enough or do they want to join the Government in making life better for the people of this State?

Mr Greg Warren: Point of order: My point of order relates to Standing Order 129. I think I finally agree with the Premier. We have seen more of the same: more ignorance when it comes to meeting with those residents.

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

Mr Greg Warren: Why will the Premier not meet with those residents whose homes the Government is ripping away?

The SPEAKER: The Premier has 30 seconds. I ask her to bring her answer closer to the question.

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: As I have said, the New South Wales Government is committed to building the jobs of the future and to making sure that we provide a fair, open and transparent approach. I say to those opposite again: What do you stand for? Do you stand for jobs in Sydney or don't you?

REGIONAL JOBS

Mr GURMESH SINGH (Coffs Harbour) (14:41): My question is addressed to the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Regional New South Wales, Industry and Trade. Will the Deputy Premier update the House on how the Government is building a safer and stronger regional New South Wales by creating valuable jobs?

Mr JOHN BARILARO (Monaro—Minister for Regional New South Wales, Industry and Trade, and Deputy Premier) (14:41): I thank the member for Coffs Harbour for his question—a great question and a great member working for the people of Coffs Harbour. He supports infrastructure like the bypass for

Coffs Harbour, which will be a huge infrastructure project—a multibillion-dollar investment that will create jobs not just for today but for the future. We know all that investment in the Pacific Highway over the past few years has created jobs, opportunity and prosperity for so many in regional and rural New South Wales, but in the end the legacy piece that is left over is a highway that keeps our families safe. The member has a vision for Coffs Harbour, a vision for investment in growth and new industries. The question talks about the jobs of the future, especially in regional and rural New South Wales.

If I said to members today: Think of a place to invest where at the heart of that investment and that particular innovation precinct would be cyber security research and development—connected to a world-class university and to defence industry businesses globally and nationally—members would automatically think back to the first answer of the day from the Premier about the new aerotropolis, which is an opportunity for investment in Sydney. But in regional and rural New South Wales, we are also offering the opportunity for jobs of the future. Through our Regional Jobs Precincts we have already seen opportunities in places like the Richmond Valley, where places like Casino will be at the heart of manufacturing and renewables with a connection to agriculture. In Albury, where we announced a second Regional Jobs Precinct, it is all based around logistics and transport at the heart of one of the biggest inland cities in regional and rural New South Wales.

Last week I had the opportunity to announce a Regional Jobs Precinct in Jerrabomberra, in the electorate of Monaro, because of the appetite from so many businesses and industries in defence to consider investing in New South Wales and not in the Australian Capital Territory [ACT]. When we put that into context and think about Russell, across the border in the ACT, many of those defence colleges and businesses are looking across the border to invest in New South Wales. Jerrabomberra was picked as the third Regional Jobs Precinct because of the opportunities at the South Jerrabomberra Innovation Precinct. That is an opportunity to attract—and of course the new Jerrabomberra high school is being built. That STEM high school will build the jobs and the workforce of the future.

Attached to that precinct are opportunities around cybersecurity, research and development, innovation, manufacturing and the defence industry—all in the heart of regional and rural New South Wales. As we know, in Williamstown there is a special activation precinct through investment from the New South Wales Government. We are leveraging that opportunity off the back of the defence industry—not only because of defence but also manufacturing. Off the back of mining and innovation, research and development, we are now building precincts across regional and rural New South Wales through our special activation precincts. Through our regional job precincts, there are 20,000 direct jobs—or should I say 20,000 new opportunities—for young people in regional and rural New South Wales. They are jobs of the future.

It is not just about doing the same business. If we want to diversify regional and rural New South Wales, if we want to futureproof the regions from downturns in mining, tourism or the impacts of drought, we must diversify our local and regional economies. We are doing that by attracting industries and businesses and by playing our role as a government in building that shared infrastructure right across the board to attract those jobs of the future, and it is exciting. Off the back of the \$4.2 billion Snowy Hydro Legacy Fund, where every single cent will be spent in regional and rural New South Wales, we can build generational and transformational infrastructure in Narrabri because of inland rail and gas; in places like Wagga Wagga, because of renewable energy, inland rail and logistics; in places like Williamstown, which I have mentioned already; and in the Snowy Mountains and Moree because of agriculture. That is the heartland of food and fibre for the State and the nation when it comes to exports and feeding the nation.

We are building a regional New South Wales that will be stronger and safer and that will have a future and prosperity. We have a vision and a plan. Only recently we renewed that plan, the 20-Year Economic Vision for Regional NSW, which I call the blueprint to success and prosperity. We have already seen some net migration out of Sydney off the back of COVID. People are choosing to live in regional and rural New South Wales. But to keep that momentum going we must continue to look at jobs in the regions: great jobs, public sector jobs—

The SPEAKER: The member for Port Stephens, that is enough.

Mr JOHN BARILARO: —diversifying jobs that are attracting new industries and new businesses. We are offering jobs that you would normally attach to a city precinct in regional and rural New South Wales. It is an exciting time in the regions when it comes to the investment that we are seeing. [*Extension of time*]

We have gone through drought—

The SPEAKER: The member for Port Stephens will come to order.

Mr JOHN BARILARO: —we have gone through bushfires, we have gone through the COVID pandemic and at the moment a mouse plague of almost biblical proportions is happening. I will build an ark shortly because I think the floods are coming during the winter. But the truth is that only a couple of years ago we were in Dubbo—

The SPEAKER: Order! I call the member for Port Stephens to order for the third time.

Mr JOHN BARILARO: —for the Telegraph Bush Summit. We were talking about what is happening in regional and rural New South Wales off the back of drought and it was doom and gloom. There was real heartache that we were going to lose who we were as a region, as a State and as a nation. But over two years the rain has arrived and there has been an investment-focused approach by the New South Wales Government: There has been investment in schools, hospitals, rail and roads. There is the Fixing Country Roads program, the Fixing Country Bridges program and investment is coming for productivity through our Mobile Black Spot Program, which will include better internet services. Through work with the NBN we are changing the landscape so you no longer have that excuse that you cannot live in regional and rural New South Wales while still being connected to the fast lane of the city.

As we get out of the pandemic and rebuild the regional and rural economy, our focus is on a partnership with the private sector to reboot existing foundation industries and businesses but at the same time attract the industries and businesses of the future. That is the plan of the Liberal-Nationals Government not just for today and through an election cycle but also one that takes us out to the next two decades. The plan is about diversifying our economies and futureproofing regional and rural New South Wales. I am excited about that plan because it is a plan for the regions and designed by the regions. At the heart of that plan is regional communities. Can you imagine that in only some years' time I will be standing here talking about cities with populations of 100,000 in places like Tamworth and Wagga Wagga? I believe they will be the first regional cities to achieve that. It is an exciting time in the bush. We have a vision, and that is the Liberals and Nationals in government.

STATE BUDGET HALF-YEARLY REVIEW

Mr JUSTIN CLANCY (Albury) (14:49): My question is addressed to the Treasurer, who is refreshed by his visit to Albury. Will the Treasurer update the House on the 2020-2021 budget half-yearly review and how the management of the State is impacting the confidence of the community and business in New South Wales?

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET (Epping—Treasurer) (14:49): That is a great question from the member for Albury. I thank him for his hospitality last Thursday or Friday. It was great. We were in Albury-Wodonga, the Paris of the south—Albury is there on the right bank. We did a lot. We visited the hospital down there—which I know the Premier and the health Minister have visited as well—and worked through some of the challenges that many businesses are facing, including Nick and Nick from Meet PAT, who are exporting water stations from Albury to the world. That is the beauty of the work of the Berejiklian-Barilaro Government: It enables people, wherever they live in New South Wales, to have the opportunities to succeed.

A year after the full realities of COVID-19 hit, our economic recovery is well underway. As I have said, that bounce does not happen by accident. The strong fiscal position that our State was in leading into the pandemic, even off the back of the droughts and the fires, and the world-leading success in controlling the virus with the work of the health Minister and his strong team has enabled us to keep businesses open, ease restrictions and obviously keep the borders open as well—unlike other States.

Many of you would have tuned into the half-yearly review—it broke the internet. The State's budget position has improved. This year's deficit has fallen from \$16 billion to \$13 billion. We are well on track for that projected surplus in 2024-2025. The size of the New South Wales economy is forecast to grow by 2¾ per cent in 2021-2022. Local economic activity rebounded by a solid 6.8 per cent in the September quarter. Since the half-yearly review there has been more good news, particularly on the confidence front. A week ago NAB released its monthly business survey. It showed that business confidence rose from plus-14 index points in January to plus-19 index points in February. That is the highest level since the start of the pandemic and it is greater than the decade average. Westpac and the Melbourne Institute also released their consumer sentiment index last week. In New South Wales consumer confidence increased 2.4 per cent to 114.4 points for the sixth consecutive month—optimists outweigh pessimists.

Ms Gladys Berejiklian: Not on the other side.

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: Not on the other side; that is true. We will get to that. On the unemployment front, it is 6 per cent. That is the lowest of all the mainland States. You might recall last year that it was at 7.5 per cent for the December quarter, so that is very pleasing. More than 80 per cent of those people who lost their jobs during the pandemic are now back into the workforce. I note the Reserve Bank Governor's comments from his speech last week that the recovery was gathering pace. He reflected that Australia's success has been on the health front, with very large fiscal and monetary policy support and with the flexibility of Australians who have been getting on with their lives and their businesses. As a result we are now within striking distance of recovering the pre-pandemic level of output.

I think the message in the half-yearly review is all about confidence. That has been our focus. If you can instil confidence in the business community and amongst consumers, rising confidence leads to more jobs and, importantly, lower unemployment. That is very much in contrast to Labor's mid-term review, which came out this week. We saw plunging confidence, and what does plunging confidence lead to? It leads to higher unemployment—not just for the leader but for the lot. If you look at the review in confidence that came through off the back of that midyear review, it demonstrates the approach of the Berejiklian-Barilaro Government in opening up the economy and in being able, through Dominello's dream team at Service NSW with the NSW Data Analytics Centre [DAC]—

Mr Ryan Park: Can't keep their data secure.

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: The data is doing a great job because of the QR codes and whatever Victor does, which no-one really knows.

The SPEAKER: The member for Keira will come to order.

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: It drives confidence and has enabled our health team to ensure—

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

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: —that we have been able to open up the economy. As the Premier has said, this is the party of the worker. Since coming to office the Liberals and Nationals have created around half a million jobs right across the State through the policies of our parties. [*Extension of time*]

We know that providing more jobs and more workers creates more union members. We know that the unions have strong support when it comes to the Berejiklian-Barilaro Government.

Mr Ryan Park: That's why you went to court—to stop them getting a pay rise.

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: That happens occasionally; there is a mutual respect there. We know that union members have the opportunity to participate in the political process and we support that. We also support the Labor Party, which has always stood up for the unionised workforce—until yesterday, when the Leader of the Opposition consciously uncoupled the union movement from the Labor Party.

Mr Ryan Park: You wish, mate. You wish.

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: Yes, she did. We know that the union movement and union members who pay their dues have every right to participate in the political process, and we support that. I saw Prue Car out there today talking about the Leader of the Opposition and she said to Chris Smith, "I have always supported the leader, Chris." Good on her. But what she was really saying is, "I have always supported the leader: Chris."

Mr Michael Daley: Oh, that was incredible.

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: I know what she was doing. While that rabble on that side of the House with the lowest ratings—

Mr Michael Daley: It's all in the timing and you don't have it.

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: She's doing worse than you! We thought it could not get worse. While those opposite keep fighting and rambling along, on this side of the House we will continue to do what union members and people across the State expect; that is, drive economic growth and ensure that every single man and woman across the State has the opportunity and prosperity that they deserve.

ORCHARD HILLS LAND ACQUISITION

Mr CHRIS MINNS (Kogarah) (14:56): My question is directed to the Minister for Transport and Roads. Given two former Liberal MPs are under investigation in relation to property transactions around major transport projects, will the Minister guarantee that none of the 26 hectares the Government is compulsorily acquiring from families in Orchard Hills will end up in the hands of property developers?

Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE (Bega—Minister for Transport and Roads) (14:56): I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question—

The SPEAKER: The Minister will stop for a moment. There were a number of interjections before you even started.

Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE: I know. It's terrible.

The SPEAKER: I ask for silence so that you are shown appropriate respect.

Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE: I thank the Leader of the Opposition for his question. What a week! Don't you love it when we see Labor playing leadership Tinder? I have to say that the good old member for Kogarah got swiped left again. The good old member for Keira got swiped left. I reckon David Mehan was swiped right. Jodi, the most upset person yesterday was when you coward's punched Brad's best friend, Gerard. Leave him alone. Stop coward's punching Gerard, John, Chris and everybody else you want to coward's punch. I think likening people to Joe Tripodi is a little bit rich; that comment might come back to haunt you. In relation to Orchard Hills, I thank the member for asking the question because it is an important one.

Mr Michael Daley: What a slap that was.

Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE: No, this is serious. I indicate this important point to the House: I thank the residents whose lives have been turned upside down, who are having to forgo their homes in order for the rest of the State to have a rail line built from St Marys to the airport.

Mr Michael Daley: Which you opposed.

Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE: Michael—seriously, mate.

Mr Michael Daley: It's no secret.

The SPEAKER: The member for Maroubra will come to order.

Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE: I have heard you have had your hand up for the past few days; it has not quite worked out for you. The point I would make is that those residents are giving up so much so that the rest of the community can have access to a rail line in the future. There are a couple of important principles that are critical to this in terms of those residents and what they are having to go through at this time. It is an awful time for them—

Ms Jodi McKay: Then meet with them.

Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE: Could you please be quiet? It is an awful time for them because there is an acquisition process involving their properties. It is important that first and foremost they get market value, which is why the Sydney Metro team is willing to cover the legal and independent valuation expenses for those residents, and help with relocation assistance when it comes time to move. It is important to note that in terms of the construction of the metro, particularly at Orchard Hills, it is a site that is also going to be used for construction. It is not a site where there is simply going to be a station box; it is going to be the main construction site for the metro between St Marys and the airport. The expectation is very clear—particularly under the just terms acquisition Act—that those residents absolutely get market value for their properties so that they can relocate and buy into the market.

Mr Greg Warren: Point of order—

The SPEAKER: The transport Minister is being very relevant. What is the member's point of order?

Mr Greg Warren: I do not agree. I take a point of order under Standing Order 129—

The SPEAKER: The Minister may continue.

Mr Greg Warren: The question is—

The SPEAKER: The Minister is being relevant. The member for Campbelltown will resume his seat.

Mr Greg Warren: —can you guarantee the land will not be sold off to developers?

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

Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE: In terms of the process it is also important that they are able to attain market value based on independent valuations so that they can relocate and buy back into the existing property market, given the upheaval that has been caused to their lives. It has been a number of weeks since I have wanted to see a meeting between the professional team at Sydney Metro and those residents. I am pleased that some of those meetings are starting to occur and I urge all of those individual property owners to meet with—

Ms Jodi McKay: Point of order: The question was very specific. It was about the Minister guaranteeing that none of the 26 hectares will be sold to property developers. I understand that some of it will be a staging area, but will the Minister guarantee that land will not be sold to property developers?

The SPEAKER: I will hear further from the Minister.

Mr Michael Daley: Will the residents get a share in the uplift, in other words?

Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE: Can I just finish what I was saying? Chris, you might want to give me an extra two minutes because of the disruptions. This is ridiculous.

Ms Jodi McKay: Answer the question!

Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE: There is a reason why you are at 23.9 per cent. The bottom line is—
[*Opposition members interjected.*]

Mr Ryan Park: I seek an extension of time.

Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE: Are you going to give me an extra two minutes?

Mr Ryan Park: Yes.

The SPEAKER: It has to be the person who asked the question. The member's time has expired.

NSW POLICE FORCE

Ms WENDY LINDSAY (East Hills) (15:02): My question is addressed to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services. Will the Minister update the House on how the Government is delivering for the NSW Police Force and how that compares to other approaches?

Mr DAVID ELLIOTT (Baulkham Hills—Minister for Police and Emergency Services) (15:02): I thank the member for East Hills, who next week celebrates two years since she was elected to this place. She beat the Labor candidate, Cameron Murphy, who of course was best known for his legal career defending paedophiles.

Ms Jodi McKay: You're kidding me. What?

Mr DAVID ELLIOTT: That's how you know him.

Ms Kate Washington: Point of order—

Mr DAVID ELLIOTT: Did you meet him in the paedophile protection society?

The SPEAKER: The Minister will resume his seat.

Mr DAVID ELLIOTT: Sorry, I was interrupting.

Ms Kate Washington: I take a point of order under Standing Order 73. If the Minister wants to make personal reflections on anybody in this House—

The SPEAKER: Standing Order 73 relates to members.

Ms Kate Washington: He should be withdrawing what he said.

The SPEAKER: The point of order is not upheld. If you want to come back with a different point of order I will hear it.

Ms Kate Washington: He is making horrific allegations in this place against somebody who cannot defend himself.

The SPEAKER: The Minister has the call.

Mr DAVID ELLIOTT: Thank you for the question. The Government has invested like never before—

Mr Michael Daley: Point of order—

The SPEAKER: The Clerk will stop the clock.

Mr DAVID ELLIOTT: The racist is defending the paedophile.

Ms Jodi McKay: Oh, my God!

Mr Ryan Park: Mr Speaker, I ask for that last comment to be withdrawn. The member for Baulkham Hills knows what he said in relation to both the member for Maroubra and the member for Strathfield. I ask that the comment be withdrawn. We are better than that. This Parliament is better than that and the community expects better than that.

The SPEAKER: Minister, will you withdraw that comment?

Mr DAVID ELLIOTT: Sure, if it means we can get on with business. Let's get on with business.

The SPEAKER: The Minister will resume his seat. What is the member's point of order?

Mr Michael Daley: Mr Speaker, notwithstanding that you did not rule in favour of the point of order taken under—

The SPEAKER: Standing Order 73.

Mr Michael Daley: —that is a terrible thing for a Minister of the Crown to say about a private citizen who is a legal practitioner. That is not worthy of this place.

The SPEAKER: What is the standing order?

Mr Michael Daley: Find one, Mr Speaker.

The SPEAKER: No, that is your job.

Mr Michael Daley: A Minister of the Crown should not refer to a private citizen who is not in the political arena in that fashion. That is not on. It is not acceptable.

The SPEAKER: I will hear further from the member if he comes back with a specific standing order. The Minister has the call.

Ms Jenny Leong: Point of order—

Mr DAVID ELLIOTT: The New South Wales police are enjoying a record \$549 million of police infrastructure—

The SPEAKER: The Clerk will stop the clock. I remind members to refer to the standing orders when taking a point of order.

Ms Jenny Leong: I am not sure of the standing order that enables me to ask a question of the Speaker. Mr Speaker, you have a responsibility to ensure a level of respect and uphold a standard in this Chamber. All members would agree that the Minister's behaviour in answering this question has been completely inappropriate.

The SPEAKER: I have clearly indicated that I am receptive to members coming back with a specific standing order. No member has done that. The Minister has the call.

Mr Michael Daley: Mr Speaker—

Mr Greg Warren: I have a point of clarification.

The SPEAKER: There is no such thing. The Minister has the call.

Mr Greg Warren: Mr Speaker, further to your ruling—

The SPEAKER: Does the member for Campbelltown have a separate point of order?

Mr Greg Warren: Point of order: Standing Order 74 (1)—

The SPEAKER: The Clerk will stop the clock. The Minister will resume his seat.

Mr Greg Warren: Standing Order 74 (1) directly relates to what the member for Newtown was referring to. It is of direct relevance to the Minister's quarrelsome conduct, which is designed to disrupt the House and, as the member for Keira said, drag it to an all-new low, which we are all better than. I ask for a ruling.

The SPEAKER: Given that the member has asked for a ruling, I will consider the matter further in relation to Standing Order 74 (1). Previously I ruled with respect to Standing Order 73. I can see that there are potential grounds under Standing Order 74, but I ask the Minister not to make gratuitously offensive comments about people who cannot defend themselves in this Chamber.

Mr DAVID ELLIOTT: The police force is enjoying a record \$549 million for policing infrastructure projects. That includes a \$31 million station in Queanbeyan, which I look forward to officially opening with the Deputy Premier very soon; a new station in Inverell, which is part of the \$107 million Multipurpose Police Station Program; a new station in Broken Hill, for which I did the sod turn; a new station in Cessnock, which is also part of the \$107 million package; and a \$60 million upgrade to the Goulburn academy to deliver an extensive series of improvements to modernise and enhance its training capabilities. I have seen all of those police stations first hand. I have spoken to the officers who will be stationed in them as I have travelled the State. I have seen the new Taree police station, an \$80 million project; Wentworthville police station, a facility serving our booming western suburbs; Mount Druitt police station, a \$24.9 million project; Bay and Basin police station, a \$7.7 million project, which obviously represents another investment into policing in the South Coast.

All the facilities have created a groundswell of activity. There have been significant benefits for our local economies, particularly in regional New South Wales, including jobs growth. Queanbeyan has seen growth of around 425 jobs. Inverell has generated 305 jobs. Cessnock generated 380 jobs. That is good news for regional New South Wales and good news for our frontline police officers, who have been complemented with the largest increase in more than 30 years. It is on the back of our \$585 million for 1,500 new officers. Of those 1,500 officers, 182 will go to general duties, 45 to child protection, 42 to domestic violence and 12 to aged care. Since the election of this Government 10 years ago, we have done a fantastic job in the police portfolio. When I consider the life of the modern police force, the past 10 years have never been seen before in the history of the police force. Police go where no other man wants to go.

Ms Yasmin Catley: Or woman!

Mr DAVID ELLIOTT: Or woman. The police will go where no other man or woman—just like those Trekkies who go where no other went before. The other day I was looking at a poll taken a couple of weeks ago. The American space program has been so successful that 30 per cent of the population believe they will find life in outer space. That means more people believe in Martians than believe the Leader of the Opposition should be Premier. I suspect they are the same people. In fact, we are so grateful—when I was thinking about the past 10 years and the stalwarts of the Liberal Party—we have John Howard, Gladys Berejiklian, Bob Menzies of course—I remember when I was told that Jodi McKay decided she wanted to join the Liberal Party, but she would not get through probity. But now she continues to serve the Liberal Party, so the State director has given her life membership.

Mr Michael Daley: Point of order—

The SPEAKER: The member for Swansea will come to order.

Mr Michael Daley: My point of order relates to Standing Orders 73, 74 and 129. If the Minister is going to behave like a clown, he should be given no latitude. That man is beneath contempt.

The SPEAKER: The Minister has the call.

Mr DAVID ELLIOTT: I have answered the question. I have just highlighted to the former Leader of the Opposition, whose career was probably as successful as the career of the current Leader of the Opposition—

Mr Ryan Park: Point of order: My point of order relates to Standing Order 73. If the House wants to bring this matter on for argument, it should be done by substantive motion. Let us bring it on and be reasonable. There are two sides to this Chamber.

The SPEAKER: Minister, I am listening intently. Please do not breach Standing Order 73.

Mr DAVID ELLIOTT: If the member interrupts me, of course I will respond to him. He is being very argumentative. What we have seen—

Ms Yasmin Catley: I tell you what he is not: He is not rude, offensive and insulting.

Mr DAVID ELLIOTT: But you are.

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

Mr DAVID ELLIOTT: Of course, we in the Government are thrilled that we have been able to provide such a high level of support to— [*Extension of time*]

The SPEAKER: Before the Minister recommences, I refer to two earlier rulings. First, I uphold the ruling of Ellis and Kelly that states:

Members who use the privilege of the freedom of speech to criticise private citizens do so upon their own responsibility. Occasionally the Chair, in what might appear to be a bad case, seeks to restrain any such attack but it is not within the province of the Speaker to prevent free speech.

I have counselled the Minister not to gratuitously criticise in an offensive way people who are not in this Chamber. However, I cannot prevent him from making such statements. I remind members that Standing Order 73 applies only to members of this House, which is why I could not uphold that point of order. A second ruling of Ellis and Kelly states:

It is the right of every member to say what he likes under privilege in Parliament, subject only to observance of the forms and practice of the House ... He—

hopefully, these days that would also say "she"—

does so at his—

or her—

own risk of incurring the displeasure of the public and possibly the censure of the House itself.

The right of free speech is something that the Speaker is bound to safeguard and protect ... Any abuse of the right ... is a reflection upon the ... member concerned. The right should always be exercised with restraint, particularly when referring to persons who have no right of audience in this Parliament ...

I uphold that ruling. I do not want to hear further from the member for Campbelltown. The Minister has the call.

Mr Greg Warren: Mr Speaker—

The SPEAKER: No, I have ruled. The member will sit resume his seat.

Mr DAVID ELLIOTT: It is quite extraordinary that you people who have spent the past two days—members of the caucus spent the past two days ringing me telling me what to dump on Jodi, and then they want to sit in here—and there are plenty facing me, do not worry—

Mr Michael Daley: Point of order—

The SPEAKER: The Minister will continue. I draw him back to the question.

Mr DAVID ELLIOTT: It is true. You spend all this time asking me to do your dirty work for you and then I come in here and do your dirty work and you criticise me for the way in which I do it. Just say thank you.

Ms Kate Washington: Point of order: The Minister is now abusing the privilege he was given of two extra minutes to speak. He has brought this place into disrepute. My point of order is under Standing Order 129. He is very far from answering the question, and the police deserve a much better Minister than him.

The SPEAKER: The Minister will return to the leave of the question.

Mr DAVID ELLIOTT: These frivolous points of order cannot go not responded to. I am not going to take hypocrisy from members opposite. To the member's question, as I have said, the New South Wales police—

The SPEAKER: Order! The Minister is coming back to the question.

Ms Yasmin Catley: She just walked out—even she is disgusted.

Mr DAVID ELLIOTT: I think you will find that she is hoping that you preselect Cameron Murphy again for the next election. As I said, the New South Wales Government is very proud of the support that we have given the NSW Police Force.

The SPEAKER: The member for Swansea will come to order. I call the member for Swansea to order for the third time.

Ms Jodi McKay: You are the bottom of the barrel. You are just unbelievable.

Mr DAVID ELLIOTT: I think somebody who writes a reference for a paedophile is the bottom of the barrel, Jodi.

The SPEAKER: The Minister will cease responding to interjections and return to the leave of the question.

Ms Kate Washington: Point of order—

The SPEAKER: The Clerk will stop the clock.

Ms Kate Washington: You just talked about restraint. This Minister is not capable of restraint or using the privileges he has in this place respectfully.

The SPEAKER: The Minister has 11 seconds remaining.

Mr DAVID ELLIOTT: As I have said, it is the tenth anniversary of this Government and is also the tenth anniversary of the Labor Party going into opposition. Let us hope there are many more.

ORCHARD HILLS LAND ACQUISITION

Ms JODI MCKAY (Strathfield) (15:15): My question is directed to the Premier. Families in Orchard Hills are only being offered half what their land is worth. How is this fair when the Government bought highly contaminated land at Camellia from a property developer for three times what it was worth?

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN (Willoughby—Premier) (15:15): In the intervening period I asked for some information. For all her talk this morning, I understand the Leader of the Opposition has not been involved in the submission process in relation to these matters and has not put in a submission on behalf of any local

residents or anyone involved in the process. The Government has been dealing with landowners who may or may not have been mentioned in this place privately and some have received appropriate measures according to the status of their land. I ask all members to tread carefully when discussing these ongoing private conversations and matters. I say to members opposite: These issues are always difficult. When you are acquiring property or dealing with people's property for future use it is always a difficult set of circumstances. That is why it is important for us to ensure that the process is fair, open and transparent in accordance with the Land Acquisition (Just Terms Compensation) Act that is in place.

If members opposite have recommendations on how the Act can be strengthened or made differently, I ask them to bring those forward. A couple of years ago we went through a process of reviewing the Act and made sure that we could be as open, transparent and cover as many examples as possible during that process. It was a robust process that involved public consultation and was reviewed. If any members opposite or anyone anywhere else has any advice on how the current provisions can be strengthened, we are more than happy to listen. But I also say that the whole point of developing a new region and area is to make it multipurpose. It is not just a straightforward process of building buildings or residential apartments; it is far more complex than that. We are building a brand-new city for the twenty-second century that involves building a metro line, roads, places of work, open land and open space. All those processes are complex.

Any member opposite is welcome to make a submission if they want to. If any of them have a suggestion on how to increase probity and transparency, please let us know. We are more than happy to listen because there is no perfect solution to complex issues. I say to members opposite: Work with the Government. If they come across people who they feel are treated unfairly, let the relevant Minister and members know and we will deal with that. Members opposite should work with us to create the jobs of the future and build the infrastructure rather than criticising every issue that comes up.

WAGGA WAGGA BASE HOSPITAL CAR PARK

Dr JOE McGIRR (Wagga Wagga) (15:18): My question is directed to the Minister for Health and Medical Research. Given that during the Wagga Wagga by-election campaign the Minister announced an 800-space multistorey car park for Wagga Wagga Base Hospital, can he assure the people of the Riverina that a proposal for a car park building with fewer than half that number of spaces will be enough for current and future parking needs without charge, and delivered with absolutely minimal disruption?

Mr BRAD HAZZARD (Wakehurst—Minister for Health and Medical Research) (15:19): I thank the member for Wagga Wagga for his question. Just before I address that, I indicate to the House that in relation to the COVID-19 case that the Chief Health Officer and I announced and confirmed yesterday—the 47-year-old security guard with the B117 UK strain—fortunately, there has been no more transmission at this stage, which is a very positive outcome for us all. I hope it continues that way. Having said that, we should not be complacent. We must still take all the usual protections, including getting tested. Testing numbers were not that great yesterday, so if we can get more testing that would be excellent. I also thank the member for Wagga Wagga for the work that he is doing with the Government on a range of issues, including not only the campus at Wagga Wagga Base Hospital but also the coronial work, which we have more work to do on to get a positive outcome for regional people.

Car spaces are a big issue for every hospital. It is probably the biggest issue people want to talk about in regard to a new hospital. It is almost a given that people want to talk about car spaces for a new hospital, which is understandable. I recollect what the member is asking about, which I think was just before his election. But he would also remember that at that stage—and I think he was very supportive of this and remains supportive—we were also talking to the University of New South Wales. In fact, as I speak, I remember signing the memorandum of understanding with the university to try to get the new clinical services building, which I know the member is also supportive of. The clinical services building will be constructed by the university. I am just trying to picture the location. If you are looking from the highway, Docker Street is to the right and then on the left is the smaller Lewis Drive.

Because the university took up the opportunity to operate off the back of the memorandum of understanding, it will now have a new clinical services building where years one and two medical students will be on campus the whole time—I think that is its intention at this stage. That obviously goes to the issue we are all trying to address of getting doctors trained in regional areas, particularly around the rural generalist programs to keep them in the regions. That is a big plus for Wagga Wagga and, indeed, not just Murrumbidgee but the entire State of New South Wales. That building, though, will be located towards the front on the highway on the left-hand side over towards Lewis Drive. That means that the car park that was going to be somewhat bigger will have to be reduced in size. The real name of the game, though, is to try to get as many car spaces as possible.

The last advice I had from Health Infrastructure [HI] was that across the entire campus, both the car park numbers—that is, the multistorey car park plus the at grade car parking—will be around about 900, give or take. We are still working on that. I understand there have been some discussions with the council and there is a view that there are probably another 300-odd car spaces in the immediate vicinity around the hospital, so it will still come back to about 1,200. I will check for the member and give him something in writing in the next week or so from HI.

I think the total number in the car park is around 350 to 400 now, give or take, so there are roughly another 500-odd car spaces at grade on the car park. So there will still be 900-odd car spaces on the precinct, even with the new clinical services building, which will provide those opportunities for rural generalist training. The member knows the site, which is constrained. We have the new Health Services Hub—I think that is what they have called it—and, from memory, there will be entries coming in at ground floor, first floor and fourth floor. I remember standing looking in from the old building at the fourth level.

A lot of work is being done to try to make sure that we are not only getting the extra services brought into that new stage three, which takes us to the \$461 million development that the Government is building, but also striking the balance with new facilities for doctors who are training. We want to try to make sure we have rural generalist doctors who are interested in rural practice being there. We are hoping the fact that they are on campus for years one and two will make a huge difference to them staying. At the same time, we are trying to balance the car parking. I will try to get the member some more detail next week. I thank him again for all his work.

WESTERN SYDNEY ECONOMY

Mr MARK TAYLOR (Seven Hills) (15:25): My question is addressed to the Minister for Jobs, Investment, Tourism and Western Sydney. Will the Minister update the House on how the leadership and vision of the Government is delivering new economic opportunities for the people of western Sydney?

Mr STUART AYRES (Penrith—Minister for Jobs, Investment, Tourism and Western Sydney) (15:25): I thank the member for his question. I know that he is a passionate advocate for his community. His advocacy has seen the Prospect Highway upgrade come to life and the early works will include the widening of that road. He is also incredibly passionate about Pendle Hill High School. I congratulate him on his work. When we have vision and leadership from a local member all the way through to the Government, we have the capacity to really change communities. Today I was with the Premier to announce that the centre of the Aerotropolis Core will have a new name—Bradfield, after the great John Bradfield, who made a fantastic contribution to this State.

He is a giant of Australian and New South Wales twentieth-century history. Many people have described him as the father of modern Sydney. In fact, Jack Lang said in the 1930s that he was the first public service bureaucrat to really understand how to develop and build a city for two million people. Today we are drawing on Bradfield's inspiration to develop another city of two million to three million people, the Western Parkland City and the Central River City. We have said the aerotropolis will always create new economic and social opportunities right across western Sydney. We want to be able to create 200,000 new jobs across the Western Parkland City and really leverage the investment that this Government and the Commonwealth Government has made.

The new Nancy Bird Walton Airport will be western Sydney's gateway to the world, and the economic and job creation opportunities that will come from that are huge. We are investing \$11 billion in a new metro rail line that will connect the T1 North Shore & Western Line with the airport and the aerotropolis and form the first stage of a future rail line that will link the south-west to the north-west of Sydney. These are the things that we are doing to really create these opportunities. It was fantastic to join today with Jim Bradfield—John Bradfield's grandson. Whilst that family is known for the Sydney Harbour Bridge, the electrified rail lines across Sydney and the plan to grow our city, they also have a strong commitment to aviation. John Bradfield set up and lead the aviation school at Richmond. Jim's father, Keith, was also involved heavily in civil aviation administration in Australia and Jim himself worked for Qantas.

It is fantastic to see such a strong family that has made such a significant contribution to New South Wales being recognised as we bring the third Sydney city to life. Listening to today's comments, including those across the Chamber, and particularly thinking about concepts of vision and leadership, I was drawn back to comments that Labor MP Jodi McKay is not willing to do the heavy lifting, and that she goes for the quick grab to get the news without doing the homework. The reason this seemed awfully relevant to me today is because the Leader of the Opposition raised a particular property, Mr Koutsomihalis' property in—

Ms Kate Washington: Point of order: The Minister needs to be relevant to the question he was asked. My point of order is under Standing Order 129.

The SPEAKER: The Minister is being relevant. The Minister has the call.

Mr STUART AYRES: Just to be really clear, this property is in the Aerotropolis Core. I do hope the member for Campbelltown is not a little bit of a spy undermining his leader here. I also hope that the Leader of the Opposition understands what the zoning of that property is and what it was before. I do hope she has not relied on Urbis, a private company potentially trying to create opportunities for development in south-west Sydney, for her valuation. I do hope she has not just done the basic assessment of what the land is actually zoned for. Please tell me she picked up the phone, spoke to the Valuer General and asked them what the value of the property was before the rezoning and what it is now. Please tell me she has done that. Because if the Leader of the Opposition has not done that, all she has done is add to the strain and concern of this citizen. Our job is to explain to them what is happening in their community. If that person has had their property rezoned—in fact, up-zoned—and we need to use part of that to create a public purpose or a public road, then we will compensate that person based on what we have changed their zoning to. [*Extension of time*]

Mr Greg Warren: Point of order: My point of order relates to Standing Order 73. I acknowledge what the Minister is stating but why will he not turn up—

The SPEAKER: I am at a total loss as to why Standing Order 73 is relevant. What is the personal reflection?

Mr Greg Warren: The Minister is making a personal reflection on certain matters. I am sure the residents around the aerotropolis would appreciate—

The SPEAKER: There is no point of order.

Mr STUART AYRES: I am merely saying that if we have had to rezone property and have up-zoned a person's property and now we need to tell them that we need it for utilities or a local road, without that rezoning we would not be able to compensate them on the new zoning. I ask the Leader of the Opposition to please tell me and the people of western Sydney that she has ignored what her colleagues say and this time she has done the heavy lifting. I hope she has done her homework and actually understands what the zoning is. I hope she has not increased the stress and strain on people. We are trying to engage with people as we literally change the face of the city. We are rezoning more land than we ever had, and we are doing it earlier so there is less property speculation. We are telling people where the infrastructure will go and where the open spaces will go.

I met Rob Heffernan, who organised the meeting, because I could not attend the meeting the Leader of the Opposition went to. He had a fantastic line for me. When I was in my office, listening to him speak about the changes to his land, he said to me, "Stuart, why do you need so many roads and so much open space?" He knows that if we have open space and we have to acquire roads he has less opportunity to develop his property. We have to take every single person on the journey. This is not going to be easy. All I say to the Leader of the Opposition is if she is going to stand up at a public event and add stress and strain to this system, if she is going to come in here and name a person in Parliament and their property, please tell me she has done the basic assessment of knowing what the zoning was and what it is now.

Ms Jodi McKay: Point of order: My point of order relates to Standing Order 129. Theo told his story at that rally. If the Minister had turned up, he would have heard his story and would be able to answer the question properly.

The SPEAKER: There is not point of order.

Ms Jodi McKay: If the Minister is talking about fear and anxiety, perhaps he should meet with—

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

Mr STUART AYRES: As we go into deeper detail with each individual in western Sydney to aspire to meet the same vision for western Sydney as John Bradfield had for Sydney, we have to explain the impact to every individual. The Leader of the Opposition should do the same thing.

Committees

LEGISLATION REVIEW COMMITTEE

Report: Legislation Review Digest No. 27/57

Ms FELICITY WILSON: As Chair: I table the report of the Legislation Review Committee entitled *Legislation Review Digest No. 27/57*, dated 16 March 2021. I move:

That the report be printed.

Motion agreed to.

Ms FELICITY WILSON: I also table the minutes of the committee meeting regarding *Legislation Review Digest No. 25/57* and *Legislation Review Digest No. 26/57*, dated 16 February 2021.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

Reports

Mr GREG PIPER: As Chair: I table a report of the Public Accounts Committee, dated March 2021, entitled *Examination of Auditor-General's Performance Audit Reports February-July 2019*. I move:

That the report be printed.

Motion agreed to.

COMMITTEE ON THE HEALTH CARE COMPLAINTS COMMISSION

Inquiry

Mr GURMESH SINGH: As Chair: In accordance with Standing Order 299 (1), I inform the House that the Committee on the Health Care Complaints Commission has resolved to conduct a review of the Health Care Complaints Commission's 2019-20 annual report, the full details of which are available on the committee's home page.

COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Inquiry

Mr PETER SIDGREAVES: On behalf of the Chair: In accordance with Standing Order 299 (1), I inform the House that the Committee on Children and Young People has resolved to conduct an inquiry into the annual reports and other matters of the Office of the Advocate for Children and Young People and the Office of the Children's Guardian, the full details of which are available on the committee's home page.

COMMITTEE ON THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION

Deputy Chair

The SPEAKER: In accordance with Standing Order 282 (2), I advise the House that on 25 February 2021 Wendy Margaret Tuckerman was elected Deputy Chair of the Committee on the Independent Commission Against Corruption.

Petitions

PETITIONS RECEIVED

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

Central Coast Council

Petition requesting the Legislative Assembly hold a judicial inquiry into the financial mismanagement of Central Coast Council and the Minister for Local Government delay any application by the council to IPART for a special rate variation and any decision on the sale of council assets until residents can consider the findings of the judicial inquiry and its recommendations, received from **Mr David Harris**.

The SPEAKER: I set down debate on the petition as an order of the day for a subsequent Thursday.

The CLERK: I announce that the following electronic petitions signed by 500 or more persons have been lodged for presentation:

Murrumbidgee Regional High School Principals

Petition requesting the Government to employ a principal on each site at Murrumbidgee Regional High School and put in place incentives to attract and retain top quality teachers to all public schools in Griffith, received from **Mrs Helen Dalton**.

Gregory Hills Public School

Petition requesting the Government to urgently approve funding and fast-track the construction of the master-planned public school at the nominated school site in Gregory Hills, received from **Ms Prue Car**.

North Balgowlah and Seaforth Bus Routes

Petition requesting the Government to stop the planned bus route changes from North Balgowlah and Seaforth to the Sydney central business district and North Sydney and ensure the existing timetables are retained, received from **Mr James Griffin**.

Kosciuszko National Park Horse Management Plan

Petition requesting the Government to cease all brumby trapping and removal pending the adoption of a new management plan, recognise the brumbies' identified heritage value, create a new management plan and fund independent scientific research into the ecological benefits and impacts of brumbies in their relevant historic areas within Kosciuszko National Park, received from **Mr John Barilaro**.

Oxley Highway and King Creek Road Intersection

Petition requesting the Government to improve the Oxley Highway and King Creek Road intersection and traffic flow for local residents and visitors to the Wauchope area as a matter of urgency, received from **Mrs Leslie Williams**.

RESPONSES TO PETITIONS

The CLERK: I announce that the following Ministers have lodged responses to electronic petitions signed by more than 500 persons:

The Hon. Paul Toole—Casino to Murwillumbah Proposed Rail Trail—lodged 9 February 2021 (Ms Tamara Smith)

The Hon. Mark Speakman—Coercive Control Legislation—lodged 9 February 2021 (Ms Anna Watson)

The Hon. Damien Tudehope—Government Procurement Policy—lodged 9 February 2021 (Ms Yasmin Catley)

The Hon. Melinda Pavey—NSW Water Register—lodged 9 February 2021 (Mrs Helen Dalton)

Business of the House

BUSINESS LAPSED

The SPEAKER: I advise the House that in accordance with Standing Order 105 (3) general business notices of motion (general notices) Nos 1835 to 1891 have lapsed.

Bills

COVID-19 LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (STRONGER COMMUNITIES AND HEALTH) BILL 2021

Second Reading Debate

Debate resumed from an earlier hour.

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla—Attorney General, and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence) (15:37): In reply: I thank the members for the electorates of Liverpool, Holsworthy, Charlestown, Oatley, North Shore, Camden and Manly for their contributions to the debate. I thank the member for Liverpool for raising his concerns about a filing box process for the filing of documents in NCAT matters. I am advised by the principal registrar of NCAT that the filing boxes were introduced during the COVID-19 pandemic to enable tribunal users to file documents without unnecessary contact. However, users were provided with a phone number that they could call to speak with registry staff if they did not wish to use the box. The filing boxes remain available in the registry foyer for people who do not wish to wait for registry staff to serve them. The registry is fully operational for usual paper filing.

I announced a \$54 million digital reform across courts and tribunals as part of the November 2020 budget. As part of that reform, NCAT will soon see its four divisions and the appeal panel brought into a single case management system with an increase in NCAT's capacity for online lodgement, which will allow quicker and simpler access to the tribunal by parties. I note comments by the member for Charlestown about sittings of Parliament throughout the pandemic. The Parliament sat on 24 March, 12 May, and 13 May primarily to pass urgent COVID-19 emergency legislation and one bushfire relief bill during the New South Wales lockdown. This reflected the risk of community transmission of COVID-19 in the New South Wales community at that time.

There are obvious public health risks in the convening of a Parliament during a pandemic, being the gathering of people from different geographical areas. The Parliament resumed usual sittings, including the holding of question time, on 2 June 2020 with COVID-safe practices in place. Although a gathering of Parliament was always an essential gathering under the public health orders, it was entirely appropriate that the New South

Wales Parliament cease scheduled sittings during the lockdown and focus on passing urgent COVID-19 emergency legislation.

To conclude, the bill temporarily extends a number of emergency measures already implemented to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic until September 2021 with the option of a further six-month extension, should that be considered necessary later in 2021. The bill will ensure Government can continue to ensure the safety of the people of New South Wales and continue to provide services safely during the pandemic in line with health advice. The ongoing need for these emergency measures has unfortunately been demonstrated after a quarantine hotel security guard recently tested positive for COVID-19—the first locally acquired case in New South Wales in 55 days. As the Minister for Health and Medical Research so aptly put it, a one-in-100-year pandemic is not a time for complacency.

I again extend my thanks and pay tribute to all those who have continued to provide services throughout the pandemic, including health professionals, police, judiciary, and court and tribunal staff, Corrective Services and Youth Justice staff, and legal practitioners. I also wish to acknowledge the significant hard work of the Parliamentary Counsel's Office in the urgent drafting of the COVID-19 emergency legislation last year and the ongoing drafting of various public health orders. The bill also provides for minor amendments to the Mental Health and Cognitive Impairment Forensic Provisions Act 2020 to allow a smooth transition to the new regime. I thank those involved in preparing for this transition; in particular the Chief Magistrate's Office, the Mental Health Review Tribunal and Sallie McLean at the Department of Communities and Justice. I commend the bill to the House.

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

Motion agreed to.

Third Reading

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN: I move:

That this bill be now read a third time.

Motion agreed to.

Budget

BUDGET ESTIMATES AND RELATED PAPERS 2020-21

Debate resumed from 17 February 2021.

Mr GUY ZANGARI (Fairfield) (15:42): I continue my response to the 2020-2021 budget. Today I begin with the Fairfield railway station—a heritage-listed railway station, designed and built by New South Wales Railways and opened in 1856. The former station master's residence is the oldest surviving railway building in New South Wales. I am sure members would agree that makes it an admirable piece of history which deserves respect and proper maintenance by the New South Wales Government. Unfortunately, that is not the case. On visiting Fairfield railway station one sees neglected trees, unkempt foliage, an excessive amount of bird droppings and general disorder around the forecourt of the railway station. What should be a magnificent historical site that acts as a symbol of Fairfield's longevity is nothing but a sad reminder of the neglect by the State Government towards our local area.

I have come to the conclusion, in consultation with residents and stakeholders, that our history is not as important as some other areas according to the State Government. That is why I am calling on the Berejiklian Government to acknowledge Fairfield and to collaborate with local government authorities. Fairfield is not a backwater suburb, as the Government seems to think, but a place of historical importance. That should be respected. Maintaining Fairfield railway station would minimise the criminal element as well as foster a sense of pride in the Fairfield community. Businesses and dining outlets around the area would also benefit, as improving this community space would encourage people to come to the area. It is not up to council to maintain the railway forecourt; it is up to the New South Wales Government. Sadly, the Government has been lacking in that area.

I move now to job opportunities for refugees and education upskilling for refugees in the Fairfield electorate and its surrounds. In 2016 Fairfield City accommodated 3,000 humanitarian arrivals, which is 75 per cent of all of western Sydney's intake of refugees. It is now 2021; the Fairfield electorate has yet to see a single meaningful dollar from the Government in the form of assistance for these vulnerable groups. If we do not invest into upskilling refugees, how can Australia see their true potential? How can refugees be expected to reach their true potential without this investment? Why must we rely on not-for-profits so much to provide these basic needs to refugees? Is the Government attempting to off-load this complex issue through outsourcing to not-for-profits in the Fairfield area?

Why is the Government taking a back-seat role in resettling refugees? There is no long-term plan or even discussion around this. Refugees are an untapped resource in New South Wales' road to economic recovery, yet the Government will not support them when it comes to job opportunities and educational upskilling. Why is the Government not working together with the Federal Government to address this escalating issue in Fairfield and the greater south-western Sydney region? I call on the New South Wales Liberal and Nationals Government to speak directly to, and engage with, these communities in the Fairfield area. The Government must understand their needs, what they would like the Government to do for them, and what opportunities they are missing. The Government must also provide vulnerable people in the Fairfield community with a safety net through education, which will mean in the long term these individuals will not need to rely on benefits as much in the future—a win for both parties involved. If it fails to do this, the current Government's legacy will be having let down south-western Sydney and the next generation of hardworking Australians.

Stamp duty in Fairfield is another issue this budget has dealt with in a less than satisfactory manner. In 2019-20 the stamp duty collected in the Fairfield post code of 2165, including the suburbs of Fairfield, Fairfield West, Fairfield East and Fairfield Heights, was \$13.8 million. What did Fairfield get in return in this year's budget? As I have said before, Fairfield got three big fat zeros in this year's New South Wales State budget. In fact, not only did it get nothing, but Fairfield residents seem to be freefalling into neglect and debt. The year 2020 brought with it M5 tolls for my constituents, underfunded and backed up hospitals, neglected and dangerous public roads, and an abysmal public transport network. Stamp duty alone represents \$13.8 million in taxation revenue. There is a laundry list of other taxes collected from my constituents that they are seeing zero return on.

The current Government collects my constituent's hard-earned dollars and fails to distribute them in a fair manner. Why should my constituents have to give up their hard-earned tax dollars and have them redistributed to already privileged electorates like Epping and Willoughby? Since Fairfield residents have received nothing in this budget, I am calling on the New South Wales Liberal-Nationals Government to assist with having more large-scale events in western and south-western Sydney. More big events in western Sydney will attract tourism to the area, which can be used as another tool in driving post-COVID economic recovery for some of the most impacted areas of New South Wales. Holding big events will encourage individuals to engage with western Sydney. Big events will give my electorate and western Sydney the opportunity to celebrate and capitalise on its diversity.

Some time ago I gave notice of a motion in the House calling on the Government to put more money into developing local entertainment and dining precincts for Fairfield and south-western Sydney. This would help both residents and business owners during the COVID pandemic and coming out of restrictions. Travelling into the city for major events is just not an option for many of my constituents in Fairfield. Slow trains, massive tolls and the ever-rising cost of living act as a deterrent. So I call on the Government once again to cough up the funds to make it possible for residents of Fairfield and western Sydney to also enjoy dining and entertainment precincts. So far the Government has ignored my calls for funding, and Fairfield residents as well as all the residents of Sydney are no better off. The Government needs to realise that Fairfield is also a part of New South Wales and deserves its attention.

As yet there has been no update from the Government on the Henry Lawson Drive upgrade. The residents in south-western Sydney and Fairfield use Henry Lawson Drive to access areas further south. There is not even the slightest sign of construction on Henry Lawson Drive. No dust on the roads, no bunting, no construction workers—absolutely zero. The Government is not moving this project along, nor other projects in south-western Sydney, because it knows it cannot milk a dollar out of the people who are going to use it. The Government has spent less than \$4 million on the proposed \$100 million project. How is it going to spend the rest of the \$96 million before the 2023 election when all that has been done since 2017 are field investigations? In 2017 this project was initially part of the Government's \$300 million Urban Roads Pinch Point Program. It is now 2021 and all that has been done are field investigations. The Treasurer is always pointing his finger at Labor and saying, "promise, promise, promise". But isn't the current Liberal-Nationals Government doing the exact same thing?

Can the Government account for the rest of the \$100 million promised towards this project? The question is: Did that go towards propping up another over-budget, blown-out infrastructure project? To break it down clearly for the Premier and the Treasurer: More traffic means reduced productivity, which ultimately means less GDP for New South Wales. It is that simple. The Government's slogan for the last State election was, "Let's get it done, NSW". I would have to say it is more like, "Let's get it done, Willoughby" and "Let's get it done, Epping". The Government has had three consecutive terms to get it done and it is safe to say that it is far from getting things done in south-western Sydney. Many of my constituents use Henry Lawson Drive to get to the M5 so they can get to work to make a living or pick their kids up from school, yet the Government has done absolutely nothing about this project.

Mr PETER SIDGREAVES (Camden) (15:52): I speak in debate on the 2020-21 New South Wales budget. As members know, the latter part of 2019 and the beginning of 2020 brought with it bushfires, property destruction and, tragically, the loss of life. Our country—the lucky country, the greatest country—was still smouldering, was still fighting and is still grieving. Then another tragedy touched us all—and this time it was global—the COVID-19 pandemic. This is the first pandemic the vast majority of us have experienced in our lifetimes. Hopefully, it is the only one. In order to tackle the spread of the virus, lockdown measures were enforced. The emotional and social impacts of COVID are immeasurable. Loved ones have been lost, loved ones have been ill and loved ones have been isolated. We cannot ever measure the impact of that on our communities.

What the New South Wales Government has been able to achieve—remarkably—is to keep our communities safe while also considering economic opportunities. For this I would like to pass on the Camden community's thanks to the New South Wales Government, led by Premier Gladys Berejiklian, Minister for Health and Medical Research Brad Hazzard, and Chief Health Officer Dr Kerry Chant, and supported by the Treasurer and a number of Ministers. Overnight whole industries were shut down—tourism, hospitality, construction and retail amongst the most severely damaged. Unemployment spiked. Jobs were not guaranteed or secure. A recession was upon us. Uncertainty was—and still is, for the most part—with us at all times. Through this it must be noted how deep we all dug. While support continued for our drought-stricken farmers, victims of bushfires and victims of COVID, we all came together and supported each other however we could—whether it be emotionally, physically or financially.

As the Treasurer has already stated, the last year and a bit will forever be etched in our memories and marked in history. We will remember the spirit of our people and how we still went on. We stood in our driveways to mark the dawn and remember on ANZAC Day. We will not forget the saying and the hashtag #inthistogether, which provided inspiration and encouragement for all. We also will not forget the financial reserves that this Coalition Government had, through nearly 10 years of good fiscal management, to respond to our State's financial need and the need to keep us safe, create jobs, rebuild our economy and ensure it is even more resilient and self-sufficient into the future.

Health support, swift action and investment in health were and continue to be provided. Intensive care capacity in New South Wales hospitals was quadrupled; highly effective testing and contact tracing capabilities were established; effective hotel quarantine measures were established; and more than \$1 billion in personal protective equipment [PPE] was procured to keep our frontline workers safe. The New South Wales Government will invest \$29.3 billion in recurrent and capital funding in the New South Wales health system, continuing the COVID-safe measures that have made New South Wales the standout success of Australia's—and indeed the world's—pandemic response. Measures to keep New South Wales open and to ensure our pandemic response success include \$500 million to support COVID-19 clinics, hotel quarantine, increased pathology testing and contact tracing; and \$30 million for additional emergency department attendances and ambulance calls.

In addition, the New South Wales Government will increase the digital capability in the State's health system, invest in systems to track prescribed medicines associated with a high risk of causing harm or dependence, seamlessly manage the more than 70 million pathology tests undertaken every year across New South Wales, invest \$45 million to expand telehealth capacity to deliver faster, more convenient and better care, increase support for palliative care services to provide the best quality care and support for those reaching the end of their life by providing \$55.9 million over four years for an additional 5,000 end-of-life support packages to allow people who are dying a choice about the place where they spend their remaining days, the care that they receive, access to specialist allied health professionals, improved bereavement and psychosocial support services, and education and training.

The 2020-21 New South Wales budget will commit \$169.4 million over four years to provide mental health support to ensure more people can find the help they need—namely, \$66.2 million to continue the work of community-based mental health clinicians, including expanding youth mental health services; \$50.4 million to expand virtual mental health services enabling greater access to support for people in immediate crisis; \$46.8 million to recruit 100 wellbeing health and in-reach nurses to provide wellbeing checks in our schools; and \$6 million over three years to establish 12 mental health and community wellbeing collaboratives in communities.

The 2020-21 New South Wales budget will continue to invest in an infrastructure program that builds a better New South Wales with a record infrastructure pipeline of \$107.1 billion to ensure the delivery of projects across the State, including vital infrastructure in health, education and transport. That record \$107.1 billion pipeline is estimated to generate 145,000 jobs directly or indirectly each year. Underpinning this stimulus is the \$3 billion Jobs and Infrastructure Acceleration Fund, which will support 20,000 jobs and deliver new and fast-tracked projects across the State. For Camden, this includes \$90 million for the Spring Farm Parkway stage one upgrade.

This budget will also commit to new stimulus spending across the State for maintenance and shovel-ready projects. There will be \$812 million for social and Aboriginal housing across New South Wales; \$256 million for upgrades and maintenance works across national parks, the Royal Botanic Gardens, Centennial Park, Sydney Olympic Park and the Crown lands portfolio—\$34 million alone is going to The Australian Botanic Garden in Mount Annan in my electorate of Camden; \$167.7 million is provided for capital works and maintenance of courts, police stations and Corrective Services as well as an upgrade to the Goulburn police academy making it a State-of-the-art training facility. Over the next four years that record infrastructure pipeline will include \$10.4 billion for Sydney Metro West; \$9.2 billion for Sydney Metro—Western Sydney Airport; \$2.2 billion for the Sydney Gateway project; and a record \$10.7 billion investment in health infrastructure, including the \$632 million Campbelltown Hospital stage two redevelopment—the Premier, the health Minister, myself and the member for Wollondilly recently attended the topping out ceremony at that hospital.

A record \$7.7 billion will be invested in education and skills infrastructure with \$1.4 billion in new schools infrastructure funding for new and upgraded schools, and \$100 million for asset replacement and maintenance for TAFE NSW to deliver quality training services. Our record investment in education continues with an \$18.9 billion investment in recurrent and capital funding for government and non-government schools in 2020-21; the broadening of the State's supply of quality teachers by developing mid-career entry pathways into teaching for those outside the profession in partnership with Teach for Australia; and \$2.7 billion to support a highly skilled and adaptable workforce. Universal access to high quality early childhood education services for three- and four-year-olds will also be ensured.

The New South Wales Coalition Government will drive quality outcomes for all students and, on top of additional resourcing, the New South Wales Government will provide an investment of \$337 million over the 2021 school year to deliver intensive tutoring for up to 290,000 students in New South Wales schools, and \$120 million will be provided to extend the existing free preschool program to the end of 2021. This funding will support around 44,000 three- to five-year-olds attending community preschool in over 700 community and mobile preschools across the State.

The New South Wales Government will invest \$318.6 million over two years in the Skilling for Recovery training package to help jobseekers retrain or upskill and support school leavers entering the workforce for the first time. The apprenticeship intake across Transport for NSW will be increased. Skilling for Recovery will also provide \$80 million in support for apprenticeships and cadetships in the community housing and construction sectors, and a further 300 traineeships will be created across New South Wales public sector agencies. Over four years \$57.4 million will be invested to create a landmark Trades Skills Pathways Centre to address skills shortages in the New South Wales economy and support employment for women by providing grants of up to \$5,000 for training and support. Up to 20,000 training places to skill people working in aged care will be provided and \$2.5 million to develop a strategic business case for a TAFE aged care centre of excellence training facility.

Some \$100 million will be invested over two years for the Greater Cities and Regional Sport Facility Fund to deliver sports infrastructure grants of up to \$1 million with a focus on regional sport. The care economy, which comprises early childhood, community services, social housing, aged care, disability care and personal support workers will be revitalised with \$17 million for upskilling, mentoring and job matching for people working in the care economy. Vital support for vulnerable people impacted by COVID-19 will include \$9 million in 2020-21 to extend targeted support for food charities; \$50 million to establish the one-off time-limited Social Sector Transformation Fund to help charities adapt and respond to the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic; \$29 million across 2020-21 and 2021-22 to extend the Together Home initiative, building on the Government's previous commitment of \$36 million to the program; and \$20 million in expenses over four years for Closing the Gap in accordance with the national agreement, and support for the equal participation of Aboriginal communities in priority reforms.

The \$33 billion Transport budget over the forward estimates will deliver infrastructure and services for the future, including \$1.6 billion for bus services and \$1.1 billion to continue to deliver more trains and more services. In this budget \$1.6 billion is invested for the Digital Restart Fund. A whole-of-sector approach to digitisation and service transformation to deliver quality government services is the aim and will also support job creation. Additional investments for the Digital Restart Fund in this budget will also include \$54.5 million for a major digital courts and tribunals reform project; \$45.8 million to implement the next phase of an end-to-end digital planning service through the ePlanning program; and \$17.5 million to improve the online customer experience for key Revenue NSW services.

In May 2020 the New South Wales Government brought forward by one year the increase in the payroll tax threshold to \$1 million. This budget announces a further permanent increase in the payroll-tax-free threshold from \$1 million to \$1.2 million. This will see 3,500 New South Wales businesses no longer having to pay payroll tax, freeing up much-needed capital for businesses to reinvest. Last year the rate of payroll tax was cut from

5.45 per cent to 4.85 per cent for two years. This budget also provides \$472 million to provide small- and medium-sized businesses, which do not pay payroll tax, with a \$1,500 digital voucher for the cost of government fees and charges. The Out and About program to stimulate spending in the local economy includes restaurants, visitor sites and cultural attractions. Every adult resident will be eligible to claim up to \$100 in digital vouchers to spend on eating out and entertainment.

The budget will extend funding of \$39.3 million for the Business Connect program so more businesses can get the advice they need. The Government is encouraging domestic and international businesses into New South Wales through payroll tax relief and other support as part of a new \$250 million Jobs Plus Program, which aims to create or support 25,000 jobs to 30 June 2022. It will support also companies that want to relocate their head offices to New South Wales or expand their jobs footprint in New South Wales. Some \$179.8 million is included in this budget to grow the offshore trade and investment network to support New South Wales businesses in key international markets. Some \$100 million in grants are being provided from the Regional Growth Fund to incentivise businesses in regional New South Wales to invest in and expand their operations. The Regional Growth Fund will receive \$300 million over two years to deliver economic development and job creation programs.

This budget recognises the need for long-term benefits and is investing in reform to ensure prosperity for our future generations. Reforms include reforms to inefficient taxes, reforms to deliver a more streamlined and timely planning system to accommodate new businesses, reforms to improve students' outcomes and ensure workforce flexibility, and reforms to introduce regulatory changes to support innovation, competition and economic growth. The New South Wales Government is currently seeking feedback on the property tax system. We want to deliver a streamlined and timely planning system by cutting assessment times, optimising industrial land use, reforming contributions to infrastructure and consolidating employment zones. We also aim to improve student outcomes and ensure the long-term labour force flexibility by developing mid-career teaching pathways to attract mid-career professionals into teaching, introduce skills reforms and reduce regulation to have automatic mutual recognition of occupational licences.

Despite COVID-19, Camden and the State of New South Wales are being well facilitated by our Government to be greater places of commerce and trade, where ambitious and prospective individuals and families can conduct business with all the support they need from their Government to succeed. The New South Wales Coalition Government continues to deliver for the citizens of the Camden electorate, and this is true in the delivery of schools. In 2019 the New South Wales Government opened Yandelora School in Narellan—a new purpose-built, state-of-the-art school for specific purpose to cater for students with moderate to severe intellectual and physical disabilities. In 2020 the New South Wales Government opened a new public school in Gledswood Hills and a new high school in Oran Park, and Oran Park Public School was upgraded with an additional 24 learning spaces. These projects allowed students to start on day one, term 1, 2020.

This year the New South Wales Government opened Barramurra Public School on day one, term 1. During planning, this school was known as Catherine Field Public School. In mid-2021 Denham Court Public School will be opened. During the planning, this school was known as East Leppington Public School. An upgrade of Harrington Park Public School is currently under construction. This project includes a new building with 14 additional learning spaces, a new hall, canteen, administration office and library. It also includes refurbishments to existing classrooms. The residents of Camden can clearly see that this Coalition Government is delivering schools in the Camden electorate and will continue to do so. It is important to remember that the Camden local government area is the fastest-growing local government area in Australia, growing at approximately 8 per cent per annum, and forecasted to have an annual growth of 5.5 per cent over the next 20 years. It is imperative that the government of the day continues to deliver new and upgraded schools to keep up with the growth of the population in Camden. [*Extension of time*]

Earlier this year Premier Gladys Berejiklian opened a new hub at Camden Public School and said that the more than \$20 million Out of School Hours Care Hub Program will benefit families across New South Wales. I note that the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning also attended this event. By June, 47 schools will have opened out-of-school-hours care hubs as part of the New South Wales Government's election commitment to before and after school care. The new hubs will provide additional before and after school care for more than 2,400 students across New South Wales. Following the COVID-19 pandemic, families across the State are concerned about the cost-of-living pressures, and providing affordable before and after school care is particularly important. Some 65 per cent of working residents leave the Camden local government area to get to their workplace. As such, before and after school care will be of great benefit to many families in the Camden electorate. Since July 2019 the New South Wales Government has created more than 11,000 after-school care places. These new hubs will add to this capacity.

The Out of School Hours Care Hub Program is part of the \$120 million investment over four years to expand access to out-of-school-hours care for public primary schoolchildren. The New South Wales Government

also continues to deliver transport and roads in the Camden electorate. This is evidenced by the \$159.44 million transport funding for the Camden electorate. The Government will continue construction at Leppington Station to deliver a multistorey car park with up to 1,000 additional spaces to the south of the station, free parking for up to 18 hours, additional accessible spaces, CCTV, lighting and wayfinding, lift access, road pavement and pedestrian upgrades. It will also complete the construction of the upgrade to The Northern Road between Peter Brock Drive, Oran Park, and Eaton Road, Luddenham, and complete the construction of the upgrade to Bringelly Road between King Street and The Northern Road. Both of these projects are jointly funded by the New South Wales and Federal governments.

It will also investigate and plan the connectivity between Camden Bypass and Spring Farm Parkway, which provides access to Hume Motorway and Menangle Road. The Spring Farm Parkway is a key east-west link to support the Greater Macarthur Growth Area. Other projects include preserving transport corridors for future transport projects, providing new bus services and additional services to existing routes, and the introduction of the new zero-emission bus fleet. Only a matter of weeks ago I took a ride on south-west Sydney's first electric bus with the transport Minister and the member for Holsworthy. Other projects that the New South Wales Coalition Government is investing in the Camden electorate include \$2.93 million on social housing assets improvements, new supply and upgrades; \$34.76 million for the Australian Institute of Botanical Science located at the Australian Botanic Garden in Mount Annan; \$78.92 million for Sydney Water major works, including an upgrade to the West Camden wastewater treatment plant; and \$6.61 million for WaterNSW upgrades and resilience measures.

It would be negligent of me not to speak about critical health projects that the New South Wales Coalition Government has delivered, and is continuing to deliver, in neighbouring electorates for healthcare services that provide services to the residents of Camden. After delivering the \$134 million stage one of the Campbelltown Hospital redevelopment, the New South Wales Coalition is currently delivering the \$632 million stage two of the redevelopment. It is also delivering the \$790 million redevelopment of Liverpool Hospital and a new education and research hub. The redevelopment will provide Liverpool Hospital with expanded clinical services, public spaces and car parking, integrated with research and teaching. This budget sets out the New South Wales Government's commitment of \$29 billion to ensure a prosperous post-pandemic recovery, and a focus on new stimulus measures to kickstart the economy and create jobs while laying out the foundations for sustained growth with plans to reform to deliver for the residents and businesses of Camden and for the people of New South Wales. I commend this budget to the House.

Ms PRUE CAR (Londonderry) (16:18): I will make a brief contribution on the budget estimates and related papers for 2020-21 debate, particularly in regard to the disastrous state of education infrastructure in New South Wales and the delays and overruns that exist in suburbs right across the State as a result of Liberal and The Nationals mismanagement of education. I particularly note that we still have the preposterous situation where the Government went to an election in 2019 and promised new schools, particularly new primary schools, to communities—especially new communities in the outer suburbs of Sydney; the south-west and north-west in particular—but when one looks in the budget for the funding of these promised schools one finds no mention of them at all.

I note with interest that I am speaking directly after the member for Camden, which is quite pertinent. Just for a minute imagine that you are a working mum or dad living in the suburb of Gregory Hills—for those people who do not know, Gregory Hills is in the south-west of Sydney. It is likely that you have saved up a lot of money to build a beautiful new home where you are raising or planning to raise young children. You have done so on the promise that there will be infrastructure in that community. Part of the promised infrastructure in that community was a new primary school. In fact, right near the shopping centre in the middle of that new suburb, near a beautiful new playground—which obviously the Government was not responsible for building because it is actually finished—there is a big lot of land that locals know is supposed to be the Gregory Hills primary school.

There is no primary school for the families of Gregory Hills. Members will have heard me speak about this quite a bit. You have built your home and are raising your children on the expectation that you will be able to send them to that school, but the Government has not come good on that commitment. In fact, in this budget there was zero allocation to even plan for this new school. How disappointed would you be in your representative, the member for Camden, and Premier Gladys Berejiklian? Well, I can tell you, because I have spoken to many hardworking families in Gregory Hills. They are very upset, and rightly so, with the fact that this budget—which Government members like to get up time and again and crow about how fantastic it is—does not have an allocation for that school.

The families that I, as the member for Londonderry, represent in the new suburb of Marsden Park in the North West Growth Area of Sydney are in a similar situation. Those families in the fastest growing single suburb in Sydney were promised a high school by this Government. Was there an allocation of one cent towards this in this budget? Of course not. There is a site that locals drive past every day; it is a reminder that the Liberals think

the people of Elara and Newpark in Marsden Park are not a priority. The Liberals do not, when it comes to it, put their money where their mouth is. They rip them off. They release the land. We build our homes. They do not deliver the necessary infrastructure.

The same thing can be said for the lack of investment in dealing with the overcrowding in existing schools, particularly in these new and growing parts of western Sydney. One does not have to be a genius to work out what is going to happen at Gledswood Hills, the neighbouring new suburb to Gregory Hills, if the Government does not build a school at Gregory Hills. A school at Gledswood Hills that is just over 12 months old has already got demountables. Who in their right mind thinks that that is acceptable? Not the families of south-west Sydney. In the suburb of Jordan Springs, in my electorate of Londonderry, we had to fight very hard to get a school. That school is not even 12 months old and it is already crammed full of demountables. They are teaching classes in the library because the Government will not commit to building stage two of the upgrade of a school in a suburb where it released the land and knew there would be plenty of people living there. It is a great place to live. I am biased. I built my home there like many people in the community that I represent. We all have young families and one does not have to be a genius to work out that young children need to go primary school.

Recently in the budget estimates hearings we exposed that almost half of the upgrade projects promised by this Government in the lead-up to the last election are chronically delayed. In some cases they are not just a couple of weeks or a couple of months; they are 18 months delayed—for example, in places like Harrington Park, in a big and growing part of south-west Sydney. There is a theme developing here. In Marsden Park, in Elara, one could not even make up how badly the new Northbourne Public School was managed for families living in north-western Sydney. A brand-new school for that big community was supposed to open in term one of this year. It was running so late that they said to parents, "Actually, we'll just put demountables where the school should be and then we'll construct the school that you were promised around the temporary school." The whole school is demountables.

The Government cannot seem to get planning right, unless it is planning for property developers. Those opposite did not seem to realise that in a family area there will be hundreds of kindergarten and year 1 enrolments. They did not even have enough demountables for the temporary school so they said to parents in December, "We know that you have enrolled your children in this new school but if they are from year 2 to year 6 you're going to drop your children off at this brand-new school in their brand-new uniforms in this brand-new suburb"—how exciting—"and we're going to put them on a bus and take them to a different school. But that is okay because they will be taken away from class time at the end of the day and bussed back to the new school." Surprisingly, the parents said they did not think that was on. I may have played a role in conjunction with my community to stop that from happening. I am proud of my community for saying that is not good enough for us.

We are sick of being ripped off by a government that is about property developers. The people of western and south-western Sydney, the hardworking families of western Sydney, are the ones driving the State, but we are the ones copping it. We do not get our schools in new areas and the ones that exist are overcrowded. We are the ones with demountables on the playgrounds. We are the ones whose children have to have rostered playtimes and, in some schools, rostered toilet time. As a parent, imagine your children coming home and telling you that. We are the ones who have to pay the lion's share of tolls. We are the ones who are being ripped off by unmarked mobile speed cameras. We are the ones who are propping up the economy in Sydney.

We are hardworking families and we are being ripped off. What is happening in education in this State is just one example and this budget laid it bare. There was not one cent for the new schools that this Government had promised and not one cent to address the issues of overcrowding and demountables on play spaces. The hardworking families of western Sydney, particularly north-western Sydney and south-western Sydney, deserve much better than a Liberal government that absolutely does not get what it is like to live in the outer suburbs of this city.

Mr MARK COURE (Oatley) (16:27): This year's New South Wales budget is probably the most important in our State's history. It is a budget that reflects the challenges of 2020 and will lead us out of the health and economic crises presented by COVID-19. Made possible by the strong economic management of Treasurer Perrottet and the New South Wales Government, this budget will deliver for our State. Locally, we are providing critical infrastructure for our community in the area of health through a \$105 million acceleration of the St George Hospital redevelopment. This will fast-track the delivery of a new integrated ambulatory care precinct, increase bed capacity and enhance outpatient services.

In transport, we are providing critical infrastructure through the New South Wales Government's \$824 million More Trains, More Services program. This will boost peak-hour services to stations like Mortdale, Penshurst, Riverwood, Narwee and Beverly Hills. The Government has committed funding to deliver additional commuter car parks at Riverwood and Beverly Hills railway stations. We are providing critical roads infrastructure through the widening of King Georges Road, congestion busting on the Princes Highway, and improving traffic

flow and safety at the intersection of Forest, Bonds and Boundary roads at Peakhurst. We are providing critical emergency services infrastructure through the redevelopment of Hurstville police station and critical environmental investment through \$3.9 billion in funding to natural habitats. We are investing in a record \$107 billion infrastructure pipeline and a skills and training blitz to create employment and jobs across New South Wales, not just in my community.

I start by discussing a subject that is very close to my heart, which has yet again benefited from this Government's budget. Having started out as a humble cottage of six beds and one children's cot, St George Hospital is now known as a world-class institution with some of the finest nurses and doctors in the world. The hospital opened its doors in November 1894 and cost a mere £750 to construct. The land was purchased for £850 and offered picturesque views of the country all the way to Botany Bay and out across the Pacific, according to local newspapers at the time. By July 1897 a new wing and additional nurses' quarters had been opened and plans for further alterations and improvements to the hospital had been drawn up. St George Cottage Hospital was rapidly expanding, as was the population of the St George area. In 1898, four years after it opened, the hospital had admitted 107 patients and performed 17 operations.

In contrast, there were over 65,000 admissions to St George Hospital in 2016-17 alone. By the early 1920s, St George Cottage Hospital had become known as the St George District Hospital and was making a name for itself as one of the leading hospitals in the State. Throughout the best part of the twentieth century, further improvements and extensions were carried out at St George Hospital. With the eventual certainty of ongoing government funding through many successive Liberal governments, it was transformed into the multimillion-dollar institute it is today. If members look over the past 40 years, they will see it was the Askin Liberal Government that made significant building upgrades to St George Hospital and the Greiner and Fahey upgrades that delivered the six-storey car park on Gray Street. The O'Farrell-Baird-Berejiklian governments saw stages one, two and three of the upgrades to St George Hospital.

Without this record investment, our community would not have seen the reopening and refurbishment of the hydrotherapy pool previously closed by Labor. Nor would we have seen the multimillion-dollar expansion of the emergency department that was completed in 2014 or the \$277 million seven-storey acute services building that followed in 2017. I am proud of this Government's commitment to supporting health services and infrastructure in our area, and in particular of the fact that with the recent budget announcement we are still committed. Our local community's proudest achievement has been the ongoing redevelopment of St George Hospital, with a total investment of over \$700 million since 2011. As part of the 2020-21 State budget, the New South Wales Government announced the next stage of the redevelopment of St George Hospital two years earlier than expected.

A \$105 million injection of funds will kickstart the \$385 million integrated ambulatory care project, creating hundreds of local jobs while ensuring that our community gets the best health facilities in the State. Since 2011 the hospital redevelopment has included an eight-level acute services building, a new emergency department—which, with two young kids, I have unfortunately used on a number of occasions—additional inpatient beds, a new intensive care and high dependency unit, a new cardiac unit, a new sterilising services department, new operating theatres, an upgraded hydrotherapy pool and, more recently, a new and improved birthing and delivery unit. I have spoken with doctors in recent weeks. Planning for stage three has already commenced and works are set to start in late 2021.

It is not only health that will benefit under the budget; local road projects across the electorate of Oatley and elsewhere in the State will also benefit. Investment in our road transport network will ensure that residents across New South Wales spend less time commuting and more time with family and friends. Across my own electorate we have seen investment in the widening of King Georges Road, a project that has been talked about for generations. It has been talked about for over 45 years. For too long motorists have experienced significant congestion along that road corridor, particularly during peak weekday periods. Our Government has recognised that and it has acted. The proposed improvements are designed to deliver a faster, more reliable journey. King Georges Road will receive a \$40 million injection for its widening between Stoney Creek Road at Beverly Hills and Forest Road at Hurstville. Each and every day thousands of motorists are set to benefit from the widening of 1.5 kilometres of King Georges Road from two lanes to three lanes in each direction. That will significantly reduce congestion and make the corridor a lot safer.

Furthermore, the M6 extension will also ease congestion across our network by connecting President Avenue at Kogarah with the new M5 motorway at Arncliffe. That project will remove over 2,000 trucks a day from surface roads and will return local streets to local communities. For us, it is about creating an integrated transport solution across New South Wales. As part of that integrated transport solution the four-kilometre underground motorway will ease congestion and allow users to bypass up to 23 sets of traffic lights on the Princes Highway between St Peters and Kogarah. It will contribute to a more accessible, more liveable and more

productive Greater Sydney. The network also includes the recently completed widening of the M5 and the extension of the M4, which has resulted in thousands of jobs and reduced travel times across New South Wales.

The M5 Belmore Road on and off ramps have also enabled local residents to get to and from work sooner—not just residents from my community, the electorate of Oatley, but residents in the electorate of East Hills as well. Those ramps have reduced congestion and improved the flow of traffic on the motorway, helping thousands of motorists who use that route each and every day to spend more time with their families rather than sitting in traffic. That project, in conjunction with the widening of the M5 East and the duplication of the M5 tunnel, is bringing much-needed relief to thousands of motorists across Sydney. The new M5 has provided twin underground motorway tunnels, which are nine kilometres long, from Kingsgrove to a new St Peters Interchange at the site of the old Alexandria landfill facility.

The St Peters Interchange has provided motorists with connections to Alexandria and Mascot. It also includes connections to the future Sydney Gateway, the M4-M5 Link and the M6 extension. Local streets and intersections around the St Peters Interchange are also being upgraded to ensure safe and efficient connections to the new M5. Importantly, though, the project will protect six hectares of new open space in St Peters, it will create 12 kilometres of shared paths around St Peters, it will generate over 4,400 jobs and it will have no impact on Wolli Creek bushland. As part of the M5 and M8 projects, my local community also saw upgrades to the King Georges Road interchange at Beverly Hills, which until now has been a well-known bottleneck for south and south-west Sydney motorists.

In saying that, our Government recognises that a successful road system is not just about the grand projects; it is also about consistently improving and updating our local roads. That is why we have delivered much-needed local projects including a roundabout in Beverly Hills at the intersection of Edgbaston Road and Melvin Street, which was completed last year. We have also responded to community safety concerns by swiftly delivering new pedestrian crossings around the Mortdale, Penshurst and Oatley areas, as well as school crossing supervisors for Oatley West Public School; Peakhurst Public School; Mortdale Public School, where my son goes; and St Joseph's at Oatley, my former school. Those localised projects, along with our major projects, are all aimed at improving road safety and ensuring that motorists return home from their destinations. I thank Minister Constance for his incredible commitment and service to this role. I look forward to keeping the House up to date on any further developments in the local area.

The budget included major announcements not only for our road network but also for our public transport network. Our Government put to the people of New South Wales its plan of getting on with the job and delivering for them. One area where that could not be more evident is across our public transport network. Our Government has delivered, and is continuing to deliver, train station upgrades across our network, including in my electorate. Making public transport more accessible is a priority for the Government, as patronage on our rail network is at a record high. In the past five years the number of trips has increased by over 100 million to 400 million trips per year, representing a 30 per cent increase in patronage. As a result, not only are station upgrades being delivered across the network but also we are making access to our rail network easier than ever before.

Commuter car parks are being built across New South Wales. I am proud to say that we have delivered that for Oatley station. We have also secured much-needed funding for the Riverwood and Beverly Hills stations as part of the 2020-2021 budget. The Beverly Hills commuter car park is currently in the community consultation phase. Discussions with council have already commenced and construction is expected to begin sometime in the next year or two. That is a huge win for local residents, particularly for those who live in Beverly Hills and Penshurst, as it will ease traffic congestion along King Georges Road, make public transport more accessible and provide much-needed after-hours parking for access to restaurants and the Beverly Hills cinema. The Riverwood commuter car park is no different; it is at the same planning stage. I look forward to informing the House of further updates as they become available.

In total, the Government has added more than 10,000 parking spaces, with an additional 8,000 spaces either in planning or under construction across New South Wales. Our record level of infrastructure investment since coming to government in 2011 is already delivering other significant boosts to our rail services. In 2019 the Premier and the Minister for Transport and Roads opened the new Sydney Metro Northwest. The Sydney Metro is Australia's biggest public transport project and is the first fully automated railway in Australia. The Sydney Metro Northwest is just the first stage of that amazing project.

This is a government that continues to deliver. For example, recently the More Trains, More Services program was announced. That will extensively transform our rail network, particularly on the Illawarra line. More Trains, More Services is a 10-year strategy to increase services across the network to keep up with ever-increasing patronage. Currently we are at stage two of that rollout, which includes digital system development, infrastructure upgrades and new trains. That will benefit both T8 and T4 customers in my electorate. I look forward to keeping the House up to date on any further public transport developments across my electorate.

Our Government has also continued to invest in protecting our local communities. Recently I attended my local area command's monthly community safety precinct meeting at Kogarah. It was encouraging to hear the great news that the New South Wales police continue to keep the community safe. Crime statistics show that all major categories are either stable or falling. Policemen and policewomen across the State continue to deliver time and again, putting their personal safety on the line to ensure that our communities are protected. I am proud to be part of a government that recognises that incredible work by investing accordingly and by allowing those officers to continue that daunting task.

An example of that investment is the \$29 million in last year's budget that was announced by the Government to upgrade or redevelop Hurstville police station. The multimillion-dollar police station is a big win not only for my electorate but also right across the St George area and for the electorates of Rockdale and Kogarah. That will ensure local police have the resources they need for many generations to come. The location of the new police station is yet to be determined but it will take into consideration feasibility, land space and accessibility. More information will be made available in the coming months, following consultation with community and council, and design phases. My local community is thrilled by the announcement.

It is not just infrastructure that the Government is investing in. The Government recognises the incredible efforts of police officers, who have worked tirelessly alongside the community to keep crime rates low. That is why it has taken the major step to fortify the Police Force into the future with the investment of more than \$583 million over four years to deliver 1,500 extra police. I look forward to keeping the House up to date on any future developments of the new Hurstville police station. One of the Government's greatest achievements in this budget and previous budgets is its investment in skills and the TAFE system. The Government has a strong appreciation for how important investment is in skills, both for the individual and for all of New South Wales. When we invest in TAFE we are investing not just in students' futures but also in the State's future.

Our plan to expand and boost funding to TAFE across New South Wales is bold and ambitious. It will include 700,000 free TAFE courses and an additional \$227 million in new funding for TAFE over four years. We look forward to seeing the results of that investment in the development of our skilled and trade industries across New South Wales. We are fortunate as a government that our plan is being overseen by a wonderful Minister for Skills and Tertiary Education, the Hon. Geoff Lee, who has a thorough understanding of and passion for the TAFE system. The Minister's hands-on experience and enthusiasm for skills development is tangible. Last year I was joined by the Minister to tour the new \$4.2 million health training facility at St George TAFE in Kogarah. The facility is part of the Government's ongoing investment in capital works projects across the TAFE network, totalling \$179.5 million across 25 projects.

Health and wellbeing are among the fastest-growing courses across TAFE NSW and that is reflected locally, where enrolments have been surging in recent years. The new facilities have been built to reflect current industry practice and will deliver a much-needed increase in local training capacity to match growing demand in the St George area. The Government's significant redevelopment of St George Hospital means there is strong demand for a skilled health workforce. I am proud to be part of a government that is committed to expanding training opportunities in the St George area. The multimillion-dollar investment will equip students with the real-world skills they need to excel in the health sector. [*Extension of time*]

The new facility has a particular focus on nursing and aged care, reflecting a higher demand for those workers. It is another example of the Government recognising employment trends and responding to them accordingly. With a strong focus on business and the economy, the Government understands that equipping students with job-ready skills means equipping businesses with job-ready employees. That is why it not only is investing in capital works projects but also has developed a \$30 million TAFE NSW Skills for Business initiative. It is fantastic that when the Government invests in skills, it is also investing in small business and local economies. Further, the Government acknowledges that the cost of TAFE and tertiary education can be a burden on many individuals and families.

In a win for vocational education students, the New South Wales Government is investing \$54.3 million to make government-subsidised traineeships fee free, which began last year. This is a game changer for small and medium businesses in the St George area, allowing trainees to focus on practical training. That investment, coupled with the \$285 million initiative that has made apprenticeships fee free, demonstrates that the Government is serious about getting people back into work and addressing the skills shortages in New South Wales. Investment in TAFE is beneficial to all of us; the Government is investing heavily in modernising the TAFE system that is developing skilled students, equipping businesses and driving local economies.

Another cornerstone of the Government's budget, which is making life easier for the people of New South Wales, is the rollout of Service NSW across the State. We want to make sure that, no matter what part of New South Wales they live in, residents are able to access the rebates on offer to ease cost-of-living pressures. Service NSW centres are delivering much-needed access to government services in a friendly, helpful and timely

manner. Service NSW was introduced in 2013 by the Government as a one-stop shop for vital services such as getting birth certificates, seniors cards, fishing licences, driver licences and renewing vehicle registration, which is so important for working families. I have witnessed firsthand the amazing work of Service NSW at Hurstville—and Rockdale, for that matter—and welcomed the Premier and the Minister for Customer Service to the newly opened centre at Roselands.

When I was doorknocking, the cost of living was continuously raised as one of the most important issues facing the people of the St George area. Under the directive of the Government, residents can now access over 70 rebates and incentives including Energy Switch, free rego, Active Kids and Creative Kids. As a result, \$583 is the average saving of a resident in New South Wales who has visited a cost of living specialist. The Government has announced that households that use gas and electricity could save hundreds of dollars on their energy bills with the expansion of our popular Energy Switch service—a very good initiative. Perhaps one of the most popular rebates in my electorate is the Active Kids program. In the first 18 months of the program New South Wales residents have claimed more than one million Active Kids vouchers, saving over \$100 million in sports registrations. The Government has made it a priority to reduce childhood overweight and obesity rates in New South Wales. Through the Active Kids rebate program, almost half of all school-enrolled kids are enjoying the benefits of exercise.

A personal favourite of mine is the New South Wales Government's free FuelCheck app, which allows customers to locate the closest or cheapest service station to them. The app includes a "favourite stations" function, allowing users to save their favourite petrol stations. A "my trip" function utilises Google Maps, ensuring that users can find the cheapest petrol station on their journey and directing them to that station. Finally, there is a "trends" page showing the cheapest day of the week to fill up and the day's price range. I look forward to what Minister Dominello has planned in his continued efforts to reduce red tape and paperwork while increasing the rebates available through Service NSW centres.

The Government is building safe, just, inclusive and resilient communities in New South Wales through the budget for 2020-21. We are incredibly fortunate to have an Attorney General who is committed to ensuring justice for victims of domestic violence. Violence in the home can control the life of the victim. It causes fear, psychological harm and often physical harm. The Government is focused on ensuring that all people can safely flee domestic violence if and when the need arises; that is why it has invested a record \$431 million in domestic violence prevention across New South Wales, including in the St George area. The Government is also focused on driving grassroots initiatives in order to prevent domestic violence and it has committed more than \$1 million to grants programs since its inception.

The latest rounds of grants programs provided up to \$1,200 to 34 communities across New South Wales, from Parkes to Port Stephens and from Broken Hill to Bega. The money goes towards coastal walks, candlelight vigils and coffee clubs—just to name a few. Those projects are empowering local communities to stand against domestic and family violence. The achievements in preventing domestic violence include new legislation to improve victim support with the launch of survivor forums, the Government's partnership with the Our Watch organisation, and countless other initiatives. Those initiatives go a long way. Last year the Attorney General and I delivered \$40,000 to Kingsway Community Care on behalf of the Government to go towards the opening of a refuge in the St George area. The funds will support repairs and maintenance for the new premises, including bathroom renovations, driveway construction, painting and much-needed other services. It will be a place for victims to call home while they begin to navigate the very difficult path to recovery. I thank the Attorney General for that.

Investing in our schools means investing in our communities. This Government is rolling out 200 new and upgraded schools across the State, including four in my own electorate: Penshurst Public School, Penshurst West Public School, Hurstville Public School and Hurstville Grove Infants School. I am pleased to update the House that Penshurst Public School is officially open. The new school includes 47 brand-new classrooms, a brand-new library, hall and covered outdoor learning area in addition to open-play spaces, including playing courts, seating, shade structures and running tracks around the school. There are also new administration and staff facilities, along with new staff and student amenities. Recently the great Premier, Gladys Berejiklian, and the fantastic education Minister, Sarah Mitchell, opened the new Penshurst Public School. Last year Minister Mitchell also joined me to officially open the Penshurst West Public School upgrades. Those upgrades include new, modern teaching spaces and facilities, seven new learning spaces and classrooms, a new student amenities building, a special programs room and enhanced open spaces.

The New South Wales Government's record investment in new and upgraded schools is on top of the \$1.3 billion to wipe the existing school maintenance backlog to zero and the \$500 million Cooler Classrooms Program to provide air conditioning to more classrooms than ever before. Furthermore, our Government is aiming to reduce the cost of before- and after-school care by up to \$225 per child per year via a capped rental subsidy

program of up to \$15,000 for providers who run services on New South Wales Government school grounds. The \$120 million strategy over four years includes \$50 million to help schools buy new equipment and expand their facilities. When those opposite were in government, they closed schools—100 in fact—but we are building and rebuilding up to 200 of them over our term in government.

On a personal note, last year my son James completed his second year of schooling. He is now in year 2 at Mortdale. It has been a delight to watch James grow and learn. Like so many students across New South Wales, James is benefiting from bold and ambitious investment in our schools and in education. Fittingly, my wife, Adla, is a high school teacher. Her passion for education is inspiring, and that passion has certainly rubbed off on me. I am incredibly proud that our Government is continuing to invest in our education system across every facet of this State. I look forward to keeping the House up to date on any further developments of our education system in the Oatley electorate. The people of New South Wales are proud of how we tackled the challenges of 2020. Under this budget, our State will bounce back stronger and even better than before, and local communities like mine will grow even stronger.

Mr NATHANIEL SMITH (Wollondilly) (16:57): As a first-term member of Parliament elected to the Fifty-Seventh Parliament of New South Wales, I am conscious of and grateful for the privilege bestowed on me to represent the people of Wollondilly. Roads, transport, tourism, education, health, cultural development, open space and sporting infrastructure are the key areas in which the Government is delivering for our region to deal with future growth. Over the past 10 years the Berejiklian Government has worked hard and made the tough decisions in order to make the biggest infrastructure investment in the State's history. In return, the people of New South Wales supported that policy to improve liveability for citizens and for future generations. After being elected for a third term in March 2019, the New South Wales Government is getting on with the job and building a better New South Wales for communities across the State.

The 2021 New South Wales budget reflects the Government's clear focus on supporting our regions through recovery, reform and a return to prosperity after a year of unprecedented challenges. There has never been a more important time to make sure that our regional communities impacted by drought, bushfires, floods and COVID-19 are getting the help they need to rebuild and recover. The New South Wales Government is focused on supporting our regional businesses, including manufacturing, resource and agricultural sectors, to recover quickly and return to growth, while also positioning regional economies to further specialise in innovation- and technology-focused industries. It just so happens that in the past week a pilot model was announced by Minister Stokes. I had the pleasure of being involved in that with agritourism, which is the future of the Wollondilly electorate and the Southern Highlands. It will allow farmers not only to run their properties but also to have other tacit income coming in. The one thing we can control is reducing red tape; the one thing we cannot control is the weather.

Debate interrupted.

Bills

COMMUNITY LAND DEVELOPMENT BILL 2020

COMMUNITY LAND MANAGEMENT BILL 2020

Returned

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER: I report receipt of messages from the Legislative Council returning the bills without amendment.

Public Interest Debate

WESTERN SYDNEY JOBS AND SKILLS

Mr RAY WILLIAMS (Castle Hill) (17:00): I move:

That this House acknowledges the Government's commitment to jobs and skills in western Sydney.

It gives me great pleasure to lead this public interest debate on the New South Wales Government's commitment to jobs and skills in western Sydney. It is a wonderful opportunity to acknowledge the anniversary—it is almost 10 years to the day—of the election of the New South Wales Liberal-Nationals Government in 2011. During that decade we have made many positive changes to New South Wales on behalf of its constituents. To set some context around that, members should cast their minds back to late 2010 when New South Wales was the last State in this country on every key performance indicator, whether that was housing commencement or unemployment. At that time we had the highest unemployment of any Australian State, the lowest housing starts, the lowest business confidence and the lowest consumer confidence. It goes on and on with respect to those key performance indicators. Those indicators are not set by a government or an opposition; that is what is viewed by CommSec,

I imagine, or other private corporations that look at how the economy is reacting to a government and how a government is performing. This was on the back of 16 years of a tired and failing Labor Government.

The new New South Wales Liberal-Nationals Government set about immediately to correct many of those failings. We were some \$30 billion to \$60 billion behind in critical infrastructure that was needed and, of course, we inherited at the time—if I remember—some \$5 billion of debt from our predecessors. Things looked very dire, indeed, for an incoming government, but we set in place a fundamental plan and some very prudent investment measures. We retired tired assets, we sold things such as the desalination plant—made half a billion dollars there—we sold ports and we leased 49 per cent of the electricity poles and wires, retaining 51 per cent control by retaining 51 per cent of those dividends. Ultimately, when that lease expires, we will get the entire poles and wires asset back for our great-grandchildren. So that, along with the capping of public sector wages, which members were also subjected to—some 2 per cent increases per year—put us on a stable footing to invest in critical infrastructure. Our commitment to skills and jobs was through that basic investment in infrastructure, which is the responsibility of State governments, regardless of which governments they are.

As we sit in this place today \$100 billion is in the infrastructure pipeline of New South Wales. If we contrast that with our neighbouring State of Queensland—another Labor-led State—it is \$100 billion in debt at this point in time. That is a stark contrast to New South Wales, particularly when prior to the commencement of the COVID-19 pandemic just over 12 months ago this Government not only was investing \$100 billion over forward estimates in infrastructure rollout but also had no net debt. The Government was cash positive and it was still investing in this critical infrastructure. What has that critical infrastructure meant to the people of New South Wales? Quite simply, it has meant jobs. It has meant the opportunity for families to have jobs and for their children to upskill—to go to university and TAFE.

We on this side have invested hundreds of millions of dollars in ensuring that apprentices also had opportunities through that investment in critical infrastructure on the ground, so that we were not ignoring the basic skills of people who get in, get their hands dirty, get involved and gain an apprenticeship so they can go on to become contractors, project managers, site inspectors—whatever the case may be. There were opportunities not just for low-skill work but also medium- and high-skill work through investment in technology. Today is a great day when we talk about high-skill jobs because today the suburb around the new Badgerys Creek airport has been named Bradfield after a person who had the vision to build our wonderful Sydney Harbour Bridge. It has probably been the greatest public relations exercise known to man because every person who sees a vision of the Sydney Harbour Bridge together with the Sydney Opera House knows exactly what that means: our country. It is a testament to someone's vision and to the government of the time that invested in that project.

It is a testament to the fact that if governments are willing to roll up their sleeves and work hard they can improve the status of their States on behalf of their constituents. That is exactly what the Liberal-Nationals Government has done in New South Wales. Today, after a long pandemic that we are still coming to terms with—a different normal—we still have the lowest unemployment in the country of 6.6 per cent. Following those dreadful 16 years of Labor, when we were behind on every key performance indicator, not long after that we have led. Despite the size of our population, we were the worst-performing State in this country—even Tasmania was outperforming New South Wales in 2010. But that was quickly turned around and we have led the way in Australia. To this day we not only lead Australia but also our economy, processes, financial management, investments in infrastructure and our retiring of old infrastructure projects are recognised around the world as a successful model that has spelt one thing: prosperity and opportunity for the people of New South Wales; hundreds of millions of new jobs, new homes et cetera plus infrastructure for our constituents.

Mr JIHAD DIB (Lakemba) (17:07): I thank the member for Castle Hill. He is a decent man whom I have got to know quite well. I am glad he is still at Castle Hill. I think there was a bit of a move earlier on but you never take on an old fox.

Mr Ray Williams: I am not old.

Mr JIHAD DIB: I mean it in the nicest way possible. This public interest debate gives us great opportunity to talk about some things that are really important.

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

Mr JIHAD DIB: Outside this Chamber the things that are really important to people's prosperity and their opportunity to live their best life possible are to go to a decent school, to get work opportunities and to get training. The member spoke about a number of things and he spoke a lot about history. I speak about one thing in particular. We often hear members of the Government talk about how they are the party of the worker. Obviously, that is fantastic. We all want to make sure that we support workers because everybody wants to be able to have a job. There is great dignity and opportunity in having a job. But I speak about western Sydney. We keep trying to work

out where western Sydney is. As we know, western Sydney is a huge area. It is not just a part separate to Sydney; it is part of Greater Sydney. It has many challenges and we have seen enormous growth not only recently but also projected into the future.

We see more and more places opening up because families need to be able to start their lives and in some ways it is a more affordable option than anywhere that is in the current inner-city area, where we have seen growth in population and house prices. We all know that house prices are just phenomenal. For those of us with children, we think, "What is their likelihood of ever being able to buy a house in the same comfort maybe that we could have?" We see overcrowded schools and limited facilities. This is about jobs. I keep asking: Whatever happened to the jobs? Whatever happened to our manufacturing sector? Whatever happened to our opportunity to create jobs that were long lasting, meaningful and gave people a career path? We used to build things like trains. Now we hear our Premier get up and basically say, "We are not good at building things". What sort of message does that send to people who are desperate and looking for work? What sort of message does that send, particularly, to a young person who is looking for work?

The member mentioned TAFE. I have spoken about TAFE on many occasions in this place. Let us not forget that after 10 years of the Liberal-Nationals Coalition there have been massive cuts to TAFE: Over 6,000 jobs have been cut from TAFE. We have had 100,000 fewer students enrol in TAFE. We have seen 30,000 fewer apprentices in New South Wales alone. Those figures are absolutely diabolical. They are a reflection of this Government's desire to run down a fantastic public TAFE education system. Why do we need a strong system like TAFE? If we want to have jobs for the future we must be able to train people. We must be able to provide people with the opportunities to learn the skills we need. We have an opportunity to rebuild our economy with TAFE as the hero. Please do not be offended when I say that I do not necessarily believe the rhetoric that comes from the other side of the Chamber with the actions we see. We are fighting the sell-off of TAFEs, we are fighting for the assets that have been sold off and we are fighting for the jobs that have been cut. We are fighting for all of those things to give an opportunity to young people and people needing to get into work.

We just saw during a pandemic when people needed to upskill that 100,000 people wanted to enrol in a short course. The Government celebrated that, and I will join it. But that shows us the value of TAFE and the value of training and the work opportunities it provides. It is not only for young people but also for people who are looking to get into new work or work for the first time. When we talk about jobs for the future and opportunities, I talk about the dignity of work. But let me talk about some real, sobering figures when it comes to unemployment and youth unemployment, particularly in western Sydney. We must ask ourselves: What is it that we are doing? Are we offering hollow words or are we making a difference?

Youth unemployment in Greater Sydney, not accounting for underemployment—let me rattle these off because it is important that we say them—is 14.7 per cent in Baulkham Hills and Hawkesbury, 16.3 per cent in Blacktown, 12.8 per cent in the inner west, 13 per cent in the outer west and Blue Mountains, and 17 per cent in Parramatta. In the south-west of Sydney, which is my area, an absolute phenomenal 22.8 per cent of young people are unemployed. So when the Government says that it is the party of the worker, it is not the party of the worker and it is certainly not creating work opportunities for young people in west and south-west Sydney.

Mr KEVIN CONOLLY (Riverstone) (17:13): I make a contribution to this important debate about the Government's commitment to jobs and skills in western Sydney. We on this side of the House do constitute the party of the worker because under this side of the House, when in government, there are more workers. That is the bottom line. We like to see people in work and we provided the economic management that achieved that outcome. We just heard some figures from the member for Lakemba. I do not doubt his sincerity and concern for youth unemployment but the fact is all those figures are lower than the average that existed under the Labor Government for 16 years. Unemployment is at historic low levels compared with the figures that were being related over previous years. It is always a challenge to transition from study into work and there is always a lag in young people achieving the outcomes they want. At the moment in New South Wales we have a remarkably low level of unemployment when we consider that we are in the midst of a pandemic.

We would all like it to be lower still. That is understood. But we are achieving well in New South Wales compared with most other States in Australia, and Australia is achieving well compared with most other countries in the world. We have achieved that because the governments here are focused on the fundamentals. In western Sydney the Government of New South Wales is rolling out infrastructure to ensure that this busy infrastructure pipeline is providing work for people, young and old, across the region. Some of the projects that are happening right now include work on the Western Sydney International Airport, Sydney Metro West, M12 motorway, rapid bus services for the Western Parkland City, Nepean Hospital redevelopment, Liverpool Hospital redevelopment and Campbelltown Hospital redevelopment—just to name a few that are taking off now.

They come off the back of a huge number of projects that have been rolled out in recent years. Let me talk in more detail about the metro projects. There are two major metro projects that will deliver tens of thousands of

jobs across western Sydney. Today the Minister for Transport and Roads announced the Sydney Metro West project has received two major planning approvals paving the way for mega tunnel-boring machines to be in the ground by the end of next year. This is a city-shaping project that will create more than 10,000 direct jobs and around 70,000 indirect jobs. On top of that vital project, the New South Wales Government is also getting on with the Sydney Metro Western Sydney Airport. This 23-kilometre railway includes six stations between St Marys and the Western Sydney Aerotropolis city centre that today has been named Bradfield. The airport line will support 14,000 jobs, including 250 apprentices, and inject millions into the New South Wales and national economies.

The M12 motorway will see major work commencing in 2022. The planning is happening now so that the project will generate jobs for people across the region for some years to come and will culminate in the opening of the airport in 2026. The M12 motorway will support more than 2,000 direct and indirect jobs during its delivery, and provide safer and faster access to employment hubs across the region. In health, we have the Nepean Hospital redevelopment underway, with \$550 million committed to deliver stage one. The 14-storey tower was topped out in October last year and is one of the tallest hospital buildings in Australia. It includes an emergency department, 18 birthing suites, a neonatal intensive care unit, more than 16 operating theatres and 200 additional beds. The Government has allocated \$450 million to deliver stage two of the project.

Liverpool Hospital will receive \$740 million for redevelopment that will include a new comprehensive and integrated cancer centre, an expanded emergency department, and enhanced neonatal intensive care maternity and critical care unit. Campbelltown Hospital will receive \$632 million to focus on paediatrics and mental health. These projects come on the back of work already done at Blacktown-Mount Druitt Hospital, Westmead Hospital and others across the region. It is a huge infrastructure investment from this Government across the western Sydney region that will ensure there are jobs aplenty for people at a time when it is critical and people most need them. The New South Wales Government is delivering vital transport and health projects for western Sydney. These projects are creating jobs for today and preparing Western Sydney for generations to come. It is not just transport and health; there are schools being delivered, including several in my electorate already. There are projects across the region in all services to ensure that western Sydney people have the best opportunities in life with the work that these jobs bring right now.

Mr STEPHEN BALI (Blacktown) (17:18): It seems the Government is confused. It seems to think doing something is all it needs to do. What it must do is work out what an ever-growing western Sydney needs and match that need. The biggest challenge for this Government and any government in the future when creating a third city such as Bradfield—which was announced today—is the creation of underground pipes, sewerage, roads, schools and supporting infrastructure. It requires the investment of mega billions of dollars in order for it to work over the next 20 to 30 years. The problem is that there is not enough investment in the rest of western Sydney. First of all, what did Liverpool City Council do wrong? The Labor mayor backed the Badgerys Creek airport and the Government, and today the council found out that the Greater Sydney Commission and the Government have relegated Liverpool City Council down to fifth or sixth and forgotten it.

We have heard about 200,000 jobs across western Sydney but we have not heard about the goals or timing for those jobs. It is one thing to talk about a thriving, bustling centre offering the best job opportunities, but I note that when the Premier visits western Sydney she makes an announcement, shakes some hands and disappears. When the Leader of the Opposition, Jodi McKay, visits at least she talks to people and various community groups; she walks through factories and talks to workers, spending a bit of time with them. At least Jodi knows what western Sydney and the people are about. The Government is talking about signing 18 memorandums of understanding [MOUs]. Is that not wonderful? It has touted that as a great feat. The Government had signed 10 of the MOUs by 2018. In the past three years it has signed eight MOUs despite an entire economics department tracking people across the world.

Mrs Tanya Davies: Not 18 people.

Mr STEPHEN BALI: They could only get 18 organisations across the entire world interested in a memorandum of understanding to commence discussions. Quickstep Technologies is currently based in Bankstown. A Labor government enticed that company away from Western Australia to move to Bankstown and it is now being enticed to move from Bankstown to Badgerys Creek. Are we saying that Northrop Grumman, based in Richmond, will move to Badgerys Creek? Neither of those companies has committed to maintaining its existing factories. What will happen to the existing jobs and what has the member for Hawkesbury done wrong to lose major infrastructure and employers? It seems that the Liberal Government is treating western Sydney like a chess board: Let us move some jobs around, debit here, credit there, and we can tell everyone that there are 200,000 jobs, but it is really the same jobs that we have relocated. The population of the City of Blacktown will surpass that of Tasmania by 2035. There will be 600,000 people living in the City of Blacktown by 2040.

Mrs Tanya Davies: Do you support the airport?

Mr STEPHEN BALI: Once again, Government members interject to say that because we speak about it we are opposing it. We are critiquing this project. If it is going to be a boon for the area why is Bandon Road not being upgraded? The member for Riverstone spoke about employment, but in the past 12 months unemployment has gone from 3.9 per cent to 8.8 per cent in Riverstone. He rests on his laurels and says there will be jobs coming in the next 20 years. There are roadworks that need to be done. If you want to generate jobs today release Riverstone West industrial park and allow Riverstone CBD to be developed. That will deliver 30,000 to 40,000 jobs. We do not have to wait 20 to 30 years for these jobs to come through.

Mrs TANYA DAVIES (Mulgoa) (17:23): I speak in support of this public interest debate about jobs and employment in western Sydney. The Western Parkland City is a place of tremendous growth and opportunity. It is one of the fastest-growing regions in Australia, with an annual gross domestic product of over A\$56 billion. The population growth rate is over 2 per cent per annum—in some areas, it is as much as 6 per cent—which represents one of the fastest growth rates amongst developed nations. The Blue Mountains to Camden, Campbelltown, Fairfield, Hawkesbury, Liverpool, Penrith and Wollondilly boast incredible cultural diversity, natural assets and a thriving small business sector. It is not hard to see why all three levels of government are investing over \$20 billion in the Western Parkland City.

The Western Sydney City Deal signed in March 2018 is an historic agreement between the three levels of government to jointly invest in city-building initiatives that will improve the prosperity, sustainability and liveability of Western Parkland City. The agreement brings together resources from the State and Commonwealth governments and the eight Western Parkland City councils to deliver projects that underpin great cities—connectivity, jobs, investment, environmental sustainability and liveability. With 38 commitments, it is quite possibly the biggest and most ambitious city-building project our country has seen in well over a generation and it is setting the foundation to deliver 200,000 new jobs across the Western Parkland City. They will include jobs in advanced manufacturing, research and development, aerospace and defence and a whole range of other opportunities as we plan and construct a city centre with businesses, shops, parks, schools and recreational and cultural places.

The core purpose of any thriving city is to deliver enhanced liveability, productivity and sustainability for people and business in a smart way. One of my passions as the member for Mulgoa, which takes in half of this area in western Sydney, is fighting not just for jobs but also for careers in western Sydney. I want young people in school or even in preschool today to be able to finish their schooling and go on to university, college or TAFE and be able to live and work in thriving careers in western Sydney. We want to activate cities that place jobs, education, infrastructure, housing and services within easy reach of our growing populations. The new Western Parkland City will be one of Australia's most connected cities. In an emerging 30-minute city, innovative public transport, aviation and digital infrastructure will bring residents closer to jobs, business centres and education—and the world. The true potential of the Western Parkland City will be realised when we have an inclusive and digitally capable region where people are the focus and everyone has access to technologies that benefit and create opportunities.

We need a productive, resilient and sustainable region that uses technology to help manage our natural resources. We also need a liveable region. To this end, the New South Wales Government is working with the Commonwealth and council partners on a number of key commitments, including a 5G strategy to better connect communities across the parkland city and a Smart Western City Program to enable New South Wales agencies to embed smart and secure technology such as transport and utility monitoring systems into new infrastructure as it is rolled out. We also have a fundamental focus on the circular economy and how technology can support the reduction, re-use and recycling of resources and address some critical issues such as urban heat, which will impact our Western Parkland City residents.

The Western Parkland City has a unique landscape that is surrounded by protected natural assets and supported by a deep and enduring connection to country. My electorate name of Mulgoa is Aboriginal for "black swan". The Western Parkland City Liveability Program is providing \$190 million in new funding for the city to improve and deliver new public spaces and cultural places to create healthy and active communities. This has included the provision of new amenities and upgrades to parks in the Blue Mountains, the development of three sport and recreation facilities in the Camden area, an upgrade of Fairfield Showground, the delivery of the Campbelltown Billabong Parklands and the transformation of the Regatta Park precinct in Penrith.

To date, 10 of the 38 city deal commitments have been completed and closed, with the remainder well underway. Completed commitments include the establishment of the Western Parkland City Authority, the establishment of the Western Sydney Investment Attraction Office, the establishment of the National Disability Insurance Scheme Quality and Safeguards Commission in Penrith and the establishment of the Western Sydney Planning Partnership. They also include the release of the Western Sydney City Deal Implementation Plan and the opening of the Indigenous Business and Employment Hub in Liverpool in July 2019. In addition, the

University of Sydney, the University of New South Wales, the University of Wollongong and Western Sydney University signed a statement of intent in September 2018 to establish a science, technology, engineering and mathematics multiversity in the aerotropolis. There is much happening in western Sydney and it is only the Liberal-Nationals Government that can deliver it.

Mr ANOULACK CHANTHIVONG (Macquarie Fields) (17:28): It is good to see the member for Castle Hill back in the Chamber; we wish him good health now and forever. I welcome this debate. I move:

That the motion be amended by leaving out all words after "That" and inserting instead:

this House:

- (1) Calls on the Government to support jobs and skills in western Sydney and throughout New South Wales by prioritising the use of local businesses in government procurement and ruling out any further privatisation, campus closures and job cuts at TAFE.
- (2) Notes that the Government's new M5 East toll is a tax on jobs, growth and skills development in south-west and western Sydney.

The original motion is somewhat ironic and I would say almost laughable. Over the past 10 years, successive Liberal governments have shown no interest whatsoever in jobs and skills in south-western and western Sydney. In truth, the only jobs they have been concerned about are their own, the only skills they have shown are the dark skills of politicking, and the only parts of Sydney they have been interested in are the ones they have endlessly pork-barrelled. It was based not on economic or social need but on political favouritism, which always means that south-western and western Sydney miss out.

Let me explain. When it comes to skills, this Government excels in many. Pork-barrelling? Tick. Deflecting? Tick. Obfuscating? Tick. Spin? Tick. Shredding documents? Tick. Dodgy deals with developers? Tick. Not building schools in western Sydney? Tick. That is just to name a few. One skill this Government does not have is acting with integrity. But to be fair, integrity has never been a strong point of conservative governments in Australia. The people of south-western and western Sydney have seen that time and time again. My time does not allow me to fully explore this Government's lack of integrity, but I very much look forward to reading the coming reports from the Independent Commission Against Corruption inquiries. Incidentally, that is another agency this Government tried to hamstring through budget cuts.

I am always happy to debate this Liberal Government when it comes to economics and jobs because frankly it can use all the spin it wants, but I have the truth. In terms of jobs, this Government's focus is squarely on protecting its members' own jobs and rewarding fat cat bureaucrats on salaries of \$500,000 plus.

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER: Order! The member for Macquarie Fields will be heard in silence.

Mr ANOULACK CHANTHIVONG: Somehow this Liberal Government rationalised that it was okay to give icare executives, who have been underpaying injured workers, exorbitant pay rises worth tens of thousands of dollars whilst deliberately amending legislation to reduce the pay of nurses, teachers and other frontline public servants to a crummy 0.3 per cent. A moderate 2.5 per cent pay rise as legislated would have injected much-needed funds into the local economy, especially in western Sydney. Some \$3 billion worth of spending would have stimulated the economy, helped us recover, kept people in jobs and helped tide businesses over to withstand the economic shock until we got back to normal. The Government failed to recognise the devastating flow-on effect of such a short-sighted Scrooge mentality. Let us add short-sightedness to this Liberal Government's skill set. It is similar to the disastrous imposition of the new toll on drivers during the middle of a pandemic. I am of course referring to the M5 East, which had been toll free for its entire existence.

We have a new tax on an old road with the same number of lanes. It was built by Labor and fully paid for in 2000 but it is now tolled by this Liberal Government. This Government shows no concern for the financial burden that toll places on the people of western and south-western Sydney who use the road every day to get to work. It is a tax on south-western Sydney workers who every year have to either pay thousands in tolls they cannot afford or get caught up in heavy congestion on suburban streets and lose hundreds of hours of family time or be unable to pick up their next job because they are stuck in traffic. I took the liberty of doing some quick economic analysis of my own from publicly available information about how much the M5 East toll is costing the western Sydney economy. According to my spreadsheet, with about 40,000-odd vehicles using it on a daily basis, this year alone we are talking about a tax of about \$135 million. That is a tax on the people of south-western Sydney, on skills development and jobs growth.

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER: Order! The member for Macquarie Fields will be heard in silence.

Mr ANOULACK CHANTHIVONG: We can add callous disregard to this Government's dark skill set. I could go on; I wish my contribution could go for 10 minutes. We know this Government does not act in the best interests of the people of western and south-western Sydney.

Mr RAY WILLIAMS (Castle Hill) (17:33): In reply: I thank everyone who has contributed to this debate—the member for Mulgoa, the member for Riverstone, the member the Lakemba, the member for Blacktown and the member for Macquarie Fields. Listening to the member for Macquarie Fields almost felt like comedy hour, but I am happy to correct the record now. As I said, the New South Wales Liberal-Nationals Government was elected 10 years ago and took some prudent financial measures. Those prudent financial measures are recognised by and are the envy of not only every State around this country but indeed other countries around the world. The one point that I did not make was that every one of those prudent financial measures—measures that now see us with \$100 billion in an infrastructure pipeline in front of us, the lowest unemployment in the country and record prosperity for many people due to a rise in business confidence and consumer confidence in a year where we have dealt with one of the worst pandemics in a century—was opposed by the Labor Party. They were opposed by the Labor Opposition. There is a degree of audacity and hypocrisy when members who opposed those measures to build the North West Metro, WestConnex, NorthConnex—

Mr Stephen Bali: That is wrong. Lies!

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER: Order! The member for Blacktown will come to order.

Mr RAY WILLIAMS: There was a range of different infrastructure projects that the New South Wales Labor Opposition opposed. It is all right for me because I am on the other side of the fence and people would expect me to say those things. But if you go outside this House and bump into people, they will certainly tell you that they are very glad that in New South Wales they have the leadership of Gladys Berejiklian and the New South Wales Liberal-Nationals Government, and they are very glad that they have the leadership of Scott Morrison and the Liberal-Nationals Government from a national level.

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

Mr RAY WILLIAMS: They dread the day that they would ever be dragged back into the grip of a Labor government that drew this State into such a state of disrepair.

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER: Order! I call the member for Shellharbour to order for the second time.

Mr RAY WILLIAMS: There is one job that we will not allow the Labor Party to take. Very recently at the St Marys club the Labor Party held a function. Do you know who was the most popular person spoken about that evening? It was our Premier, Gladys Berejiklian.

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER: Order! The member for Rockdale will come to order. I call the member for Shellharbour to order for the third time.

Mr RAY WILLIAMS: I was very reliably informed that to raise campaign funding in the future the Labor Party is going to draw on our own Premier, Gladys Berejiklian. That is not going to happen. You cannot have Premier Gladys Berejiklian at Labor Party functions. She is our Premier, she will always be our Premier and she will always do a great job on behalf of New South Wales.

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER: I thank the member for Castle Hill; that was quite entertaining. The original question—

[An Opposition member interjected.]

I place the member for Rockdale on three calls to order.

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER: The original question was that the motion as moved by the member for Castle Hill be agreed to, upon which the member for Macquarie Fields has moved an amendment. The question is that the amendment be agreed to.

The House divided.

Ayes41
Noes44
Majority.....3

AYES

Aitchison, J
Atalla, E
Bali, S
Barr, C
Butler, R
Car, P

Doyle, T
Finn, J
Harris, D
Haylen, J
Hoenig, R
Hornery, S

Minns, C
O'Neill, M
Park, R
Parker, J
Saffin, J
Scully, P

AYES

Catley, Y
 Chanthivong, A
 Cotsis, S
 Crakanthorp, T
 Daley, M
 Dalton, H
 Dib, J
 Donato, P

Kamper, S
 Lalich, N
 Leong, J
 Lynch, P
 McDermott, H
 McGirr, J
 McKay, J
 Mehan, D (teller)

Smith, T
 Tesch, L
 Voltz, L
 Warren, G
 Washington, K
 Watson, A (teller)
 Zangari, G

NOES

Anderson, K
 Ayres, S
 Barilaro, J
 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
 O'Dea, J
 Pavey, M
 Petinos, E
 Preston, R
 Provest, G
 Roberts, A

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

PAIRS

Harrison, J
 Mihailuk, T

Perrottet, D
 Berejiklian, G

Amendment negatived.

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER: The question is that the motion as moved by the member for Castle Hill be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Private Members' Statements

CRONULLA LOCAL WOMAN OF THE YEAR CATHY MASON

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla—Attorney General, and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence) (17:49): NSW Women's Week is a chance to honour the many gifted and strong female leaders in our State. The 2021 Cronulla Local Woman of the Year is strong in every sense of the word. Dubbed the "weightlifting granny" by one media outlet, Kirrawee resident Cathy Mason happens to be a champion weightlifter in her age division. Her efforts to encourage and inspire more mature women to take up health and fitness, and to grow their self-belief, are perhaps best described as herculean. Now a qualified referee, Cathy's passion for the sport has led her to volunteer at many competitions, including the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games. It will come as no surprise to learn that my acquaintance with Cathy Mason did not originate in the competitive weightlifting circuit. With more than 30 years of voluntary service in the community under her belt, Cathy is a well-respected and widely admired figure in the shire. She has spent 24 of those 30 years with Rotary.

When one looks at the numerous projects Cathy has led or supported in her time with the Rotary clubs of Gymea and Caringbah, it is easy to get a sense of how many people's lives she has influenced for the better. During Cathy's tenure as president, the Rotary Club of Gymea was named Best Club in District 9675, which covers greater Sydney to the Illawarra. From 2000 to 2002, she was the director of the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards, an intensive program that allows young people to hone positive leadership skills and connect with community leaders. As the first female director in the history of this program, Cathy set an inspiring example for girls participating in it. For nearly 20 years, Cathy supported Rotary's Bowelscan project. As part of this program,

Rotary volunteers distributed Bowelscan kits throughout Sydney and worked to raise general awareness of bowel cancer. The initiative was so successful that the Commonwealth Government eventually introduced a national program, which led to the phasing out of the Rotary Bowelscan project.

More recently, Cathy has worked to establish initiatives like Caravan of Hope and Adopt-A-Town, which are supporting families and communities impacted by natural disasters, as well as projects to tackle plastic pollution and promote recycling. Cathy's involvement with Rotary has also taken her to other parts of the world. In 2009 she led a team of 16 to Bali, where they helped to rebuild a school and ran training workshops at a business college in Ubud. In 2019 Cathy participated in World Polio Day, administering Sabin poliovirus vaccines to children in villages and schools in Agra, India. During this same trip she visited other Rotary projects throughout India and Nepal. One of the most enjoyable parts of my job as an MP is connecting with and recognising tenacious and selfless volunteers. Volunteering is transformative. Our communities are better places for the contribution of our volunteers.

It was a wonderful privilege to celebrate and pay tribute to Cathy Mason's hard work, leadership and generosity at last week's International Women's Day breakfast. I thank her for her extraordinary passion and commitment to the Rotary movement, our local communities and communities further afield. I know Mr Temporary Speaker, the member for Heathcote, will join me in those congratulations, being a fellow Caringbah Rotarian with Cathy. Both of you have served as president of that illustrious Rotary club. I thank Cathy for her extraordinary contribution to the shire and to the world beyond. Congratulations, Cathy. You certainly set the bar high!

MOUNT DRUITT HOSPITAL VOLUNTEERS

Mr EDMOND ATALLA (Mount Druitt) (17:53): I reiterate my support for the dedicated volunteers at Mount Druitt Hospital. The volunteers at Mount Druitt Hospital have a proud history of service extending as far back as the opening of the hospital in 1982. Their efforts and dedication over the past four decades have contributed a great deal to the Mount Druitt community and improved the experiences of patients, visitors and hospital staff alike. I have spoken in this Chamber previously about the contributions made by the volunteers running the kiosk, gift shop, flower trolley and patient transport services. These dedicated volunteers have taken ownership of the hospital and sacrificed a lot of their time to serve others in the Mount Druitt community.

Today I make particular mention of the volunteers who run the hospital kiosk. The contributions made by these volunteers have gone beyond service delivery to include fundraising efforts, with substantial funds donated to the hospital for the purchase of medical equipment and other improvements. As with many other parts of society, public health measures in response to the COVID-19 pandemic caused the shutdown of the kiosk in March 2020. I am pleased to see that the hospital volunteers are returning to work after a year's absence. The absence of the kiosk volunteers meant the closure of the kiosk, causing a lack of food and other service options available to the hospital staff and visitors at Mount Druitt Hospital. I recently met with a number of hospital volunteers who expressed concerns that hospital management is again talking about privatising the volunteer services to commercial operators.

I have been assured by the general manager of Blacktown and Mount Druitt hospitals that the Mount Druitt volunteers are very much valued and that there are no plans to outsource this service. It is vital that we ensure Mount Druitt Hospital management keep their commitment to the volunteers and do not use COVID as an opportunity to deliver a privatisation agenda and sweep away an important pillar of Mount Druitt Hospital: the volunteers engaged in servicing the Mount Druitt community. I make this private members' statement to acknowledge and thank the volunteers of Mount Druitt Hospital for their dedicated service to the hospital community. Their successes over the past decades must be allowed to continue, as I cannot imagine Mount Druitt Hospital without the volunteers. I speak here today to give voice to their concerns.

REGIONAL EMPLOYMENT AGRICULTURAL PROJECT

Mr ADAM MARSHALL (Northern Tablelands—Minister for Agriculture and Western New South Wales) (17:56): Since 2018 the City of Armidale in the heart of the Northern Tablelands has become home to around 600 Yazidi refugees, who were forced to flee their homeland of Northern Iraq because of the persecution of Islamic State extremists. The Federal Government's Yazidi resettlement program in Armidale is a true success story of humanitarian resettlement, multiculturalism and country communities welcoming those in need with open arms. Not only has the city welcomed and provided a safe haven for these people but also now local landholders in the region are opening their farm gates to support their integration into the community. Last Monday I attended a certificate ceremony to mark the completion of the first pilot training component of the Regional Employment Agricultural Project—or REAP, as it is commonly known.

The brainchild of the Rotary Club of Armidale and Northern Settlement Services, REAP provides access to farmland for people from migrant and refugee backgrounds to apply and adapt rural skills in the Australian agricultural context. Prior to immigrating, many of Armidale's Yazidi refugee community were successful farmers in Northern Iraq. Recognising the wealth of knowledge and experience through generations that these people have brought with them, Rotary Armidale and Northern Settlement Services worked together to secure two 10-hectare parcels of land and allocated them for horticultural production. This land, which has been generously provided by local Rotarians Bruce and Rose McCarthy as well as Andrew Spinks, has acted as the foundation for this successful program.

Utilising registered training organisation RuralBiz, the pilot training program has taught the first seven participants the principles of work health and safety, and the technical skills of fencing—how to build and maintain a fence as well as how to pull one down. Training was delivered through a mix of classroom instruction and onsite learning, with bilingual support. Alongside the successful English language course offered at the TAFE NSW Armidale campus, this shows the hunger that exists within the Yazidi community to learn and become active members of our local community. Establishing this training in a culturally sensitive manner has not been without its challenges, with a translator needed to deliver the education in Kurdish Kurmanji, utilising the local translating services.

I congratulate RuralBiz trainer Anthony Wright on the way he developed this program to ensure it was easily understood and led to its participants passing the course with flying colours. While the training focused on work health and safety and fencing, at its heart it was about teaching participants basic farming terms in the English language. Having this basic knowledge will assist the Yazidi people to use certain farm machinery and make sense of basic practices expected within the Australian horticulture sector. While in the short term Rotary is supporting the seven Yazidi farmers to establish their market garden operations, in the long term they are expected to become autonomous producers, growing whatever they like. Beyond this market garden concept is the opportunity for the participants to pursue work at other established local horticulture operations, like Costa's tomato farm in Guyra.

I was pleased to hear that an Armidale-based strawberry grower was already providing work to Yazidi people in the community. REAP has the ability to change lives, build confidence and assist with the Yazidis' integration into the Armidale community and Australian society. The New South Wales Government's Smart and Skilled program has also assisted with the cost of providing this training. There are so many people who must be recognised for their leadership of this program. From the Rotary Club of Armidale there is president Hugh Beattie, along with Paul Barratt, AO, Grant Harris, David Hallam, Richard Makim, David Clifton for his pro bono legal assistance and, of course, the inimitable Peter Lloyd. From Northern Settlement Services there is CEO Sharon Daishe and Debbie Carstens, Jessika Schmidt and Lance McNamara.

I particularly like this program's unabashed ambition. There are already discussions about what other training areas could be delivered to support the Yazidis' employment prospects—for example, basic first aid. I think REAP has great potential for growth and I look forward to seeing and working with both Rotary Armidale and Northern Settlement Services on developing their amenities on those plots to ensure the highest number of migrants have the chance to plant their own crops, earn a dollar and establish themselves in the Armidale community. REAP has truly allowed the Yazidi refugees to realise their dream of growing a new life in the Northern Tablelands. I cannot wait to see the final fruits of this enterprise when these budding farmers harvest their first crops of garlic, onions, tomatoes and even the famous potatoes.

Mr KEVIN ANDERSON (Tamworth—Minister for Better Regulation and Innovation) (18:01): I support the member for Northern Tablelands and congratulate him on bringing this very important information about multiculturalism to the attention of our colleagues in the New South Wales Parliament. Just down the road in multicultural Tamworth, we identified people from 80 countries in our community doing work very similar to what the member for Northern Tablelands described. I pay particular tribute to Eddie Whitham, who is Multicultural Tamworth's champion of champions in relation to effectively looking at what can be done for Tamworth's cultural make-up. He is on a mission to raise awareness about just how many different nationalities are in our great cities in regional New South Wales. I thank the member for Northern Tablelands for bringing this matter to the attention of the House.

WOMEN'S SAFETY

Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore) (18:02): The number one issue raised with me in recent weeks in my community is the safety of women from all walks of life in schools, homes, workplaces and even walking home at night and during the day. These are current and former school students in my community. I acknowledge the efforts that they are making to bring forward their stories and share them with us. I also acknowledge that this is an issue across our entire community, but I will obviously be speaking as the member for North Shore and look

at their reflections today and what we can do to address these challenges. I acknowledge the work that the schools in my community are undertaking to ensure that we make our world safer in the future, particularly for women.

We have just concluded NSW Women's Week, a week in which we talk a lot about sharing information and celebrating women's achievements. It coincides with International Women's Day, whose theme this year was Choose to Challenge. We talk about being able to choose to challenge and call out gender bias and inequality, and that we can all choose to seek out and celebrate women's achievements and collectively help create an inclusive society. This intense focus we have had over the past few weeks and months on the safety and autonomy of women in our community shows that this challenge we are choosing for this NSW Women's Week and International Women's Day has to be about addressing the reasons that women still feel unsafe and are unsafe across our community. We are hearing the brave voices of many women and girls who are disclosing experiences of sexual assault.

There are too many stories and too many girls and women being assaulted at schools, in workplaces and in their homes. Their safety is put at risk as they travel home from work or from being out. These voices are not only of those women; they are voices of men and boys recognising the enabling culture surrounding sexual assault. Along with some of my parliamentary colleagues across parties, I have been supporting Chanel Contos' initiative to teach consent earlier and more holistically in our schools. People in this place would know that Chanel Contos started an initiative on Instagram—a platform with which not many members of Parliament, including me, are particularly au fait—where she asked whether people had experienced sexual assault during or after their schooling. She was flooded with responses, over 5,000 to date. They are being put on her website over time. She has a petition calling for sex education to cover issues including toxic masculinity, rape culture, slut-shaming, victim blaming, sexual coercion, enthusiastic consent and queer sex. There is an ePetition before the Parliament calling for an urgent reform to require sexual consent to be enthusiastic consent. We know that consent starts with respect for other human beings and the autonomy of their bodies.

I acknowledge the member for Newtown, Jenny Leong, who is sponsoring the petition started by Chanel, a former Kambala student. Her initiative has now gone across the entire community. I believe we, as members of Parliament, owe it to the young people who have made brave efforts to disclose these instances of abuse and assault, to listen to their voices and deliver on the societal and structural changes that we and the young people need and deserve. I to put on the parliamentary record the testimonies of two people who attended schools in my community. This is from a person who graduated at Redlands in 2007:

The more testimonies I've read, the more memories have been coming back from high school and house parties and the awful situations I found myself in. A boy in my year (year 10) made me travel across Sydney one night to hang out and because I went, was I at fault? He had sex with me where I just lay there and wanted it to be over and after I ran to the bus stop not sure what had just happened to me.

...

Times where I've been poured way too many drinks by boys in the year above and being made to do things I didn't want to do. Shore boys on the train surrounding me and putting their hands up my school uniform and me laughing nervously and then ducking out at my stop with my heart pounding.

...

The more I think about it, these repressed memories come back, I'm so thankful we can finally speak about it.

This is from a student from Monte:

I was assaulted by a guy from a co-ed school. I didn't think it was assault because I didn't say no. I wasn't actively pushing him away. But I was scared to do so. He had been kicked out of his house and had asked for a place to stay so of course I said yes. I had been on a date that day with a guy I was into. We decided to watch a movie and as soon as it started he shoved his hand down my pants and did not stop. I was too scared to say anything because he was under the influence of three different types of drugs. I couldn't sleep in my bed for a week after that.

These are the stories we need to hear. We need to act. Please support our petition calling for our young students to be taught consent.

LAND TAX

Mr ANOULACK CHANTHIVONG (Macquarie Fields) (18:07): Today I speak on part three of my analysis of the Liberal Treasurer's snake-oil, never-ending annual land tax on the family home. The first part showed how replacing a one-off tax with a never-ending one resulted in higher property prices, further pricing out would-be homebuyers. The second part showed how the Treasurer's snake-oil, never-ending annual tax on the family home can result in weekly rental increases of up to 26 per cent, further denting savings and making it even harder for would-be home owners to enter the property market. Now let us look at how this snake-oil tax on the family home impacts older Australians.

Older Australians have worked hard for all of their lives to own their own homes, raise their families, build strong roots in their communities and help their kids and grandkids financially where possible. The proposal for a never-ending annual tax on the family home states that there is an option to defer the payment of their annual land tax temporarily, until their financial circumstances change or there is a change in property ownership. It may sound like a good deal, but the Treasurer is using political spin on older Australians, indicating that if they move or downsize and opt for his snake-oil never-ending annual land tax on their new family home and do not have the cash flow to pay for it, he then would say, "Don't worry about it. You don't have to pay it. Dom will take care of it. He can defer it for you. No problem at all. Easy does it. How good is this?"

Retired Australians are old and wise enough to know that when something sounds too good to be true, it usually is. The proposal really says that under the Liberal Party's never-ending annual tax on your family home, your deferred annual tax bill just does not go away but that the Treasurer will take it from your estate when you pass away or when your property has been transacted upon. So when you are alive, the Liberal Treasurer is silently taking his yearly cut from your most precious asset, a retiree's tax on your family home after having encouraged you to downsize, and when you have passed away, he will tally it up and take a chunk from your estate. It is a death tax in disguise. It is an attack on people's retirement and inheritance. We are not talking about billionaires here; these are just honest, hardworking Australians in the suburbs, who have done the right thing, played by the rules, saved hard and hope to leave something in their wills for their kids and grandkids.

The snake-oil, never-ending tax on the family home encourages older Australian to downsize on the basis of some magical financial savings, which actually never eventuate. The increase in property prices will more than take away any stamp duty relief and all that retired Australians will be left are with only ever-increasing tax bills arriving in their letterboxes every year for the rest of their lives. A large proportion of middle-class and hardworking retirees will be living on a very tight cash flow. On top of increasing utilities bills, cost-of-living expenditures and those dreadful tolls, the Liberal Treasurer wants to make life even harder for older Australians with an annual tax bill on their most precious asset: their family home.

As an example, a retiree who downsizes to a new two-bedroom home in the suburb of Leppington in south-western Sydney, where I live, will pay on average \$600,000 to \$650,000 with an estimated land value of about 60 per cent, which equates to about \$400,000. Under the proposed land tax, a retiree will pay the \$500 plus 0.3 per cent of the value of the unimproved land value, equating to a tax bill of about \$1,700 per year. Most Australians would like to retire at 65 and will live well into their eighties, given our affluent society and strong healthcare system. That equates to an annual tax bill over at least 20 years of about \$34,000.

However, this retiree's tax bill of \$34,000 does not take into account any increase in land and property values. As we have seen, the property market has been running hot and is expected to continue to run hot for many years. CoreLogic's property data shows that the average annual increase in prices over the past 25 years is 7.6 per cent for houses and 6.3 per cent for units. I have made a little spreadsheet of my own to show what it would mean for retired Australians. An increase of 6.8 per cent and living for another 25 years after retirement, because we are a healthy and affluent society, equate to a tax of \$86,255 for a retiree. Some estimates from SQM Research, the NAB and all the other big banks are saying this year that it would be 10 per cent and more. If the annual increase were 10 per cent, you are talking about \$100,277—a tax older Australians cannot afford.

WILLOW TREE COUNTRY WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION BRANCH

Mr MICHAEL JOHNSEN (Upper Hunter) (18:12): I come from a happy place and I trust that the previous member's contribution was his submission to the discussion paper, which is only a discussion paper at this point in time. I inform the House that after 95 years the Willow Tree branch of the Country Women's Association [CWA] has ceased operations, as it closed on 5 January 2021. I congratulate it with a touch of sadness. With dwindling numbers due to illness and members moving from the community, it was decided to close the branch. Fortunately, existing members transferred to neighbouring branches. The inaugural meeting of the branch was held in the home of Mrs A. Upton on 23 October 1927. The first president was Mrs W. H. Symonds, with Miss Minnie Upton as secretary and Miss Hull as treasurer. Other founding members were Mrs Dette Barwick, Mrs Dorrit Daly and Ms Nell Mallon. Later a rest room in conjunction with a library was opened in an unused garage in the main street as the State president, Mrs A. J. Studdy, visited on 3 January 1927 and declared the branch open.

The original objective was to establish a baby health centre but that proved impossible in the original building so the members decided to erect their own building. A block of land with a partly built house was purchased in 1959. There followed years of slow building as funds became available from the hard work of the members. It might be noted that no donations were sought nor received. Finally the rooms were completed—free of debt—and officially opened by the Namoi Group president, Mrs C. V. Hann, on 2 December 1957. The rooms were available for meetings, classes, private functions and various other worthy causes. The building was later

sold and members then met at the local hall. Originally funds were sent to the CWA head office but they were retrieved to enable distribution to local schools.

Over the years the members were very busy working on all projects concerning the welfare of women and children. They supported seaside homes, Quirindi Baby Health Centre, Royal Far West Children's Health Scheme, and Murrurundi and Quirindi hospitals and ambulance. Proceeds from blue-and-gold balls, street stalls and catering provided branch income. In the more recent years the branch supported Willow Tree and Wallabadah schools with scholarships for year 6 students entering Quirindi High School. The branch also supported local farmers through drought by way of food and fuel vouchers. It might be noted that with the recent closure of the branch the residue funds have been shared between Willow Tree and Wallabadah schools to continue scholarships for schoolchildren for the next eight years.

The Willow Tree Bowling Club, which lost everything in a fire two years ago, was given funds to replace its perpetual trophies. The Willow Tree Lions Club was also supported. Over the years the branch has had many members who worked tirelessly for the Willow Tree branch and for the community. The late Julia Benham was treasurer of the Willow Tree CWA for well over 40 years. Members of the branch have also had great success within the Namoi Group in State cookery and handicraft sections. Mrs Margaret Harris is an accredited cookery judge and has been on the group committee for a number of years, representing the branch and group at many State conferences. When the branch closed earlier this year, the office-bearers were Mrs Margaret Harris, secretary Beryl Mannion and treasurer Juanita West. Other members included Colleen Meehan and Bronwyn Clark. Finally, I take this opportunity to thank the members, past and recent, of the Willow Tree CWA, who have definitely made a significant impact on the framework of the community of Willow Tree and surrounding districts.

BAULKHAM HILLS ELECTORATE INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

Mr DAVID ELLIOTT (Baulkham Hills—Minister for Police and Emergency Services) (18:17): After the difficulty and uncertainty of the past year, the anticipation of Easter celebrations is at its peak. Undoubtedly the COVID-19 pandemic has increased the value of community, empathy and personal responsibility and made the celebration of family, unity and generosity more important than ever. The latter are deeply entrenched in the spiritual traditions many of us will embrace this Easter and so is the celebration of our Lord Jesus Christ's resurrection, which signals the opportunity for new beginnings and new hope for a healthy and prosperous year ahead of us.

Our community has endured one of the most difficult social and economic challenges in living memory. The impact of COVID has been softened only by the collective efforts of every person across the State who rose to the challenge of 2020 and ensured we could start on the road to recovery. Last month's confirmation from the Treasurer, Dominic Perrottet, that more than 80 per cent of jobs lost at the peak of the health crisis have returned is a testament to our collective response. As the vaccine continues to be rolled out across the State, businesses and the community will be able to have greater confidence in the future and the eventual arrival of a new normal. As we continue to go from strength to strength on the road to recovery, there seems to be no better time than now to inform members of the House of some of the exciting work taking place across the Baulkham Hills electorate.

First of all is the sod-turning of the \$224 million upgrade of Memorial Avenue, which took place earlier this month. I know that the Government representative in the chair is very grateful for the ongoing lobbying and actions of the Minister for Transport and Roads. Memorial Avenue is being widened to a four-lane divided road with shared pedestrian and cyclist paths to help people connect to Sydney Metro at Kellyville and Bella Vista stations—and of course to link the member for Riverstone and me ever closer. The upgrade will include additional dedicated left- and right-turn lanes at the Windsor Road and Memorial Avenue intersection. Bus users are also expected to benefit from new bus priority traffic lights.

This project will ease congestion and improve safety and travel times for the 30,000 motorists who use the road every day. Upon completion of the project, Memorial Avenue will have a consistent speed limit of 80 kilometres per hour—I do not think I have ever driven more than 50 kilometres per hour. I am also very pleased to advise the House that two schools in my electorate will receive new facilities thanks to the Government's \$120 million Metro Renewal Program. Baulkham Hills High School, which regularly ranks in the top three schools in the HSC—despite the local member's intellectual capabilities—will receive a \$600,000 science lab upgrade.

Jasper Road Public School will receive a \$350,000 toilet upgrade. The Metro Renewal Program is part of the Government's economic stimulus response to the pandemic and will deliver education benefits, community benefits and economic benefits as communities continue to recover. The projects are identified by school communities and co-funded by the school and the State Government. Wherever possible schools will use local contractors and suppliers, ensuring the positive impacts of this stimulus are felt as far and wide as possible. Delivery of these projects will be undertaken within the next 18 months. I am also delighted to advise that one of

Baulkham Hills' most picturesque reserves, the Bidjigal Reserve, will receive funding of \$500,000 through the Greater Sydney Crown Land Open Space Activation Program for improvements including bushland restoration and upgrades to walking trails, signage and stormwater infrastructure.

Mr Acting Speaker, next time you are in the north-west you might want to join us as the member for Riverstone and I go for a walk through Bidjigal Reserve with one of our local Elders, who will dazzle your mind with the Indigenous history in that wonderful bushland. The popular reserve contains an extensive network of walking tracks and can be accessed from various points including Baulkham Hills, Castle Hill, West Pennant Hills and North Rocks. Bidjigal Reserve is part of a 300-hectare corridor of bushland along Darling Mills Creek and is home to about 370 native plant species, 140 native animal species, a diverse bird population and very enthusiastic local residents. I am sure these works will be warmly welcomed by the good constituents right across the Baulkham Hills electorate.

Mr KEVIN CONOLLY (Riverstone) (18:21): Just briefly, I think it is important to put on the record that the Memorial Avenue upgrade project that the member is so excited about and has been awaiting for some time will have a huge benefit for people right across the north-west because it will address the intersection of Old Windsor Road, Sunnyholt Road and Memorial Avenue, which is one of the key choke points along that corridor. It is warmly welcomed by the community that this upgrade will go ahead.

NEWCASTLE EDUCATION PRECINCT

Mr TIM CRAKANTHORP (Newcastle) (18:22): Election promises can be curious things. When used properly and virtuously they see sought-after infrastructure delivered, funding increases to vital services and improvements to community amenity. When used ad hoc, they reek of desperation and become broken promises—which brings me to the Newcastle Education Precinct. It was announced in mid-2018, nine months out from an election. A contingent of Ministers and a Premier pulled out the cameras and microphones to announce a world-class education precinct. What they should have taken were a few props—namely smoke and mirrors, because that is what members of this Government now need for the embarrassment that announcement has turned out to be for them. But let us first acknowledge the excruciating pains that I, my colleagues from the other place and the local media have gone to just to get a drop of transparency about the plans and the progress of this precinct.

We were promised a new primary school and an upgraded high school. There was also the potential for mixed use and community accessible facilities. That sounds great. Our overcrowded primary schools are managed with creative enrolment zones, parts of the high school infrastructure are long beyond their use-by date at Newcastle High School, and any opportunity to open facilities for community use should be embraced. That is where the great ideas started. It was also where they ended, because about 18 months ago the channels of communication were simply cut off. "Hey, where are the plans up to?"—fobbed off. "When will the business case be submitted?" "This year," then, "Next year," then, "Quarter three," then, "Quarter four."

"What are the elements you are looking at putting in there?" "The elements of an education precinct." Wow—how informative and truly inspiring. So *The Newcastle Herald* had a crack. It got nothing. It then submitted a Government Information (Public Access) Act [GIPAA] request, to which the Government said, "Yeah, nah." An independent review of that GIPAA decision said that the Government should reconsider, but the Government dug in its heels. So to the other place we went with an order under Standing Order 52. "Oh," the Government suddenly said, "We're happy to give you information. We won't block this." And it did not. Instead it slapped claims of privilege on most of the papers that were ordered. One would have thought they would have worked out by now that we were not going away. We got the Independent Arbiter involved and the arbiter agreed with us that the claim of privilege was an absolute crock. In fact, the words that the arbiter used in response to the reasons for the claims of privilege were that they were "speculative and exaggerated".

Just shy of 12 months to the day that *The Newcastle Herald* journalist Helen Gregory submitted her GIPAA request we finally received the documents that shed light on what was happening with the Newcastle Education Precinct. Suddenly the secrecy made sense because what those documents revealed would be pretty embarrassing to a government that made an election promise without actually running its numbers first. We also got a more complete picture of the aging infrastructure at Newcastle High School. Spoiler alert: It is pretty bad. We got the department's ideas on how to manage school population growth. Spoiler again: more creative enrolment zones. But, most embarrassingly, we got the briefing note to the Minister that spelt out the backflip and the broken promise that may be coming. Labelled with a critical date of 13 November 2020, it said:

... the government committed to undertake planning for a new Educational Precinct [that] commitment included a provision for a new Primary School and an upgrade to the existing High School... however there is limited justification, based on demand, for a new primary school. Given the announcement by the Government was for the establishment of a new Educational Precinct, a number of options have been identified to address this requirement.

Ultimately the paper went on to recommend an upgrade to Newcastle High School and the integration of an onsite school for specific purposes—classic. Now we are getting creative with our interpretation of "precinct" because, as we have come to expect from the Government, it is "promise the world and then look at those pesky little details later". No matter how craftily it chooses to fulfil the brief of creating a precinct, if there is no primary school then that is a broken promise, plain and simple. Novocastrians do not tolerate those games. You can try to fob us off, but here is a promise that will be kept: We will not go away.

WINGECARRIBEE SHIRE COUNCILLORS

Mr NATHANIEL SMITH (Wollondilly) (18:27): I welcome the decision taken last Friday afternoon by Minister Hancock to suspend the councillors of Wingecarribee Shire Council, which is in the electorate of Wollondilly, for a period of three months. Viv May, who successfully steered Armidale Regional Council during its six-month suspension, will act as interim administrator. He is eminently qualified to resolve the systemic problems at the council. After speaking briefly with Viv yesterday, I have every confidence in him and I wish him well. The decision to suspend the councillors has been a long time coming. On 1 March the member for Goulburn, who is present in the Chamber, and I signed a joint letter seeking the Minister's intervention to suspend the councillors. We did this with a heavy heart and we were mindful that the action we were seeking was the removal from office of an elected body, albeit temporarily. We sought that action only after all other options had been exhausted.

On 8 September 2020, at the request of the member for Goulburn and me, the Minister issued a performance improvement order [PIO] to the council to "strengthen relationships between elected representatives and prevent dysfunction". We supported the PIO as we believed it was desirable for the council to resolve its internal difficulties and return to focusing on delivering positive outcomes for the community. Therefore, our 1 March request was made only after we had formed a view that the PIO had not achieved its desired outcome. It was also clear to us that the council was incapable of resolving its own dysfunction and would continue in a way that was inconsistent both with its responsibilities under the Act and with community expectations. Council meetings, which were mainly held online, continued to fail to meet the Model Code of Meeting Practice for Local Councils in NSW. Councillors were regularly muted or even banished to virtual waiting rooms. That behaviour contributed to poor decision-making and poor outcomes for the Wingecarribee community.

Former mayor Duncan Gair conceded that the council was deadlocked on many of the community interest issues that were up for discussion. He said, "We seem to be delaying and delaying major decisions and looking for the easy way out." Recently I said that the toxic and dysfunctional culture at the council was a barnacle on the ship of progress. We need new ideas to turbocharge infrastructure and advance manufacturing and other industries. The council was simply inept at pursuing a coherent strategic direction to drive future job opportunities for the community. There is a growing \$85 million deficit at our sewerage treatment plants in Wingecarribee. Some 2,000 years ago the first thing the Holy Roman Empire did when it went into a country was to get roads, water and sewerage sorted out. It is 2021 and Wingecarribee cannot even do that. It is like being up a certain creek without a paddle.

The council's inability to handle the Station Street project was the last straw for many. Initially estimated at \$9.15 million, it has since been reported that the project has blown out to more than \$32 million. And let us not forget the council was so tone deaf that it sought to impose DA fees on ratepayers who wanted to rebuild the homes that they lost during the bushfires in Christmas 2019. Who would be surprised by that behaviour after the council could not even be bothered to make a submission to the bushfire inquiry? Though many described it as bizarre, unfortunately I was unsurprised by Duncan Gair's latest bid to secure the support of his fellow councillors to resist the imposition of the suspension order by reminding them of the perks of office that would be lost: their laptops, their phones, their printers and their position in the community.

That underpins how out of touch those grumpy old men are and how little respect they have for the people they were elected to represent. Prior to the Minister's decision last Friday, Duncan Gair stated that the potential suspension had gone too far. He said that the notice was an overzealous move that should have been restricted to the instigators of trouble. Mr Gair and the other suspended councillors who share that view can rest assured that the decision to suspend has been restricted to the instigators of that trouble—each and every one of them. As a Wingecarribee ratepayer, I am grateful that the Minister has taken the decision to sack the council.

MARCH 4 JUSTICE

Ms JANELLE SAFFIN (Lismore) (18:32): Yesterday tens of thousands of women marched across Australia. There was a reported crowd of 700 in my home town of Lismore. I could not physically join the crowd but I was with them in spirit and I provided a statement that was read out by Susan Conroy, who attended the Lismore March 4 Justice rally. It is important that I record in our Parliament what I wrote for the assembled women and the men who marched with them. I said:

Today we March 4 Justice, justice for women which makes for a just society.

Today I thank Grace Tame and Brittany Higgins.

They have both spoken out with a roar that has brought us out of our stupor, forcing us to challenge behaviour that does not treat women as equal.

Equality would deliver justice.

Equality would stamp out predatory behaviour, and that would stamp out rape.

However, at the current rate of change it will take 100 years.

We cannot wait 100 years.

We should not have to endure one more sexual assault, one more sexual harassment, one more sexual act of discrimination.

I am travelling to Parliament and will miss our local March in Lismore and the Sydney March as well, but I commit to take up the March 4 Justice call to action.

I commit to march with you in the halls of Parliament, taking the voices of all into the caucus rooms, onto the floor of the Parliament in debate, and to make the legislative and policy changes that will bring justice for women.

The Prime Minister Scott Morrison seems tone deaf to the current conversation, claiming that he is protecting the 'rule of law'.

The rule of law was not violated when the sexual harassment allegations against Justice Dyson Heydon were subjected to a High Court-instigated inquiry.

And the rule of law would not be violated if the Prime Minister instigated an inquiry into allegations against Attorney-General Christian Porter. I know what the rule of law is.

I wrote 18 teaching modules on the rule of law.

I taught the rule of law.

The rule of law requires due process and, importantly, also accountability—accountability that is not being afforded here.

I entered public life to make the world a better place for all, beginning in my own backyard; to change behaviour through the political system through policy and law.

I recommit to work with you and for you to realise justice for women, starting with the 10 demands.

Those demands can be viewed at www.march4justice.com.au. For the benefit of the House I will read some of those now. The first demand is for a full independent inquiry into any allegations of sexual assault by a member of Parliament and full public transparency of the findings. The second, referring to the Federal Parliament, is for referrals of all allegations of sexual assault to the appropriate authorities. The third demand is that policymakers and lawmakers who are perpetrators of abuse and violence are stood down from their positions. The fourth demand is for full implementation of the 55 recommendations in the Australian Human Rights Commission report entitled *Respect@Work: National Inquiry into Sexual Harassment in Australian Workplaces*. The fifth demand is ratification of the International Labor Organisation's convention on Eliminating Violence and Harassment in the World of Work.

The sixth demand is for a comprehensive independent review into the laws that govern political staffers. The seventh demand turns to the Sex Discrimination Act 1984 and is that parliamentarians and judges be no longer excluded from accountability for sexual harassment and discrimination committed in the course of their employment as public officers. The eighth demand is to create a code of conduct for all members of Federal Parliament in both the House of Representatives and the Senate. The ninth demand is for the implementation of annual mandatory training on gender-based violence and sexual harassment for all members of Federal Parliament and their staff. Finally, the tenth demand is to create a safe and equal Australia, starting within our Houses of Parliament. There are three further things that are articulated, which include ensuring that all Australian parliaments have gender equity by 2030. Some of these demands apply to members of this House, to our House and to our Parliament. All of us are active in politics and political parties, and all of us can do our best to take up these recommendations and bring them to life because we cannot wait 100 years to stamp out sexual violence and rape.

SPORTING CLUBS FEMALE AMENITIES

Mr LEE EVANS (Heathcote) (18:37): I broach a subject close to all members of the New South Wales Parliament, being our local sporting clubs and the female change rooms at our local sporting facilities. Sporting clubs are experiencing growing numbers of young girls and women participating in sporting activities across all sports. In my electorate of Heathcote the local sporting clubs are struggling to accommodate suitable changing room facilities for their female club members due to the constraints of the existing buildings controlled by council. These are buildings built mostly by club members who fundraise and volunteer their time to have facilities for their sport.

Many of these buildings require major upgrades and repairs, and councils are now asking clubs to take all the risk and sign a lease for their clubhouses, taking on all the responsibility for maintenance and building female change rooms. It has always intrigued me that the council owns the local sporting facility, but the clubs' volunteers need to submit a development application [DA] and architecture plans, at great cost to them, to upgrade council assets when the club has no ownership. It is owned and controlled by council. It is tantamount to you putting an extension on your neighbour's house and paying all the costs.

That brings me to change facilities for females for all clubs across New South Wales. We as State members welcomed the Active Kids \$100 voucher. Well, guess what? It has worked. Recently I attended the start of the football season at the association headquarters at Kareela in the Sutherland Shire. With a 30 per cent increase in female participation we will all be looking for more and more facilities for women's sport. Councils need to put the shoulder to the grindstone and start doing some of the heavy lifting rather than letting volunteers raise the money via sausage sizzles and trivia nights. Those funds should be used for social activities, not DAs for building council facilities that the clubs will not own.

Today I put a stake in the ground. We are all facing a crisis in the near future due to the increasing trend of female participation in sport. Councils need to focus on delivering female changing room facilities in their local council areas. We can no longer expect the hardworking volunteers to raise funds for building council assets. It is time for councils to respect and support the role that female sport plays in our communities and build female changing room facilities. It is not too much to ask. However, this needs a solution that is quick, easy and cost effective, such as bathroom pods that can be purchased and simply attached to the existing facility. Bathrooms are available that can be self-powered by solar panels with water storage built within the walls of the structure to harvest rainwater. This may be the answer, but councils need to be looking for out-of-the-box solutions. Councillors stretch their budgets, but always have funds for sister-city visits and fact-finding missions. It is time they focused on their sisters who play sport in their council areas. Stand up for your daughters, wives, sisters, aunties, neighbours and friends. Women deserve the same change room facilities as men. Get on with it!

RENT INCREASES

Ms LIESL TESCH (Gosford) (18:41): I ask members how they would feel if they received a letter in the post tonight to say that their rent was increasing by \$200 next month. That is exactly what is happening to people in my community—to our nurses, cleaners, painters, surf club members, netball coaches, hospitality employees and people living on JobKeeper. If they have not yet received that letter, they live in fear of it coming. For a family that has a son with a disability the rent is increasing from \$340 to \$400, and if it goes up any more they will not be able to afford to eat. The Central Coast Tenancy Union tells me it has just been told that rental property prices are increasing by \$200 a week.

Tackling homelessness is not just a worthy cause; it is sound economic policy that benefits the entire society, especially as homelessness and access to housing are now at absolute crisis levels in many parts of regional New South Wales. Both the CFMEU and the Master Builders Association agree government investment in social housing is necessary and is the right government policy to help the economy weather the COVID-19 downturn. However, there has been a crevasse in both Federal and State Liberal Government investment in social and affordable housing for far too long. Tonight I challenge both the Berejiklian Government and the Liberal Federal Government to urgently pull their fingers out. We need long-term investment that will save jobs in higher density residential and commercial areas as the sector is facing collapse.

In my community I hear the exasperated cries of absolutely frustrated, committed, diligent and professional people working in the housing sector who are grasping at affordable housing, seeking public housing, seeking a tent, a couch, a car—it is diabolical. Our people do not have a safe place to live. I commend the people working in the sector who choose to continue in this incredibly important role, even though they are asking people to fill in form after form knowing full well that there is no housing stock available. It is a disaster. On the coast we now have queues of 30, 40 or sometimes 60 people awaiting one rental home, and those who can afford it are desperate to push the rent up to secure a place to live. Three weeks ago the member for Cessnock was hosting barbecues with coasties who have been pushed out of my community as they can no longer afford to live on the Central Coast. This week the member for Cessnock—and I wish him a happy birthday—tells me that his rental market is now also full.

Large-scale public investment to build homes people can afford is an ideal way forward. The Federal Liberal Government's stimulus package may assist tradies to build rich people's extensions, but I am sure as hell that is not where I want my taxpayer money to go. The Housing First model would work if there were houses available. The Rent Choice model would work if there were houses available—but in my community there are none. Our local homelessness services are closing their doors. Sadly, people who cannot afford to live in our community are also unable to afford a rental property and are knocking on the door of my electorate office with

their families in tears. As I said, the workforce is exhausted by filling in forms and clients know that there are no solutions in the near future in my community. All this is occurring before 31 March.

I note the presence in the Chamber of the Minister for Water, Property and Housing and I state quite clearly that we are facing a looming humanitarian crisis. There are people coming to services in my community who have never approached community services before. As rents increase, they have no money to spend on food and electricity. Our Central Coast community has identified 11,000 people who need help with affordable housing. We need urgent creative solutions. Tonight I thank the local volunteers from the Elderslee Foundation, who banded together to host the Creating Collaborative Housing Solutions—a social issues forum focusing on Central Coast older women in an effort to find housing solutions. I also commend those at our fabulous Peninsula Village aged-care facility, who are examining the possibility of refitting 12 rooms to provide some sort of crisis support accommodation in their facility.

I implore our Central Coast Council as they fast sell our community's assets to think of community housing in the future. I also implore the Government to recognise and act on this humanitarian disaster by providing cash injections into our great community housing providers, including our Central Coast champions Pacific Link. We need more financial opportunities to support community housing providers who already have land across our communities. They need support so that they can get on with their great job of building social and affordable housing. The \$27 million dollars for social and affordable housing across New South Wales in 2023 will not meet the escalating need of today.

Mrs MELINDA PAVEY (Oxley—Minister for Water, Property and Housing) (18:45): I take this opportunity to respond to the statement made by the member for Gosford and acknowledge the work that is being done by our community housing providers. I also acknowledge the capacity and support the Government is providing to community housing providers and the support provided by the National Housing Finance and Investment Corporation. I am always happy to talk to community housing providers such as Pacific Link Housing. Let us look at land and opportunities to partner up so that we can do more.

It is funny that today in this Chamber everybody was screeching about property developers, but property developers provide homes. A lot of the homes they produce can be affordable. Much can be done if we are careful about the way we have the conversation. We should be respectful and we should acknowledge that everyone has a part to play in finding solutions. I acknowledge the passion with which the member for Gosford delivered her statement and accept that there are some very unusual strains and pressures on us throughout the State driven by COVID. We will work through them.

NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE AWARDS

Mrs MELINDA PAVEY (Oxley—Minister for Water, Property and Housing) (18:46): As the member for Oxley, I am delighted to make this private member's statement. Recently I had the absolute privilege to acknowledge 45 local recipients of NSW Rural Fire Service awards two Sundays ago in Macksville. National medals were presented to four members in recognition of their years of diligent service that go above and beyond what is expected of active members within their brigades. In fact, I think the Lower North Coast Rural Fire Service district probably has the highest level of Australian Fire Service Medal [AFSM] recipients of any district in New South Wales. I acknowledge that Neil Gerard, Robert Barber, Allan Wardron and Brian Beilby have been previous AFSM medal recipients. Joining their ranks is the wonderful Alice Strutt, who has served for 40 years in the Temagog brigade as deputy captain and who now works in the media and communications section of the Rural Fire Service. Alice is an incredible woman of the Macleay. I am very proud to know her and very proud that she was acknowledged in the Australia Day AFSM awards.

There were many recipients of the awards for 10 years of long service: Scott Balfour, Cameron Dann, Beverly Dunn, Karen Blanch, Helmet Meire, Shane Hamer, Anthony O'Leary, Mark Stevens, Alan Sayer, Jenny Smolander, Stephen Perry, Joshua Kempton, Stephen Dunstan and Narelle Jones. For 20 years of service Long Service Medals were received by Nace Parkin, Gavin Larkins, Rhonda Browning, David Young, Joanne Watts, David Bradford and Mark Riedel. For 40 years of service Long Service Medals were awarded to Peter White and Darren Rogers. Recipients of the Long Service Medals for 50 years of service include Peter Brougham, who received the Long Service Medal 4th Clasp. Peter joined Valla Rural Fire Brigade in 1971 and received the Long Service Medal 4th Clasp to reflect 50 years of diligent service with the Rural Fire Service. Peter became Valla brigade captain in 1991 and has now held the position for 30 years. Peter has been to many section 44s during his time, both within New South Wales and interstate to Victoria and the Australian Capital Territory.

More recently, Peter spent many days and nights on the fire line during our recent terrible firestorms of 2019-20. He attended fires in both the Nambucca and Kempsey local government areas. Peter has been part of the Valla brigade executive committee for many years and is highly regarded within the Rural Fire Service, having

received the Australian Fire Service Medal in 2017. There is not a day when Peter would not be at the station to do some kind of maintenance or checking up on something that was not quite right. Peter has shown his diligence over the past 50 years and that continues every day. I acknowledge the work and support of his wife and daughter, who were with him on the day of the awards. Their sense of pride in his achievements was clear.

Ron Henderson, who joined Valla Rural Fire Brigade in 1971, also received the Long Service Medal 4th Clasp reflecting 50 years of diligent service. Ron has been the senior deputy captain of the Valla brigade and has also held the positions of vice-president, executive committee member and permit issuing officer. Ron has not only volunteered time for his own local community but also attended multiple section 44s in New South Wales, Victoria and the ACT. Along with the captain, Peter, it is not uncommon to find Ron at the station doing maintenance or some amazing work. He is a valuable member of the Lower North Coast zone. My special mate Brian Pade was awarded a Long Service Medal 4th Clasp. Brian is a very fabulous farmer of the region. He is a quiet gentleman who goes about his business. Brian has been in the brigade since 1967 and received the Long Service Medal 4th Clasp reflecting 50 years of diligent service with the RFS. Brian remains an active member of Valla brigade and has held the position of brigade president since 1994. Not only has Brian been part of the brigade's leadership team for many years but his dedication and motivation have inspired a multigenerational commitment from the Pade family.

I take this opportunity to also point out I had a lovely couple of conversations with many of the volunteers after lunch. Their plea to me is: Keep listening to the volunteers. Keep making it simpler and more realistic in doing hazard reductions. The Mayor of Nambucca Valley Council, Rhonda Hoban, made it clear to me that in the Valla area in particular, which I have mentioned frequently in this statement because of the area's amazing volunteers, there is a lot of interface between bush and suburban areas that have not burnt for a very long time. They missed the 2019-20 fires. That communication and respect from people on the ground is an important way to make sure that we can keep our communities safe. They have a lot to contribute. They have done the hard yards. They know how fires run. They are great people. We need to do more wherever we can to support the work they do.

COROWA POLICE STATION

Mr JUSTIN CLANCY (Albury) (18:52): When you enter Corowa's police station, down along Queen Street, you feel the weight of its 140 years. Bits have been added over time. Even a remodelling of the charge room area took place in 2005. When something has had to be done, it has been tacked on, patched up, made do with. During the string of border closures over the last year, this station has been the major New South Wales southern border protection facility for a good stretch of the Murray River. It is where our police gathered to make their plans, to shelter from the elements and to get important work done that has helped keep New South Wales residents safer from the spread of the pandemic. But I must report that the building is completely unsuited to the role it has played and must continue to play along the southern border.

How many police stations in the State have people trying to break into them? That occurred in April 2018. There are no security screens for the timber sash windows; nor is there security for the vehicles parked in the station yard. I could go on. There is no wheelchair access. There is only a single shower in the station—located in the female bathroom for use by men and women. The meal room doubles as the office for the police prosecutor, as well as becoming the workspace for any additional police attached to Corowa, which was the case during the border closures. It is a busy room—kitchen table justice, indeed. There is no interview room, no place to hold private or confidential discussions. There is no barrier to prevent a member of the public jumping the counter and entering restricted areas. The building is listed on the New South Wales heritage register and it really is a museum piece. The building is more fitted for selling greeting cards and souvenir tea towels. Cracks in the walls of a historic building are to be expected, but they really should not extend the full height of the walls, not in a working building and not in a building that serves as the local holding facility for people under arrest. It is the designated custody station for the Corowa region.

Unfortunately movement in the wet soil and the structure resting on it means that the repairs fail and the building obstinately returns to its pre-repair condition. Heavy render falls off walls and dust is in the air from the crumbling render. I understand that reports have identified the poor condition of the building as posing "a significant risk of injury in the event of collapse". Even the front verandah is moving away from the building and so should we. In legal parlance the building is not fit for purpose. I would add that it is ultimately unfair for our outstanding police officers who have to work in such premises in regional New South Wales. We must look to the future for Corowa and use this opportunity to provide an efficient, well-designed police station and custody station that fits contemporary policing activities.

Corowa sits within the Murray River police district and is staffed with eight general duties officers, two highway patrol officers and, at various times, detectives, prosecuting staff and proactive units. I have made representations to the Minister about the deterioration of Corowa Police Station and its unsafe condition, and

I look forward to welcoming him to Albury and Corowa later this year. I understand the future of the Corowa Police Station building is under consideration once again. I know from my discussions with police of the difficulties this building imposes on them as they carry out their duties. I want them to know that I have been inside the building and it has driven me to make representations on their behalf. Only a complete rebuild can address the serious problems that the police must live and work with. Fortunately there is plenty of vacant land at the rear of the current station—land that is owned by the NSW Police Force.

Sir Edmund Barton, well on his way to becoming Australia's first Prime Minister, might well have taken note of Corowa Police Station when he was in town for the Corowa Conference on Federation in 1893. If he were alive today and dropped by, he probably would recognise the building and wonder how it had remained as a frontline border policing facility, for the structure was already 13 years old when he saw it. I have requested that a complete rebuild of Corowa Police Station be placed on the asset replacement list of the NSW Police Force properties group for action as soon as is practical. I look forward to having the Minister visit Albury and Corowa.

SUDDEN CARDIAC DEATH

Mr RON HOENIG (Heffron) (18:57): With the onset of autumn, communities are gearing up for the return of winter sports like soccer and rugby league. That means that many in our community will be looking to take to the footy field for community sport and shed the kilos put on over the silly season and the pandemic. But there is a silent killer that stalks those sporting fields—cardiac arrest and heart attacks. Coronary heart disease is the leading cause of death in Australia, with 20,000 fatalities every year. That is one every 10 minutes. Fit and active sportspeople are not immune. The soccer community is rife with stories of otherwise fit and healthy players suddenly taking ill and dying on the football field, like Pagewood Botany Football Club's Dimos Mastoris, who died of a heart attack on the playing field at the age of 35. Perhaps the most tragic story is that of Marc Arcuri, who was just 15 years old when he collapsed and died of a suspected heart attack in Austral in July 2014. The phenomenon is known as sudden cardiac death and it affects athletes of all ages.

These tragic stories are why I draw the attention of the House to the work of Heartbeat of Football, which is a not-for-profit sporting education foundation that aims to promote healthy hearts in sport through player education, minimisation of health risks, and the installation of defibrillators on all sporting fields across the country. Heartbeat of Football estimates that around five amateur footballers die each year from heart attacks and cardiac arrest, although reliable statistics are not readily available. The Commonwealth Government admits that it is unsure of the frequency of sudden cardiac death among Australian athletes.

Automated external defibrillators are one of technology's modern marvels and greatly improve the chances of a cardiac arrest patient surviving the incident. I am aware of at least four incidents already this year involving football players who suffered a cardiac incident but whose lives were saved by the presence and proper deployment of defibrillators. On 10 February this year a 40-year-old player from Randwick City Football Club suffered a cardiac incident while training at Chifley Sports Reserve. I understand the gentleman had effectively died on the pitch but was able to be resuscitated using a defibrillator and first aid. That scene was repeated at a recent over-45s men's football game at Avalon Soccer Club and at a Fraternity Cup match featuring Gerringong Breakers Football Club in Wollongong. All the men survived because of a rapid first aid response and the effective use of defibrillators.

Studies demonstrate that survival rates from a cardiac incident fall 10 per cent every minute without defibrillation and using a defibrillator within three minutes can improve a person's chance of survival by 70 per cent. First aid and defibrillators can be deployed in seconds when paramedics may take minutes or more to get there. Andy Paschalidis, the founder of Heartbeat of Football, says that the risk of cardiac incident is higher now than it has ever been, as COVID saw us spending more time playing with the TV remote than we did on sporting fields. As players return to training and football, so does the threat of cardiac incidents.

Awareness of the importance of defibrillators is growing; they are a common sight in gyms and shopping centres throughout the country. I have supported the rollout of defibrillators to many sporting clubs and fields in my electorate, and there is funding available through the Office of Sport's Local Sport Defibrillator Grant Program, for which the Government should be commended. Costing thousands of dollars, they do not come cheap, especially for community-based sports clubs. But as a bare minimum the New South Wales Government and the local government sector must make defibrillators available and accessible at each and every sport and training ground because cardiac incidents can strike anywhere and anytime that sport is being played. If you do not know how to use them properly, it renders them practically useless. The New South Wales Government should require community-based clubs to have a person who is trained in the proper operation of defibrillators on site at each training session or game before sport or training can lawfully commence. I know that is a burden on the clubs. It is quite literally a matter of life and death, and it should not take more tragedies for all of us to act.

COOTAMUNDRA ELECTORATE WOMEN ACHIEVERS

Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra) (19:02): Last week we marked International Women's Day, which was a chance to take stock of the amazing women in our communities and celebrate their achievements. In the communities of the Cootamundra electorate, women are often the driving force behind change. But just as regularly they are the unsung heroes, unwilling to step into the limelight and be recognised for their efforts. I take the opportunity to recognise some of these women and celebrate their achievements. I recently visited the community of Walleroobie in my electorate. This village boasts a population of just 100 people but has a stunning, century-old rural hall that needs work to get it up to scratch. The Crown Reserves Improvement Fund has kickstarted this upgrade process with a grant of \$28,600, but that funding for Walleroobie and the driving force to ensure this historic hall has a future is mainly down to the efforts of Lynne Cox. Lynne is passionate about her community and about ensuring its members have a space to meet and celebrate, and she will continue to drive this project.

In Coolamon, Australia's first Indigenous pharmacist, Dr Faye McMillan, has just been appointed Deputy National Rural Health Commissioner. This is a newly created position that will see Dr McMillan work with rural, regional and remote communities to advise the Federal Government on health services. Her work will aim to address the issues around accessing health services and staffing shortages, and I know it will improve the lives of many in our communities. In Young, teenager Khawlah Albaf is going above and beyond to improve the lives of people in rural and regional communities. A finalist in the One to Watch category of the recent NSW Women of the Year Awards, Khawlah has started a business, served on the New South Wales Regional Youth Taskforce, received a Harding Miller scholarship to support her through her studies, is a member of the Hilltops Youth Council, was named the Rural and Regional Champion by the Community Migrant Resource Centre during NSW Women's Week 2020, has participated in the United Nations Youth junior leadership weekend and the UN Youth New South Wales State conference, and is a leader at Young High School. She brings passion and enthusiasm to her advocacy, fighting to improve communities and particularly the experiences of women and girls. She is a name to remember and truly one to watch.

In Barellan the upgraded tennis courts have been named after the town's legendary daughter, Evonne Goolagong. The Goolagong Courts are the realisation of tireless efforts from the Barellan and District War Memorial Club and were supported by the New South Wales Government. I particularly celebrate Louise Hornery, who was recently made a lifetime member of the club and has worked incredibly hard to create this sporting space for the community. In Cowra, Councillor Ruth Fagan wears many hats, serving in local government, as a board member of Regional Development Australia Central West and as a member of many local committees. Recently she played an integral role in securing funding for the Cowra Showground from the showground stimulus. More than \$380,000 is being invested in that important community asset, a lot of which will be spent on improving accessibility for Riding for the Disabled participants and building amenities to meet their needs.

The grant represents years of work from Councillor Fagan. We need more women to follow the example of Ruth and stand for office, particularly at the upcoming local government elections in September. I am pleased that the New South Wales Government is funding workshops for women on standing for local government and I encourage women to take part. The events of recent weeks speak volumes about the need to ensure that women are seen and heard in positions of leadership. These are just a handful of the amazing women in my electorate of Cootamundra—women who go above and beyond for others but often step away from the limelight. I am incredibly proud to represent them and all the women across the Cootamundra electorate.

CUDMIRRAH MINING APPLICATION

Mrs SHELLEY HANCOCK (South Coast—Minister for Local Government) (19:06): Cudmirrah is one of the most beautiful villages in the South Coast electorate. Together with the surrounding villages and towns of Sussex Inlet, Swanhaven and Berrara, Cudmirrah has retained its unspoiled beauty, beautiful surfing locations and a local resident kangaroo population to boot. The village is bordered by the scenic Conjola National Park and is only moments to Swan Lake, which is a superb, safe aquatic playground where people can enjoy canoeing, kayaking, stand-up paddleboarding and waterskiing. Cudmirrah was a site for local Indigenous people for centuries, with historical burial sites discovered as recently as 2006. It had been left in a natural state almost exclusively until 1948 when Nick Collier and his family settled there, having purchased lots 36, 39 and 40, which today cover most of the area around the shop and the Holiday Haven caravan park site.

Nick Collier cut a track that is now known as Goonawarra Drive and cleared his land to build cottages, a camping area and later the shop. To this day the town has only a few hundred permanent residents and enjoys tranquillity and absolutely unspoiled beauty. Just over 12 months ago, the area suffered damage from the Black Summer bushfires. As a town with one road in and out, Cudmirrah and surrounding towns were cut off during the fires. Many locals are still recovering from the devastation caused. Unfortunately earlier this year the Western Australian company Geoscience Australia lodged a mining application over an existing yet dormant mine at

Cudmirrah. The proponent did not widely advertise its application prior to lodgement, nor did it consult with council or the community. Therefore, fear quickly spread across the entire region.

Upon hearing about exploration licence application No. 6196, I wrote to the Deputy Premier in his capacity as Minister for Regional New South Wales, Industry and Trade to express my strong opposition to the application. I noted my belief that the South Coast is not an appropriate area for mining of that nature to take place and that the application had caused great distress to my community. I also noted that I did not believe it would be in anybody's best interest to allow it to proceed any further. I implored that he put an end to speculation and ensure that the application did not proceed further. My office was also in contact with his staff regarding the matter. I thank the Deputy Premier and his office for understanding the issues I raised and working cooperatively towards a resolution.

I particularly thank the Cudmirrah community for opposing the application so strongly. I have always believed in people power and the strength of representing the interests of my community, and have carried this belief through the entire process of the application. Congratulations are well deserved by Shoalhaven City Councillor Patricia White, who helped bring the community together, explained the process and represented them very well, bringing a motion back to council to try to stop this from happening ever again. As Minister for Local Government, I get joy to see councillors working hard for their local electors. Councillor White has been absolutely relentless in her advocacy for the residents of the sadly affected area.

Fortunately Geoscience Australia has since withdrawn its application. I am very glad to inform the House that the company has pledged never to lodge another application in the area again. I am sure it got the message very loudly from the community, but the fact remains that other companies are still able to apply for mining licences in the Cudmirrah area and indeed across the South Coast. Given the extreme anxiety caused by the application—and the completely inappropriate nature of industrial work being conducted in such an undeveloped and pristine part of New South Wales—I will continue to work with my ministerial colleagues to ensure that those kinds of applications cannot happen ever again. My message to mining companies considering industrial-scale work in the South Coast is clear: You are not welcome. Do not apply for a mining licence in an area where it would destroy the natural environment or affect local communities that have chosen to live in a quiet, beautiful and peaceful part of this electorate and this great State.

To anyone who does not get that message: I will always fight any inappropriate mining or industrial application alongside the community, just as I have with this one. I hark back to the work of the Cudmirrah community, which came together so quickly—without former notice, notification or consultation—with council to fight the application. Having a councillor on board who brought them together, worked very hard and took a motion back to council to get unanimous support from the council really says something. It says something about the role of women in local government, too. We have talked about the role of local government quite a lot in recent times. I advocate for women to take up positions of leadership; only 31 per cent across the State are women. We need to increase that representation.

MAITLAND ELECTORATE ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE

Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland) (19:11): In 2011 the former Liberal member for Maitland Robyn Parker criticised a review by the Roads and Traffic Authority regarding a new rail bridge at Thornton that was needed. She said it needed to be completed as soon as possible. In fact, she said:

Thornton rail bridge was needed in 2009, it's vital infrastructure ...

If the duplication of the bridge was vital infrastructure in 2009 and 2011, why has the Government not built it nearly 10 years later? The State Government has not been contributing to the upgrade to connect two major State roads and railway bridges to deal with Maitland's growing infrastructure needs, particularly in Thornton and Chisholm, which is the postcode area of 2322. Maitland—particularly Thornton and Chisholm—is a major regional hub for roads in the Hunter. It connects the Pacific Highway, the M1, the New England Highway and the Hunter Expressway.

The Thornton area has been slated as a major urban growth precinct in Maitland for over 20 years, after significant development of both residential and industrial estates in the 1980s, 1990s and into this century. A \$51.17 million road infrastructure upgrade grant application by Maitland City Council was refused in 2018-19, even though the stamp duty revenue for the Thornton postcode topped \$167 million—second only to Sydney CBD—in the 2017-18 financial year. The council did not expect the State Government to do all of it. The cost of road infrastructure upgrades required in that area is actually \$110 million. It is appalling that the State Government has taken so much money from my community. People who have been building houses and coming to Maitland to live and take advantage of cheap and affordable housing have not received that money back from the State Government. In fact, in the past nine years alone the State Government has ripped over half a billion dollars in stamp duty out of Maitland—\$570 million—but it has not provided the road infrastructure that is needed.

The other day somebody told me that driving their daughter to school through the Thornton area—normally a three-minute drive on that road—now takes 45 minutes. The problem has been exacerbated because the State Government has built no public school for the new suburb of Chisholm, so we have massive congestion there. Only a few weeks ago it was exacerbated again by the State Government road upgrades to allow for the new hospital at Metford, which included the removal of a roundabout that had been in use. The former State Labor Government provided \$200 million for the Hunter Expressway, \$65 million for the third river crossing and many millions for the Metford rail underpass. It commenced the duplication of the Thornton rail bridge. While in government it tried to improve those connections, but nothing has happened to progress that under this Government. When the project to upgrade the road at Metford started a few weeks ago, everybody who had been avoiding Thornton by going to Metford was unable to do that. In its wisdom, the Government put up a sign that told people to go another way. There is no other way.

I am seeking a commitment from the Government to do something about those roads. I have spoken to the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads. I have spoken to the Parliamentary Secretary for the Hunter. I have explained to them that the member for Upper Hunter may very soon have members of my community become part of his electorate. Every single day I will doorknock all of those people who are about to become his constituents in two years' time and remind them of how lazy and mean his government has been in not funding the infrastructure that is required for my community. When people from Lorn, Largs and Bolwarra want to go through Thornton to get to Sydney, Newcastle or anywhere on the eastern side, they will thank this Government for nothing. The Government must start delivering better roads.

MURRAY ELECTORATE SOCIAL HOUSING

Mrs HELEN DALTON (Murray) (19:16): I speak about the housing crisis in the Riverina and Murray areas. Recently Deputy Premier John Barilaro said that the housing shortage across regional New South Wales is a positive. He said, "I call this a champagne problem—these are the problems you want," and that it is a "renaissance for regional New South Wales". I call it a crisis. People who are sleeping on couches, living rough or spending months in caravan parks are not drinking Barilaro's champagne. Many people associate a housing crisis with Sydney. "If you want to afford housing, just move to the bush," people say. But my rural town of Griffith has a homelessness rate of 10 per cent. One in 10 people is sleeping rough or looking for shelter. What a shocking statistic! Towns like Leeton and Deniliquin have close to zero rental vacancies. When sparsely populated small towns in a vast countryside cannot provide housing for their residents, we have a major problem with housing policy in New South Wales. As with our river water, we have turned housing into a game of Monopoly for wealthy investors. We have made the most basic needs unaffordable for many families and young people.

Lack of housing is the biggest obstacle to growth and expansion in rural New South Wales. Premiers and Prime Ministers keep talking about decentralisation, but we cannot decentralise if there is nowhere to live in our regional towns. Housing is the most fundamental human need. We cannot even begin to tackle issues like drug addiction, depression, domestic violence, gambling and disability if we cannot find places for people to live. There is no point booking someone into a rehab appointment if they are unsure where they can sleep that night. Counselling a woman who is fleeing domestic violence is not effective when she has nowhere else to go. Putting someone in a temporary shelter for three days does not solve their problems when they have nowhere to live permanently. Housing must be our first social and economic priority. The rental crisis in Australia has not happened by accident. Over the past two decades the Government has gradually wound back investment in social housing. Public housing is the only way we can assist our most disadvantaged residents. A person on income support, earning \$300 a week, will never afford housing in the private market where average rent in Griffith is around \$360 per week. Our most disadvantaged residents cannot pay the rent and still do other things, like eat.

Now is the perfect time to invest in social housing. The Government is looking for ways to stimulate rural economies devastated by COVID-19 lockdowns and the border closures imposed on us. Land values are lower than they have been in the past. Rural areas would be the most attractive regions to build on. A housing stimulus would be the best way to spring us back out of the COVID-19 recession. It would create multiple jobs in rural towns, and the flow-on impacts would be enormous but, most importantly, it would solve the biggest social problem of our time: It will help us house our most vulnerable residents. Rather than wasting \$2 billion on raising the wall of Wyangala Dam, which nobody wants, this Government should invest in housing. For this reason, I urge the Government to get behind the Vinnies NSW campaign to build 5,000 social housing dwellings every year for the next decade. Let us start building where we get most bang for our buck—in the bush.

GOULBURN ELECTORATE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY EVENTS

Mrs WENDY TUCKERMAN (Goulburn) (19:21): As the House is aware, on 8 March we celebrated International Women's Day. I had the pleasure of attending several events in my electorate. Each of them celebrated women's achievements with the theme "Choose to Challenge", calling out gender bias and inequality. I started the day with a women's day breakfast, organised by the Moss Vale Country Women's Association [CWA]

evening branch, and I had the pleasure of being the emcee. The breakfast included several key guests including Karen Webb, the President of the Highlands Pipes and Drums, which gave a stellar opening performance.

The guest list also included 17 female students from local high schools from the Southern Highlands; Vicki Kelley from the new women's service Pop In, a one-stop-shop for women and children threatened or impacted by domestic violence and abuse in the Wingecarribee region; Dr Jo Senior, who was inspired at a young age to become a doctor and is a mother of three children with a strong creative flair; and Zoe Young, an Archibald Prize finalist, winner of the Portia Geach women's art prize and a Margaret Olley award. Recently Zoe was selected by the New South Wales Government, with the Future Women foundation, for the New South Wales Rural Women's Scholarship in leadership. Each of those women was very inspiring. I enjoyed hearing their stories, as did the audience. I commend Jennifer Bowe and the CWA evening branch. It was a great event that I was absolutely thrilled to be part of.

Later that day I was invited to an informal women's catch-up at Belmore Park in Goulburn, which included women from all Goulburn industries, including real estate, local community organisations and the NSW Police Force, which is often the front line in our community. Given my background in policing, it is no secret that I have huge admiration for the work police do, often under stressful and difficult circumstances. In particular I mention the following officers for taking part: Inspector Alison Brennan, Senior Constable Patricia O'Brien, Constable Hayley Upton and Constable Stacey Peters who was responsible for organising the event. Constable Peters shared some inspirational anecdotes to which everyone present could relate, including the challenges often faced when juggling work and family. I thank Constable Peters and everyone who attended for including me. I enjoyed our talks and frank conversations.

I finished the day at a dinner hosted by Soroptimist International Goulburn group, joining their sixty-fifth anniversary celebrations. The group does some great work in our community, including the Share the Dignity campaign, Anglicare Christmas gifts for children, assistance with baby bundles at the Goulburn Community Health Centre and much more. Each of the members inspires me with their motivation and commitment to raising the status of women in the community through awareness, advocacy and action. I thank them for all that they do. On International Women's Day it is important we celebrate and recognise the achievements of the work done by all women in our communities. This year I particularly recognise the efforts of Michele Whitters from Yass. Michele is an active member of the Yass community, particularly the Yass Lawn Tennis Club. She brings her expertise to the club in provision for grants, fundraising and sponsorship acquisition. Michele also supports the club through promotions and communications within the club for members.

The Yass Lawn Tennis Club has been operating in the community for 120 years. In the recent years that I have been the member for Goulburn, the club has prospered thanks to the active committee members and particularly, I believe, Michele's assiduous work. A new roof and painting of the clubhouse, as well as sight screens for the courts, are just some of the projects I have seen Michele bring to fruition. Michele's dedication to this organisation is a great example of the valuable contribution she has made to her community. I was delighted to celebrate Michele's hard work with her when she recently joined me at the NSW Women of the Year Awards as a nominee for the Goulburn Local Woman of the Year. I say a massive thank you to all the women I have the pleasure to work and interact with, not only on International Women's Day but every day. Together we are building a safer and stronger New South Wales, which means celebrating the crucial and wide-ranging roles women play in our communities.

PALLIATIVE CARE

Mr RYAN PARK (Keira) (19:25): I speak on an important matter that often is a little bit difficult to speak about in this place: palliative care. It is an issue that I believe every one of us should want more for and demand more for in additional funding and resources. We should all be talking about how we can improve palliative care throughout our communities. I do not accept that we have invested enough. I do not accept that the last Labor Government invested enough, and I do not accept that this Government has invested enough. I certainly do not accept that we have a seamless, sufficient and adequate palliative care system. We need additional resources; we need additional beds. People in the end stages of their lives need us in this place to advocate for this important health service.

I do not accept that patients have to go on long waiting lists for palliative care to become available. I do not accept that families should have to travel for over an hour in some parts of Sydney, let alone in regional and rural New South Wales, to visit their loved one because their local hospital does not have an adequate palliative care ward. But that is exactly what is happening here in New South Wales. Recently I spoke to Marilyn from western Sydney and I want to convey her emotional story. She had to travel past her local hospital, Westmead Hospital, which is one of the largest—perhaps the largest—hospitals in this country because they do not have a dedicated ward for palliative care.

Marilyn was forced to travel an hour each way just to see, care for and spend time with her dying husband. She told me how she would often leave hospital late at night and start the long journey home too exhausted to think and barely able to drive. I do not have this experience but I am sure that anyone who has endured losing someone over a number of weeks or months knows how exhausting and emotionally draining it is. They spend as much time as they possibly can at their loved one's bedside wanting to have as much precious time as they possibly can, knowing that time is not on their side. When the hospital has to make that phone call to tell a family member that they have to rush back to hospital because the time is near, to then face an hour-long drive is inconceivable. With tears in their eyes and rushing because they fear that they will not make, it is unsafe for them and everybody else—all because the hospital down the road has not been properly resourced.

I understand we cannot have palliative care units in every hospital; but surely hospitals the size of Westmead, one of the country's largest, deserve this. I have heard too many stories like Marilyn's from my colleagues Hugh McDermott, the member for Prospect, and Julia Finn, the member for Granville, as well as my colleague in the upper House Greg Donnelly. Those members and others have been strong advocates about this issue, which is difficult to talk about. I commend all of them, particularly those three individuals, for their strong advocacy on this issue. They have had to sit across from too many grieving families who, even in their sadness, have called for this problem at Westmead to be fixed.

I have spoken to Dr Philip Lee, a former director of supportive and palliative medicine at Western Sydney Local Health District, about why a dedicated ward is so important. A dedicated ward would ensure that specialist staff were always on shift and would be specifically set up to support patients and their families in what is arguably the most difficult time in their lives. Westmead Hospital needs a dedicated ward for palliative care. Hundreds of thousands of people live within this hospital catchment and there are only seven beds. The Minister will say that the Government is investing more than ever in palliative care, and he is probably correct. But I am arguing that it is not enough; patients are telling us that it is not, families are telling us that it is not and health professionals are telling us that it is not. As the shadow Minister for Health I commit to advocating for better palliative care resources. This issue is not easy to talk about but we must talk about it. I will fight for better health and end-of-life care for patients and the families left behind to live without their loved ones. Terminally ill patients and their families deserve better and all of us have the responsibility to deliver better.

KU-RING-GAI BICYCLE FUNDRAISING EVENTS

Mr ALISTER HENSKENS (Ku-ring-gai) (19:30): Ku-ring-gai is no stranger to bicycle events that raise money for charity. The Bobbin Head Cycle Classic, or Bobbo, run by our local Rotary Clubs for 10 years, has raised over \$1 million for Lifeline Harbour to Hawkesbury, as well as many other local charities including KYDS, Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Women's Shelter and KNC, formerly known as Ku-ring-gai Neighbourhood Centre. I will be starting the Bobbo in a couple of weeks on 28 March. Two weeks ago I had the privilege to meet and be hosted by Horton House in Gordon at a breakfast for 37 bike riders who set off for the Bondi2BlueMountains Ride to Remember, an extension of the Bondi2Berry, which began in 2016 to raise awareness and funds for Dementia Australia. This year Twilight Aged Care was a proud sponsor. Its CFO, Martin Pengilly, also rode in the event.

Twilight is a standalone not-for-profit organisation that has a unique history spanning over 105 years. It was initially created in the early 1900s by a group of women who wanted to provide support for vulnerable women in the area. It is now an organisation that operates four residential aged-care homes across northern Sydney including Glengarry House in Mosman, Hunters Hill Village, Glades Bay Gardens in Gladesville and Horton House in Gordon. Many residents of the 45-bed facility in Gordon ventured out into the beautiful morning to watch the riders arrive, share breakfast and have a chat.

From what I saw, the residents, staff and riders enjoyed the morning, which would not have been possible a few months ago with COVID-19 restrictions. Although last year residents were treated to in-house events and activities, their usual freedoms to visit local clubs, shops and restaurants were significantly curtailed. I take this opportunity to commend the team at Horton House. Twilight's CEO, Neil Wendt, advised me that their residents were patient and calm throughout 2020 as they recognised the risk of exposure to the virus and appreciated the efforts being undertaken by all the staff. Luckily, throughout the height of the pandemic the home remained safe and virus free. Even the flu was kept at bay due to the strong infection control precautions they had in place.

Horton House in Gordon was the first stop for the riders participating in the Bondi2BlueMountains ride before travelling to Katoomba, Lithgow, Goulburn, Kiama and along the beautiful coast to finish up in Coogee. It was particularly special for co-founder Nick Young, whose dad, Douglas, is a long-term resident at Twilight's Glengarry House. Nick's father was diagnosed with dementia at 67 years of age, which prompted Nick to use his passion for cycling to fundraise. I had the pleasure of addressing the riders, staff and residents of Horton House alongside Neil and Nick. Many riders present had a personal connection—parents who had passed away from the terrible disease or family members in nursing homes. It was a ride to remember loved ones. To be part of the morning's event was inspirational. Hopefully, in a friendlier, post-COVID world, riders will be able to visit

residents inside their homes. Over four days the riders and crew spoke to a number of public schools, local organisations and councils, raising awareness of dementia.

The data on dementia is astounding. It is the greatest cause of disability for people over the age of 65. In Australia, a diagnosis of dementia occurs every six minutes. There are over 450,000 Australians living with the disease and for the past two years it has been the leading cause of death for females, outstripping cancer. There is no cure and it does not discriminate. As a community we need to improve these statistics, and the only way to do that is through awareness and research. Since 2016 Nick and everyone who has participated has raised over \$500,000 to help find a cure. This ride, together with Bondi2Berry last December, raised \$175,000. Although the ride was postponed last year and they faced some significant roadblocks with COVID-19, to see all 37 riders on their bikes with a smile on their face was truly fantastic. Four days, 650 kilometres and over 9,000 metres of elevation—I congratulate all riders, crew and everyone who supported this ride. It was an extraordinary achievement. In my electorate of Ku-ring-gai our aging population is only growing. I thank the riders, sponsors and support crew for helping raise money and taking positive steps towards the resolution of a significant medical problem in our community.

KURDISH NEW YEAR

Mr STEPHEN BALI (Blacktown) (19:35): I raise a couple of issues that impact on the electorate of Blacktown and across the city of Blacktown. Tonight I was happy to co-host Newroz, which is Kurdish New Year, with the member for Balmain in the Jubilee Room. I wish everyone here happy Newroz. The member for Balmain's office was extremely kind and put most of the effort into supporting the Kurdish community in being able to dance, hear their music and listen to some speeches, including from keynote speakers Mr Brusk Aeiveri as well as Ms Gulfer Olan, who are co-chairs of the Democratic Kurdish Community Centre of NSW based in my electorate in Kings Park. They have bought an old industrial unit and refurbished it. I acknowledge the member for Parramatta in his multicultural ministerial responsibilities. I know he goes to many community events across this great State. Tonight the Kurds were here in Parliament House and showed the wonderful work that they have done.

People of Kurdish background do not have a homeland—unfortunately, their country has been dissolved, which brings additional challenges. We have seen people come here from various places in the world, whether from war-torn Europe after World War II, following the communist invasion across eastern Europe in the 1950s and 1960s, after the Vietnam War, from various areas of South-East Asia or the Middle East, through to the modern refugees from Africa. They often come to the city of Blacktown. I know that Fairfield has recently taken something like 3,000 refugees, but it also occurs across the whole of western Sydney. This poses particular challenges for any government not just in terms of the infrastructure that we always talk about and want to see—hospitals, roads, schools and other hard infrastructure—but also in the social infrastructure that is so important.

It is important for people to be able to make Australia a better home. Many of them have come from a war-torn background. The beauty of Australia is that it allows people to celebrate their culture. Whether it is celebrating their religious feast days or their country feast days, it is so important that they can teach their children about their culture, heritage and language and maintain it. One thing that came through when I was chatting to the Kurdish people tonight was that many of them had not been encouraged to develop their language or were not supported in their language as they were growing up in the various countries that Kurdistan was split up into. The operation of so many language schools across Sydney and across New South Wales allows people to reconnect with their language, which is so important. It is not just about the physical infrastructure as I talked about before; it is about the social infrastructure. I think sometimes that drops off.

People talk about why they do not assimilate and they hear about issues and challenges. It is not a matter of people assimilating. It is about getting people to understand them and support them through their life journey. They have felt impacts of war and terror which the average person born in Australia would never have known, even if they are the second generation to be born here. My parents are of Hungarian background and fled communism. They fought to come by boat to Australia and settle here and make the wonderful contribution that they did. But we need to make sure that we have the services that people need to connect with their culture and their fellow citizens. The Government also needs to put more resources into supporting programs to help people overcome the traumas and difficulties that they have had. I congratulate the Kurdish community. Happy Newroz.

TRIBUTE TO BRIAN AUBUSSON

Ms TAMARA SMITH (Ballina) (19:41): I pay tribute to a remarkable fireman and member of the Ballina community, Mr Brian Aubusson, who very sadly passed away two months shy of his retirement last year. Brian, affectionately known by his friends and family as "Aubo", served in the New South Wales Fire Brigade, now known as Fire and Rescue NSW, for over 40 years. He was a mentor to thousands of firefighters throughout his career, and the number of fires and emergencies that he attended throughout his working life is beyond

comprehension. The number of times he laid his life and his own health and wellbeing on the line in the protection of others is also beyond comprehension. On behalf of our community I offer Aubo's family, friends and colleagues my deepest condolences and an expression of great sadness that he did not have more time to enjoy his loved ones and passions. Aubo is survived by his partner, Kelly, his sons James, Mitch and Nathan, his grandchildren Ambria, Arlo, Daisy and Odie, and his siblings Gabriel, Brendan, Peter and Martin.

Aubo was born on 6 February 1960 and on 21 September 1979, at the age of 19 years, he joined the New South Wales Fire Brigade. He served as a firefighter at the Sydney headquarters as well as at other fire stations around Sydney including The Rocks, Campbelltown, Campsie and Liverpool. In 1996 he was promoted to station officer and served throughout Sydney, relieving as a station officer at many other stations. In 1998 Aubo moved his family to settle in Ballina as a New South Wales Fire Brigade regional training officer. In his new role he was responsible for delivering training to more than 350 firefighters in the region and across the State on an ongoing basis. Across his time as a training officer, Aubo trained at least 1,000 new recruit on-call firefighters into highly trained firefighters, many of whom still protect the communities of Ballina, the Northern Rivers and elsewhere across regional New South Wales today.

Throughout his career, Aubo risked his life defending communities and leading teams in every type of emergency situation. Some of the most publicised were the 1994 Sydney bushfires, the 1999 Sydney hailstorm disaster, the 2011 Brisbane floods, Cyclone Debbie in 2017 and the 2019-20 Black Summer bushfires. His skills and experience as a trainer of firefighters were highly sought after and saw him appointed as team leader for the Solomon Islands training program through the Solomon Islands Police Development Program. He trained local islanders to become firefighters, including training them in rope rescue and other specialist firefighting skills. Aubo's work never went unnoticed. Throughout his career he was awarded the National Medal 2nd Clasp and the Fire and Rescue NSW Long Service and Good Conduct Medal 3rd Clasp. He was also awarded the Commissioner's Certificate of Appreciation from Queensland Fire and Emergency Services for assistance provided during the January 2011 Brisbane floods. Posthumously he was awarded the NSW Premier's Bushfire Emergency Citation 2019-20.

On 6 February 2020 Aubo celebrated his sixtieth birthday with family and friends at his home in Ballina. He was looking forward to retirement and had given notice of his final day with Fire and Rescue NSW. He had big plans for his retirement and was already planning for a big send-off in July. His retirement plans included spending lots of time as a house husband supporting his wife Kelly, some overseas travel, teaching his grandchildren to fish in the Richmond River and using his spare time in the Ballina Lions Club to help serve the community. Sadly Aubo passed away suddenly on 14 May 2020 before his send-off and retirement.

Whilst observing the COVID-19 restrictions, Aubo received a befitting send-off. His funeral was attended by the Commissioner of Fire and Rescue NSW and the cortege included the Fire and Rescue NSW hearse with escorts from New South Wales police and the aviation rescue and fire service at Ballina. A large guard of honour was formed to salute his 41 years of service to the community. It was a sad day for Fire and Rescue NSW and for the Ballina community. On behalf of the Ballina electorate I offer our recognition, gratitude and indebtedness to Aubo for his 41 years of service, and to his family who supported him as he risked his life to protect the lives of others. Aubo epitomised the very best of the strength of character and bravery that we see in our Fire and Rescue officers and firefighters. He will be greatly missed by his family and friends, the Ballina community and the Fire and Rescue fraternity across New South Wales. Vale, Brian "Aubo" Aubusson.

Community Recognition Statements

HOWLONG LOCAL THRIFTY STORE

Mr JUSTIN CLANCY (Albury) (19:46): I congratulate the hardworking volunteers at Howlong Local Thrifty Store. It all started 16 years ago when the hall located on Hawkins Street, Howlong, was provided with a 99-year lease. Now there are many good people who volunteer their time at the shop, working shifts across the day. They are there to assist the community. I commend them on their dedication. The Howlong Local Thrifty Store raises, on average, \$1,000 dollars a week after maintenance costs and utility costs are cleared. To date the store has raised \$280,000 dollars, nearly all of which goes back to the community in the form of, for example, assistance for local schools for excursions, fuel, fees and accommodation for students. They have restored the Mechanics Institute to its former glory. Donations have also been made to various good causes, such as the Albury cancer hospital. The hall is also the site of other community activities, such as the Guides, and karate and exercise classes. I personally thank each and every volunteer at the Howlong Local Thrifty Store for their time and thoughtfulness in the work they do for their community.

BLACKTOWN CITY WOMAN OF THE YEAR

Mr STEPHEN BALI (Blacktown) (19:47): Congratulations to Rissa McInnes on being awarded as co-winner of the Blacktown City Woman of the Year award. Since 2013 Rissa has been a tireless volunteer and fundraiser for local and international causes. She has also volunteered with many charitable organisations, including being the founder of the Blacktown Ponds Lions Club. Over \$500,000 has been raised by her and Blacktown Ponds Lions Club. Projects that have benefited include the children's garden at Mount Druitt Hospital, the bus for The Ponds High School, the Rouse Hill Rural Fire Brigade and Autism Community Network. The club has also provided support for the school rebuilding program in Cebu after cyclone Haiyan devastated the Philippines community. Rissa has built strong community and business partnerships through the various charity work that she has undertaken. Her leadership and strong community passion is inspirational to everyone. Congratulations on becoming the 2021 Blacktown City Woman of the Year.

CHINESE NEW YEAR

Mr ALISTER HENSKENS (Ku-ring-gai) (19:48): This Lunar New Year we celebrate the Year of the Ox. The ox symbolises resilience, steadiness and hard work—qualities we have all had to draw on in managing the global pandemic. Chinese, Korean and Vietnamese cultures have long been part of our country's multicultural fabric. I had the privilege of representing the Deputy Premier at the Australia China Business Council new year dinner last month. Locally it was great to take part in the Ku-ring-gai Lunar New Year Festival, which was made possible due to a \$15,000 Multicultural NSW grant. Along with members of the Chinese Australian Services Society and Dae Hahn Culture School, guests were entertained with live music, traditional dance performances, lantern displays and traditional cuisines. The Ku-ring-gai electorate is home to many Chinese, Korean and Vietnamese families, and their communities add spirit and vibrancy to our local area. Congratulations to everyone involved. It was wonderful to be able to celebrate in a COVID-safe way. Happy new year; gong xi fa cai.

ARCHIE GOODWIN

Mr TIM CRAKANTHORP (Newcastle) (19:50): Today I pay tribute to an emerging sports star. Not many people can say that they have actually played national top-flight football at just 16 years of age. Not only can Archie Goodwin say just that; he is also the Newcastle Jets' youngest ever debutant after taking to the pitch against Melbourne Victory last month. A Cooks Hill junior and Jets Academy prodigy, Archie was called off the bench in the eighty-fifth minute and certainly made his mark with a blinding sprint down the field that saw him able to take a shot on goal. While he was not successful in finding the back of the net that time, I am sure it will not be long before he is a goal-scoring machine. Congratulations, Archie. Here's to a fantastic career.

PECORA DAIRY

Mrs WENDY TUCKERMAN (Goulburn) (19:50): Today I recognise the efforts and achievements of Pecora Dairy owners, Cressida and Michael Cain, who won their third gold medal at the *delicious*. Harvey Norman Produce Awards. Mr and Mrs Cain founded the Pecora Dairy in Robertson in 2011. Pecora's curly red cheese with its lively tang and earthy vegetable flavour was awarded the medal from the dairy category. This award emphasises that our local producers are well able to gain recognition and praise for their goods that can hold their own against other major producers countrywide. It should be noted that the Pecora Dairy has been selected as a finalist six times previously and received the national trophy in the same category in 2019 for its raw milk feta. Whilst competition judges and consumers are able to enjoy the delicious end product, it is important to acknowledge the work involved in maintaining livestock and the process involved in making the final delectable product available for consumers to enjoy local and outstanding products. Congratulations to Cressida and Michael. I wish them all the very best for their ongoing production of a truly wonderful product.

SAMSON CHALLENGE

Ms JANELLE SAFFIN (Lismore) (19:52): I congratulate the Samson Challenge on another great year. The Samson Challenge is a gruelling fitness course that really challenges competitors and is a major fundraiser for Our Kids in Lismore. Our Kids is a wonderful organisation that supports sick children at the Lismore Base Hospital and across the broader community. I was delighted to be there to sound the starting hooter and support the over 500 participants of the Samson Challenge. I was so impressed with and in awe of their strength, athletic ability and grit. This year the challenge raised a remarkable \$30,000, which will go towards buying paediatric equipment for Lismore Base Hospital and surrounds for the children's ward and the special care nursery. I especially want to commend Rebekka Batista from Our Kids and Jason Clarke, Jason Honeyman, Luke Hoolihan and Kylie Avery from Team Samson for their dedication and hard work in getting the Samson Challenge up and running.

WARIALDA VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE

Mr ADAM MARSHALL (Northern Tablelands—Minister for Agriculture and Western New South Wales) (19:53): I recognise Warialda tourism officer, Kelly Skelton, and her cheerful band of volunteers who have made the Warialda Visitor Information Centre a hub for travellers and townspeople alike. Kelly ensures that there is something of interest for everyone, including their popular cafe, the Country Dust, managed by Ange Plain. We travel far distances out in western New South Wales and our locals know they will find a hospitable respite, a good stretch and a tasty bite at the Warialda Visitor Information Centre. Tourists will find a mine of local information, places of interest to visit and a local historical tale or two from volunteers who love their community and are eager to convey it. I congratulate volunteers Robbie Burge, Debbie Reardon, Kerry McDonald, Kerry Coulton, Anne and Paul Jones, Virginia Boland, Allan and Marilyn Mitchell, Ange Plain and, of course, the coordinator of it all, Kelly Skelton, for their impressive work at the visitor information centre. I commend everyone who works very hard at the centre to promote Warialda.

MAKING MEDITATION MAINSTREAM

Ms LIESL TESCH (Gosford) (19:54): I thank the amazing team at Making Meditation Mainstream for all they are doing for our community. Making Meditation Mainstream was born on the Northern Beaches when 33 suicides occurred in one year, and I thank Jason Parington for his dream and efforts. The ripple effects of health and wellbeing continue to grow across the east coast of Australia. It was fabulous to join a record number of meditators on International Women's Day at Ocean Beach Surf Club. I thank all those who joined us for their incredible contribution to our International Women's Day meditation, particularly Making Meditation Mainstream founder, Jason; beach crew leader Lorelie Luna Ladiges; and local volunteers and super women Natalie Mallia, Carey-Ann Williamson-Louw, Sam Wiggins, Maree Langburne, Bronwyn Price and Fiona Castle. I give a huge thanks to our champion photographer, Dylan Castle, a year 9 student at Brisbane Waters Secondary College Umina Campus, for his fabulous work. I offer my heartfelt gratitude in Parliament tonight. Our community has been strengthened one person at a time, with love and healing.

TONY BOYD

Ms MELANIE GIBBONS (Holsworthy) (19:55): I acknowledge Mr Tony Boyd, principal at St Christopher's Catholic Primary School in Holsworthy. Mr Boyd is retiring at the end of this school term after being principal for 10 years. We both took on our roles around the same time, so I have been able to see how treasured he is by the school community. It will be sad to see him go, and I am sure the school will miss his presence. He is a strong and inspiring leader and has done a lot for the students of St Christopher's over the past decade. Mr Boyd was integral in seeing the school secure \$300,000 in funding through the New South Wales Government's Community Building Partnership Program in 2015 to build a new playground. The playground was designed for students of all abilities with the help of the kids themselves, and it has been a real asset for the school. The school community will be hosting a farewell mass this week for Mr Boyd. It will give staff, students and parents the opportunity to give their thanks for all of his hard work and dedication to the school for the past decade. I join with them in saying thanks and wishing him all the best for his future.

THE ROCK ANTHOLOGY

Mr DAVID HARRIS (Wyang) (19:56): Last Saturday night I was treated to a truly fantastic preview of Peak Entertainment's first production, *The Rock Anthology*, an authentic tribute to some of rock's greatest legends. The inspirational first production is the brainchild of young Central Coast talent, 20-year-old Bradley Hughes, who has created a show of legendary proportions. The extremely talented group of musicians and vocalists musical director Bradley has assembled under the directorship of Rosie Ross creates a high energy performance that visits some classic rock hits, recreating the image and sound of the original recordings. With a true connection to the music, *The Rock Anthology* takes you on a journey through its authentic sounds, ensuring this is the truest of tribute shows. The talented cast consists of Bradley Hughes, drums and music director; Brandon Alexander, vocals; Tom S Kelly, vocals; Jessica May King, vocals; Johnathon Bullard, guitar; Yves Allman, guitar; Ben "Ace" Ross, bass; and Abigail Butler, keyboards. Amazingly, all of the performers are graduates of the unique Youth In Performing Arts Program, also known as YIPA, on the Central Coast.

TRIBUTE TO PETER "PIXIE" BURGESS

Ms ELENI PETINOS (Miranda) (19:57): I remember the incredible Peter Burgess, or "Pixie" as he was lovingly known by his friends and family, who sadly passed away on 19 February 2021. Mr Burgess will be most notably remembered for his contribution to the Bonnet Bay Football Club where he served as president and was a member for over 25 years. Mr Burgess was an outstanding leader, selfless and dedicated volunteer, family man, and a friend to all. It is incredibly difficult to imagine the Bonnet Bay Football Club without him—the two were synonymous. The club is what it is today due to Mr Burgess' vision of the redevelopment of the clubhouse at

Lakewood Reserve, hard work, and an extraordinary passion for giving to others. I extend my sincerest condolences to his wife, Lydia, children Scott and Sarah, and extended family and friends. Mr Burgess was the heart and soul of Bonnet Bay Football Club and will be missed. Vale Peter Burgess.

MELITA CHILCOTT

Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland) (19:58): I congratulate Melita Chilcott, Maitland's 2021 Local Woman of the Year. Melita is a role model to her children, her grandchildren and her community. Her passion for helping others, her dedication to community service, and her voluntary work for charities including Meals on Wheels and Share the Dignity are well known throughout Maitland. Melita fulfilled a lifelong passion by becoming a qualified hairdresser at the age of 60, and chose to dedicate her skills and passion towards helping the homeless and disadvantaged, as well as survivors of domestic violence. Melita's work as a member of the Community Hair Project group restores dignity, pride, and confidence to those going through a tough time and preparing to rebuild their lives. Melita now stands alongside previous alumni of the award, Karen Stackman, Tara Dever, Amorelle Dempster, Naomi Rees, Pennie Kearney, Yvette Cavanagh, Michelle Davis and Samantha Meyn. Thank you to these women for their incredible contributions to Maitland.

COOTAMUNDRA HOSPITAL AUXILIARY

Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra) (19:59): I acknowledge the generosity of the Cootamundra community and the Cootamundra Hospital Auxiliary, which has successfully raised \$65,000 for a portable ultrasound machine. The portable machine has been handed over to staff at Cootamundra Hospital and can be used in the wards so that patients do not have to be transferred to the radiology department. For more than three years, members of the hospital auxiliary have held street stalls and raffles. It has also received donations from clubs and organisations in town. This has resulted in a successful fundraising effort to enable the purchase of this significant equipment, which will benefit the community. Thank you Janice Slattery, President of the Cootamundra Hospital Auxiliary, and all her dedicated volunteers. Well done on your achievement, and keep up the great work.

XAVIER NEIL

Mr TIM CRAKANTHROP (Newcastle) (20:00): Raising \$60,000 for cancer treatment centre Chris O'Brien Lifehouse is pretty good. Raising it in just two years is really, really good. Achieving it all before your eleventh birthday is amazing. Xavier Neil first dipped his toes into fundraising during Surfebruary in 2019 and caught the bug. Not content with just participating in the annual fundraiser, he embarked on the production of a line of soaps and lip balms under the moniker of Good X Karma, with all sale profits also going to Lifehouse. His passion has been infectious. From being the only Newcastle participant in Surfebruary in 2019 to becoming an ambassador and growing the cause to 180 locals this year, Xavier is going from strength to strength. Xavier's achievements have been phenomenal, and he is not showing any signs of slowing down. Go, Xavier!

PICCOLO CANNOLI BAR

Mr MARK COURE (Oatley) (20:01): I recognise Amber, Angela, Adrian and the team at Piccolo Cannoli Bar in South Hurstville, who make the best cannoli that you will ever eat. It therefore comes as no surprise that the team has been awarded Best Bakery Cake Shop as part of the 2020 St George Local Business Awards. The St George region is home to countless bakeries, cafes and cake shops, and it is fantastic to see that Piccolo Cannoli Bar is the very best. The recipes for these delicious treats have been passed down through the family for generations and it is welcoming to note that the legacy of these outstanding desserts continues. I encourage everyone in this Chamber and everyone watching tonight on the World Wide Web to head over to 848 King Georges Road in South Hurstville to try them out for yourself. It will not be a surprise when I say that these are the best cannoli I have tasted. I also know that my wife, Adla, can vouch for them as well. I congratulate Piccolo Cannoli Bar on its fantastic achievement.

NICOLA MCDERMOTT

Ms LIESL TESCH (Gosford) (20:02): As this House is well aware, I am incredibly passionate about sport and encouraging women to achieve their goals in the sporting arena and otherwise. I feel incredibly privileged to have an absolute champion in my electorate in Nicola McDermott. Nicola has grown up on the Central Coast and calls Tascott home. She has trained relentlessly from a young age in athletics and high jump in particular. Her tenacity was rewarded with a bronze medal in the 2018 Commonwealth Games. Nicola qualified for the Tokyo Olympics with a jump of 1.98 metres—and I am sure she is not quite as tall as that—in Sinn, Germany, last year. Yippee! The journey to wearing the green and gold is never an easy one. I also thank everyone who has supported Nicola in achieving this dream. Alongside athletes from across Australia, Nicola has adjusted her training program and competition regime incredibly with lots of frustrations and challenges during COVID.

I commend her for that. I thank Nicola for doing our community proud and for inspiring the next generation of young girls to pursue their sporting goals. May your Tokyo dreams come true.

HEALTHONE

Ms MELANIE GIBBONS (Holsworthy) (20:03): I acknowledge local business HealthOne, located in Chipping Norton. I recently visited HealthOne's factory to see how its face masks are produced. It was great to see the production in action and to meet the HealthOne team. It is fantastic to have important protective equipment manufactured locally, whilst also providing local jobs. The factory was established in October last year and has three fully automated production lines for single-use surgical masks with the capacity to produce 150,000 masks per day. HealthOne is now a well-established, Australian made personal protective equipment [PPE] business with its mask manufacturing, and is are hoping to expand its their business to other PPE items. It wants to lead the way in no longer relying on overseas countries to supply these critical medical products. Once again I to commend HealthOne for establishing a local, productive and successful business that helps to keep us safe through COVID.

ANGE ELDER

Mr DAVID HARRIS (Wyang) (20:04): I acknowledge local artist *This Is My Happy Place* Ange Elder for making our community a brighter place, seeing her pieces of vibrant artworks painted around town. Ange has been painting murals for over thirty years. She can design and create a mural uniquely for a particular site. You will find her vibrant positive murals at schools, cafes, restaurants, gyms and buildings. Her murals have the opportunity to tell the story of that particular area, creating a unique experience and appreciating the talent of the artist and the attractiveness of the space. Ange is a strong believer that what you see every day and what you think about become your reality, resulting in the creation of *This Is My Happy Place*. Art can be a positive boost for feeling good vibes. It can even change the structure and function of your brain. Ange's new mural at Wadalba Community School inspires interest in literature, featuring novels to beloved classics and modern favourites, such as *Romeo and Juliet*, *Hamlet*, *Soul Surfer* and *The Outsiders*. The pop art style artwork is designed to excite, entice and inspire.

JOHN WINTER

Mr ADAM MARSHALL (Northern Tablelands—Minister for Agriculture and Western New South Wales) (20:05): I recognise Northern Tablelands inventor John Winter, who has invented a biochar gasification plant that produces carbon-negative energy suitable for export as well as local use. Mr Winter's unique design sets his invention apart because it can scale up to whatever size is required. He is another example of Australian enterprise developed on farm and reaching global importance. I congratulate John on his invention and its potential for improving the environment through carbon-rich soil fertility, water-holding capacity and crop productivity. I commend John for his ingenuity and resourcefulness to meet a critical environmental need with a complex and sophisticated invention that may have international significance.

THE HEADSTONE PROJECT

Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland) (20:06): John Gillam and Yvonne Fletcher are dedicated to acknowledging and honouring the contribution of Australia's armed forces and service personnel in our nation's history. The Headstone Project estimates that as many as 12,000 World War I soldiers lie in unmarked graves across the world. In *Untraceable: The Mystery of the Forgotten Diggers* John and Yvonne have delved into the war records of many of these veterans whose medals were not forwarded to their families or next of kin. Their research provides an invaluable insight into the disconnection and devastation that wartime service has had on so many of our diggers and their families. I met with John and Yvonne recently. I am inspired by their passion for reconnecting families with their lost ancestors, and restoring their war medals to them or their communities where there is no-one left in the family. I congratulate John and Yvonne on yet another successful project, which goes far beyond printed words on a page, and which will rightly restore honour, dignity and pride to those who served our nation and reconnect them with those who were left behind.

AUSTRALIAN STREET ART AWARDS

Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra) (20:07): I congratulate the Bland Shire, which won two silver awards in the 2020 Australian Street Art Awards, which showcase regional Australia to domestic visitors through publicly accessible art. Tourism Australia is promoting See Australia First, with the art awards promoting a wide variety of street art to help people plan their next holiday in Australia. In the 2020 Best Landmark Sculpture category, the silver winner was West Wyalong's chainsaw art. The sculpture of a malleefowl and wedge-tailed eagle was commissioned through BK Carving and Bland Shire Council. For the 2020 category of Best Monument or Memorial, the silver award went to the Big Football in Ungarie. Australia's largest football can be found in Bing Wallder Park in Ungarie as a tribute to the Daniher brothers and their contribution to the Australian Football

League [AFL]. Brothers Chris, Terry, Anthony and Neale are the only set of four brothers to play together in the AFL, winning a premiership.

CENTRAL COAST BUSINESSES

Ms LIESL TESCH (Gosford) (20:08): I thank all those businesses across the Central Coast that have been transparent, supportive and fair as they support their employees during the very difficult transition away from JobKeeper. I am hearing many conversations on the Central Coast from business owners and leaders about the difficult times they face shedding staff, shifts and hours as JobKeeper leaves the coast and the promised tourism support has not arrived. With frightening business uncertainty and the unknown looming, many high-profile businesses are awaiting tender results and Federal, State and local government commitments to continue to invest in our community. I commend their patience and readiness. With our council in trouble, I commend our local businesses for their incredible effort in supporting employees and also coasties for doing their utmost to buy local. Tonight I send a massive shout-out to all of our chambers of commerce across the coast for their efforts to encourage all levels of government and coasties to invest in coast businesses and spend all their money in our fabulous community every single time.

OLDS PARK

Mr MARK COURE (Oatley) (20:09): I am pleased to update the House and extend my excitement as the upgrades to Field 2 at Olds Park are now complete. Thanks to a \$500,000 contribution from the New South Wales Government, this \$825,000 upgrade means that our Australian Football League stars, Penshurst West Cricket Club, and Little Athletics along with recreational users will now have access to a state-of-the-art field. A few years ago Olds Park looked like a desert. The surface was uneven, the grass was unable to grow and it was obviously affecting game play. In 2019 I made a promise to the St George community along with Penshurst Panthers, Penshurst West Cricket Club and Little Athletics that I would upgrade this ground as part of my election commitments and we have done just that. The newly updated field is now open and ready for action, much to the delight of players and spectators alike. I look forward to seeing the Penshurst West Cricket Club, Little Athletics and Penshurst Panthers enjoying this very new field as the season fast approaches.

WADALBA COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Mr DAVID HARRIS (Wyong) (20:10): Wadalba Community School is taking part in the Leukaemia Foundation's World's Greatest Shave in March with a group of staff members and students. The group have called themselves the Wadalba Winners and are aiming to raise \$3,000 before they go under the razor on 20 March, followed by a fundraiser barbecue and gold coin collection on the day. Principal Jason McGrath encouraged any community members who were in a position to donate to consider supporting the cause. Wadalba Winners have already raised \$1,080 as of 2 March. World's Greatest Shave is a fun and powerful way to unite the school community and learn important life lessons about empathy, humanity and community service. The students of today are the doctors, medical researchers, nurses and healthcare workers of tomorrow. Wadalba Community School is a fantastic K-12 school teaching wonderful values to young people.

HAMMONDGROVE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Ms MELANIE GIBBONS (Holsworthy) (20:11): I acknowledge the launch of HammondGrove Community Church. The new services will be held every fortnight at 4.00 p.m. Sunday in the village centre of HammondCare and will serve residents of Hammondville's independent living units. Mr Ian Wooley, HammondCare's Pastoral Care Coordinator, will be running the services. The services are not going to be specific to any denomination but will include elements such as singing, praying, fellowship, preaching and Bible reading. Until COVID regular Sunday services in Hammondville were held for over 80 years, so it is great to see the tradition that started with Reverend Hammond being continued through the HammondGrove Community Church in the new location of the village centre. Everyone is welcome to attend, and it is perfect for residents who have felt uneasy about venturing far from home due to COVID-19. Not only will it suit their needs but also it will serve as a perfect opportunity to be social and meet others.

CAROL SPARKS

Mr ADAM MARSHALL (Northern Tablelands—Minister for Agriculture and Western New South Wales) (20:12): I recognise the Mayor of Glen Innes Severn Council, Carol Sparks, for her courage and leadership during the 2019-20 fire season, for which she has been nominated for the McKinnon Prize in Emerging Political Leadership. In spite of great personal loss during that terrible fire season, Mayor Sparks continued to ensure her constituents received the best possible care and compensation, including in her role in the coalition of regional mayors. As much as this alone would qualify Carol for such an award, her consistent advocacy for her shire and her encouragement to further young ladies into politics is testament to her passion to see more good leaders come up through the ranks. I congratulate Mayor Sparks on the years she has given in government to her

district and the recognition she has earned as a valuable and prominent community leader. I commend her for the time she has given to her community and her fortitude displayed during immense personal loss

MAITLAND REGIONAL ART GALLERY

Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland) (20:13): On Friday I was delighted to attend Maitland Regional Art Gallery for its first major exhibition opening since COVID, the *Autumn Season Celebration*. I thank and congratulate all the artists on their amazing works, particularly the new and amazing inspirational virtual reality displays. It was lovely to see one of the first directors of the gallery, the honourable Margaret Sivyer, actually participating in this too, and someone who started this gallery work in our community being at the cutting edge of technology and experiencing it as a patron. I congratulate the inspiring director of the gallery, Dr Gerry Bobsien, chair and vice chair of the Friends of the Gallery, Sui-Linn White and Holly Fisher-Bidwell, as well as all the volunteers and staff for their hard work in ensuring that Maitland continues to have one of the foremost regional art galleries in the nation. I am privileged to serve as the patron of volunteers at Maitland Regional Art Gallery. Throughout the past year the creative industries have been amongst the hardest hit by the pandemic, but they have never let this set them back. I thank them for all the work they do to keep our community visually exciting and proud.

GOOLAGONG COURTS

Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra) (20:14): I was very proud to be invited to join members of Evonne Goolagong's family to open the new tennis courts at Barellan earlier this month. Barellan has a long proud history as the birthplace of the legendary Evonne Goolagong, a retired Australian professional tennis player. Ms Goolagong was one of the world's leading players in the 1970s and early 1980s. The Barellan community celebrated her achievements by naming the newly upgraded courts Goolagong Courts. The president of the Barellan tennis club, Louise Hornery, hopes the upgrading of the courts and lighting will increase participation in the sport and encourage new and old players to use the outstanding facilities. Learning of the history and enthusiasm for the revival of tennis at Barellan was wonderful.

CENTRAL COAST WOMEN'S HEALTH CENTRE

Ms LIESL TESCH (Gosford) (20:15): This evening I give a massive cheer for everyone involved in the Central Coast Women's Health Centre's International Women's Day event. I thank so much the amazing Elderslee Foundation for hosting the event at its beautiful and spectacular community theatre. I thank everyone who attended and particularly give a shout-out to the amazing guest speakers, Brenda Logan and Abbey Wilcox, and those who ran workshops, took photos, ushered, thanked speakers and contributed in their own generous ways—even the cooks and coffee servers in the background. I thank also Maori cultural group Mana Wahine Toa. I tried to translate what the group's name means: "strong female, be a brave woman, heroine power, love so much to my family". We are so lucky to have strong women on the coast. May the students of St Philip's—girls, young women—hold their heads high. We, as women, have come so far and are right beside them as we have so far still to go. Coastie women are strong and will continue to support each other.

RAISE FOUNDATION

Ms MELANIE GIBBONS (Holsworthy) (20:16): Today I recognise Raise Foundation, an organisation running a mentoring program for local schools. My electorate's Lucas Heights Community School has signed up to the program. Raise Foundation is a registered charity and has mentored over 6,300 students from high schools across the country and first launched in the local community in 2019. The program intervenes early and is offered to year 8 and 9 students who may be experiencing issues with confidence or having feelings of anxiety and depression. It focuses on helping young people to build confidence, self-esteem and resilience. It uses the mentors to help with access to services and other wellbeing programs. I wish Raise Foundation all the best in acquiring school mentors for its program and commend Lucas Heights Community School for signing up to such an important opportunity.

Community Recognition Notices

KYOGLE MOUNTAIN BIKE CLUB

Ms JANELLE SAFFIN (Lismore)—Mountain biking is a growth sport and very well catered for by the Kyogle Mountain Bike Club. Recently, I caught up with Kyogle MTB Club representatives Fiona and Paul Kerwin, Kyogle Mayor Cr Danielle Mulholland and Cr Janet Wilson to see how a \$118,371 Stronger Country Communities Fund Round 3 grant had enhanced facilities. We inspected how Kyogle Council had converted an existing BMX track in Kyogle's Anzac Park to an asphalt 'pump track', now extremely popular with local kids. This project also included three additional trails in the Kyogle Mountain Bike Park, located in Yongurra Road, Boorabee State Forest. This takes the total number of trails to six and this network of trails is a drawcard for locals

and tourists alike. Nick Bowman, who owns and operates South Australian-based Destination Trails but who has strong ties to Kyogle, constructed the new trails. I congratulate Club President Blair Cochran, Treasurer Lachlan Black and Secretary Fiona Kerwin on partnering with Kyogle Council to develop Stage 1. This committee runs club activities and special events in a very professional manner. They have a website which promotes the club, their sport and the natural charms of Kyogle extremely effectively.

TENTERFIELD HOSPITAL PALLIATIVE CARE

Ms JANELLE SAFFIN (Lismore)—The opening of a \$171,150 refurbishment of Tenterfield Hospital's dedicated palliative care place is a win for Tenterfield Shire residents. I congratulate all involved in the NSW Ministry of Health-funded minor works project, which has delivered two palliative care bedrooms, both fitted with ensuites, and a remodelled shared lounge area. While this palliative care place sits within a hospital setting, it is homely, ensures more privacy for patients and offers a nice environment for families and carers to be with their loved ones. The facility has been operational since November 30 last year and Hunter New England Local Health District wanted to show the local community how hospital staff are helping provide patients with comfortable, modern palliative care. Special thanks to Chairperson of the Tenterfield Cancer Care Group Thea McKenzie and her members for helping to supply the lounge area with tea and coffee facilities, a microwave oven, comfortable seating and tables. Joining me at the opening were Hunter New England LHD Chief Executive Michael DiRienzo, HNELH Executive Director Susan Heyman, Chairperson of the Local Health Committee Rebekah Kelly, Tenterfield Shire Mayor Cr Peter Petty and Deputy Mayor and Local Health Committee member Cr Greg Sauer.

ALBERT COLLINS

Ms TANIA MIHAILUK (Bankstown)—I had the pleasure last week to attend Mr Bert Collins 105th birthday at Bankstown RSL. Over the course of his life Mr Collins has recorded many impressive milestones. Bert is the oldest veteran from World War II in the community and remains highly active in his mission to honour the memories of his fellow soldiers, and was the oldest veteran to march on ANZAC Day in 2019. In 2020, Bert still stood at his front door to recite the ode and mark a minute of silence. Mr Collins will again be in attendance this ANZAC Day. Bert has been a member of the SDA Union for 90 years, a Labor Party member for 50 years, a lifelong ballroom dancer and has devoted his life to charity, including building and donating dollhouses for kids in our community. Bert has had a life marked by fortitude. During the war, he survived being hit by shrapnel and since returning he has survived a heart attack, a stroke, stage four cancer, and is indeed the oldest Australian to have survived skin cancer. I commend Bert on his remarkable and noble life and wish him a happy birthday.

BDAFA SEASON LAUNCH

Ms TANIA MIHAILUK (Bankstown)—I was honoured to attend the Bankstown District Amateur Football Association (BDAFA) season launch on 13 March 2021. The BDAFA runs competitions that allow teams from across the area to get involved in community sport, letting people of all ages attain the benefits of exercise and stay socially connected to those in their community. The BDAFA also oversees its representative team, the Bankstown United Football Club (BUFC), which was the top ranked youth program in the Bankstown region. It is an especially exciting year for the BDAFA as the involvement of women and girls has increased greatly since last year. The number of registrations already received are nearly double that of last year. The BDAFA proudly offers competitions that range in age from the 6/7s group on Saturdays to the All Ages Ladies Competitions on Sundays. I would like to thank the BDAFA Chairman Dimitri Hursalas, and the BDAFA Board of Directors, Laurie Warner, James Bowmaker, Andrew Skaltsounis, and Marianna Konidaris, as well as the General Manager, Leanne Millar for her invitation to the event.

JODI MAHER

Mrs TANYA DAVIES (Mulgoa)—In November last year, I had the opportunity to recognise Glenmore Park author, Jodi Maher who recently published her book 'An IVF Miracle from Mahers'. I am delighted to speak again on the ongoing success of Jodi's book since its release late last year. As of 20th December 2020, Jodi's book achieved No.1 New Release in Amazon America. Heading in to the New Year, as of 29th January, her book achieved No.1 Best Seller in the Embryology category on Amazon Australia. Jodi's book, 'An IVF Miracle from Mahers' is a look into her personal experience of becoming a mother after eleven rounds of IVF treatment. Her story reflects the intense physical and emotional journey that thousands of families across the country endure when trying to start their own family. This book has impacted the lives of many couples and continues to inspire all its readers. Congratulations Jodi on this fantastic achievement, thank you for the impact you have already made through your writing. I look forward to hearing of your next big success!

ARCHER PITTORINO

Mrs TANYA DAVIES (Mulgoa)—I would like to acknowledge the Pittorino Family and their son, seven-year-old St Clair resident, Archer Pittorino who has faced his share of difficulties even at a very young age. Archer is a brave, fun young boy who is currently battling High Risk T-cell CNS Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia. After not responding well to several chemotherapy treatments, Archer received an urgent bone marrow transplant from his Father, Michael, in October last year, making 2020 even more difficult than it already was. Archer's parents, Michael and Dianne have been unable to work between staying with Archer and looking after their other children. Their friends and the local community have now stepped in to raise funds to support them. A Go Fund Me page has been started by close friend, Marguerita Chaghoury and a charity golf day was organised by local Brett Islaub who introduced himself to the family when he came across a poster about their Go Fund Me page. Archer is an example of bravery and hope. I give my best wishes to the entire Pittorino family during this difficult time and I would also like to thank the community for their generosity.

BARRY ALCHIN

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla—Attorney General, and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence)—I congratulate Barry Alchin on his successful eight-year tenure as Chair of ShireBiz. As one of the founders, Mr Alchin has made a significant contribution to the growth of the organisation, which drives strategies for economic development in the Sutherland Shire and Southern Sydney. His firm advocacy was instrumental in establishing the ANSTO Innovation Precinct in Lucas Heights. The impressive precinct now comprises a graduate centre, innovation incubator and 200-hectare industrial park. Barry Alchin is also a Past President of the NSW Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Mr Alchin's achievements have been well recognised by governments, business and the community. He is someone who has combined a passion for science and innovation with a sense of service to his local community.

MACKENZIE BERNHORSTER AND CLAUDIA CHAPMAN

Ms SONIA HORNER (Wallsend)—Every minute of every day a child is admitted to hospital in Australia. Two local Year 6 girls from Glendore Public School, Mackenzie Bernhorster and Claudia Chapman, decided to do something to help brighten the lives of seriously ill children and their families. Mackenzie and Claudia, better known as the Blue Crew, decided to take part in the Super Swim Challenge. Their goal was to swim 40km in 30 days and raise money along the way for the Starlight Children's Foundation. When a once-bright life is dulled by needles, hospital visits and painful treatments, the Starlight Children's Foundation helps sick kids forget they're sick for a while and re-discover the joy of childhood. In just 30 days, Mackenzie and Claudia swam a total of 50.35km and raised \$2937, an incredible feat of physical endurance from these two young women. Early mornings and late afternoons at Coughlins Swim Centre at Warners Bay and Wallsend Pool, meant many hours of driving and watching for their patient parents, Andrew, Deborah, Michael and Beau. Congratulations Mackenzie and Claudia on smashing your goal and raising so much money for the Starlight Children's Foundation.

WALLSEND WOMAN OF THE YEAR

Ms SONIA HORNER (Wallsend)—It was my pleasure to award Suzie Ninevski as the 2021 Wallsend Woman of the Year. When the COVID-19 pandemic first hit, businesses started to close and job losses began to hit home. Suzie contacted me to offer help in any way she could, despite her own business facing trying times as a result of the lockdown. Suzie not only offered free financial and career advice to people impacted by COVID-related shutdowns, she also provided \$1000 worth of vouchers to be distributed to those in need as the lockdown progressed. This was such a wonderful show of community spirit and as a result, Suzie was recognised by the Recruitment, Consulting and Staffing Association, as the Australian & New Zealand COVID-19 Hero. The award celebrates human endeavour, leadership and resilience in the face of an unprecedented challenge. Suzie is one of the people who has stood up and shone when it was needed. Suzie was also a National Finalist in the RCSA Rising Star 2020 Award category. Congratulations Suzie on adding the Wallsend Woman of the Year to your long list of achievements. I can think of no one more deserving of this award.

GREATER SYDNEY PARKS FORUM

Dr MARJORIE O'NEILL (Coogee)—On Wednesday, 17th of February I hosted the Greater Sydney Parks forum in the Jubilee Room of NSW Parliament and today, I wish to thank all those community members that engaged in this important discussion. The forum focused on the importance of our living, social and built heritage, contained within our parklands and green spaces across Sydney. These parklands include Centennial Park, Moore Park and Queens Park, which sit in and along the edge of my electorate and are visited and enjoyed by thousands of people from my community, each and every day and by over 30 million people each year. These parks are the lungs of our city and discussing how we can ensure their protection and safeguarding for current and future generations is an essential conversation. I would like to thank all of the community groups involved in the

forum, the Save Sydney Coalition, Better Planning Network, Keep Sydney Beautiful, Saving Sydney's Trees, Total Environment Centre, Better Planning Network and Save Sydney's Koalas. I would also like to acknowledge the tireless advocacy work of Katheryn Grusovin, Jane Grusovin and Maria Bradley and thank them for being the driving force behind the forum.

RANDWICK RITZ AND JEWISH INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

Dr MARJORIE O'NEILL (Coogee)—Designed and built in 1937, the Randwick Ritz is an icon of the Eastern Suburbs, and beloved by my community in the Coogee electorate. For generations this wonderful cinema has been a thriving social hub for locals but the cinema has also played a key role in fundraising for countless local community groups, charities and volunteer organisations across the Eastern Suburbs. The COVID-19 pandemic has however been tough for independent cinemas all across Australia, including the Ritz. Despite these challenges, the Ritz continues to host a wide variety of community events and screen fantastic films from made here in Australia and abroad. On Thursday, 18th of February, I attended the Ritz, attending the opening of the Jewish International Film Festival. This event is a brilliant celebration of the extraordinary cinema being created in Israel and by the Jewish diaspora. This year's festival features a diverse program of film, including the feature film *Incitement*, an exhilarating and award-winning drama about the assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. I encourage everyone who can to drop in to the Ritz, grab some popcorn, and support one of our fantastic local businesses.

PUBLIC DENTAL HEALTH WORKERS

Mr PAUL LYNCH (Liverpool)—I recognise those who work in public dental health. The week of 8 March was public dental health week. This is an opportunity to recognise the important work carried out by these workers. These vital roles and those that perform them, should be supported, respected and resourced. Good oral health is important for a person's general health and well-being. Public dental health workers play a significant role in supporting good oral health. And, as with other workers, they have had to negotiate new safety processes as a result of the COVID 19 pandemic.

EDDIE YOUNGBLOOD

Mr STEPHEN BROMHEAD (Myall Lakes)—I commemorate and celebrate the life of Eddie Youngblood who sadly passed away from lung cancer earlier this month. Eddie was a bright light in our community best known as a multi award winning Elvis Tribute artist, he'd performed from Vegas, to being the first feature artist at Parkes Elvis Festival and even the 1991 NRL Grand Final. Tributes to the great showman describe his performances as dynamic and full of energy, saying Eddie was a man with style, charm, good looks and a tasteful professional manner. Eddie became an integral part of the Forster-Tuncurry community through his role as marketing and entertainment manager for Club Forster. Since his passing he's been remembered by colleagues as an extraordinary person who possessed a deep passion, pride and commitment to his work. In his personal life Eddie was an adored husband, cherished brother and friend who will be dearly missed. I express my deepest condolences to Eddie's family and friends during this difficult time.

HANNAH CARMICHAEL

Mr STEPHEN BROMHEAD (Myall Lakes)—I rise to recognise the bravery of Hannah Carmichael, the thirteen year old Forster Surf Life Saving Club member recently went above and beyond the call of duty rescuing a swimmer from an unpatrolled section of One Mile beach. The young surf life saver was surfing at One mile beach at the end of February when she witnessed a man entering the water directly into a rip. The teen has kept a keen eye on the man as she continued surfing concerned by the water conditions. After a few big waves rolled through Hannah observed that the man was, stuck in the rip and struggling to keep his head above water. At this point Hannah has jumped into action signalling to her mother on the beach before paddling over to assist the man who was becoming increasingly exhausted as he attempted to swim against the rip. The teen helped the man onto her board before paddling him out of the rip and safely back to shore. I again commend Hannah for quick thinking and bravery, which allowed her to assist the swimmer to safety.

ULLADULLA MEN'S SHED

Mrs SHELLEY HANCOCK (South Coast—Minister for Local Government)—In recent years, I have been pleased to be able to secure \$111,361 from the NSW Government for the Ulladulla Men's shed which has enabled them to expand their facilities for their growing members. This investment has delivered a large open area for woodwork activities to take place, an assembly room, storage and amenities, and a metal work area. At the opening of the Ulladulla Men's shed earlier this year I was advised that solar panels would be a great addition to keep the power bills low. I was very pleased to visit again with Premier last month where she provided an additional grant for \$3,691 to enable the purchase and installation of solar panels. It came as a great surprise to members. Everyone at the Men's Shed does such fantastic work, but I particularly acknowledge President Graham

Davidson, Secretary Barrie Wilford and Treasurer Max Young. I am delighted to support the Ulladulla Men's Shed and thank them for their ongoing contribution to our community.

DARRYL HAMILTON

Mr EDMOND ATALLA (Mount Druitt)—I wish to congratulate Mr Darryl Hamilton on being awarded the 2020 Blacktown Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Citizen of the year award. Mr Hamilton has served as the Aboriginal Community Liaison officer with the Mount Druitt police department for over 2 decades. He also works in the Breaking Barriers Fitness program, which aims to direct Aboriginal youths in our communities down more fulfilling paths in life. Mr Hamilton's dedication to his work has played a vital role in assisting my community and I wish to thank and congratulate him on his award. He is most deserving of this award for his accomplishments.

MICHELLE MAYS

Mr GREG WARREN (Campbelltown)—There are so many women in the Campbelltown community who repeatedly go above and beyond. Every year, the Local Woman of the Year Award presents a great opportunity to acknowledge one of those individuals. It was an absolute pleasure to recently announce that WILMA Women's Health Centre manager, Michelle Mays, was this year's recipient. For many, many years, Michelle has dedicated herself towards helping women throughout our community – particularly those who are vulnerable or in need of assistance. I have spoken several times in this place about the excellent work WILMA do. The role Michelle plays in coordinating the centre and ensuring it operates efficiently and effectively, can never be understated. The number of services offered at the centre is a testament to how hard Michelle and the entire team at WILMA work. Some of those services include: depression and anxiety counselling; sexual assault counselling; domestic violence counselling; alcohol and drug use counselling; natural therapies; and access to a women's health nurse. The centre really does fill an enormous void in terms of services for women in our local area. On behalf of the Campbelltown community, congratulations once again Michelle on an award that is incredibly well-deserved.

JAN AND NOEL DRAYTON

Mr GREG WARREN (Campbelltown)—One of the most satisfying parts of being the Member for Campbelltown is the fact that I get to celebrate and acknowledge the incredible milestones of local residents. That was the case recently with Jan and Noel Drayton when they celebrated their 60th anniversary. To mark the occasion invited Jan and Noel into my electorate office to have a celebratory morning tea. It was a small gesture on my behalf to recognise the huge achievement of the Draytons. The couple of well-known in our local community. Jan has been heavily involved in the Campbelltown Hospital and was also named presented with a Community Service Award in 2019. Together, the couple have dedicated many years towards helping others particularly in Campbelltown. It was a pleasure to be able to give something back to the Draytons and to acknowledge their very special milestone. To Jan and Noel, I hope you both enjoy many more years of marital bliss together. On behalf of the entire Campbelltown community, congratulations once again on celebrating 60 years of marriage. An incredible achievement by two incredible people.

AMY RIDDELL'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

Mr LEE EVANS (Heathcote)—I take this opportunity to extend my best wishes and congratulations to a constituent Mrs Amy Riddell on the occasion of her 100th birthday. She celebrated this incredible milestone on the 26th of February 2021. Turning a century is truly a momentous occasion and I hope your special day was filled with immense love and laughter amongst your closest family and friends. Wishing you a healthy and peaceful life.

MAJOR UPGRADE FOR ST IVES HIGH SCHOOL

Mr JONATHAN O'DEA (Davidson)—All students deserve innovative learning spaces and modern facilities, so I am pleased that St Ives High School, located in my electorate of Davidson, has recently completed a \$25 million major upgrade to its facilities. The upgrade includes a new sports centre with two courts, two new learning spaces, a fitness lab, as well as seminar room. It also delivers refurbished technical and applied studies facilities. These improvements will enhance the learning environment in the school and encourage health and fitness to students and staff. I commend everyone involved in the completion of this project, including Principal Mark Watson, all members of the school community leadership, local community residents for their patience, and the NSW Government for its financial backing.

VALE, DR BARBARA WALKER

Mr JONATHAN O'DEA (Davidson)—I acknowledge the recent sad passing of an outstanding person from Roseville in my electorate of Davidson, Dr Barbara Walker. Barbara was born in 1952 and moved to the

area in 1994, where she worked over many years to achieve the Heritage Conservation Area status. This involved major contributions relating to the Ku-ring-gai Council Heritage Committee and planning matters. In 1998, Barbara was diagnosed with breast cancer, but eventually overcame the condition and continued to work as a GP until 2015, when she retired to look after her father. I remember visiting Barbara's home to discuss the protection of Roseville's heritage and character when it was threatened under the previous Labor Government. She worked hard for recognition of local conservation zones, which only occurred with the change of government. I acknowledge Barbara's substantial contribution to my local community over the years, and offer condolences to her family and friends, including her husband, Bruce, and her two children, Alice and Cameron. Vale Barbara Walker.

WOMEN'S VILLAGE COLLECTIVE

Ms TAMARA SMITH (Ballina)—I recognise the Women's Village Collective whose members work to highlight and help solve the unaffordable housing and homelessness for women crisis in the Northern Rivers. It was founded by Sama Balson in response a woman being rejected from a rental property because she had a baby. The Collective's mission is to alleviate the plight of women in our community who lack safe and secure housing. It has evolved into a movement of more than 1,000 local women actively working with key organisations and elected representatives to find innovative ways to provide women in our community safe, secure and affordable housing. The Collective organised a Community Forum on International Women's Day that brought together stakeholders to discuss the impact of the housing crisis on vulnerable, often elderly, women in the region. To illustrate the crisis the Collective created an installation in Railway Park in Byron called "Hung out to dry". It comprised hundreds of dresses representing homeless women and was designed to awaken empathy from professionals, philanthropists, developers, land-owners, homeowners, companies and community members, to encourage them to be part of the solution. I congratulate the Women's Village Collective for their service to our community.

CHARLIE JOHNS

Mr NATHANIEL SMITH (Wollondilly)—It is with sadness that I draw to the Parliament's attention the passing of Charlie Johns, a long-time Wollondilly resident and fundraiser, who passed away on January 10 this year. Charlie was an active member of the Southern Highlands community and fought hard to campaign for local matters that affected those around him. He performed many roles in the community including as Mittagong Chamber of Commerce President, the Southern Highlands Ratepayers' Association Secretary, the Southern Highlands Arts and Recreation Committee (SHARK) Secretary, as well as being an active supporter of the Kollege of Knowledge for Kids Committee (4Ks). Charlie was a key campaigner in preventing the demolition of the Mittagong Bowling Club through his involvement with the Stop Environmental Vandalism (Saving Mittagong Bowling Club). Charlie was an enthusiastic football fan and was a proud supporter of the Bowral Blacks Rugby Club. Charlie's big heart and community-minded spirit will be sorely missed. I offer my condolences to Charlie's wife Liz and their family and friends.

JAY ALLEN, OAM

Mr NATHANIEL SMITH (Wollondilly)—Australians, particularly those in my electorate of Wollondilly, are well-known for their battler spirit. It's that attitude that says that any ordinary person can fight in their own corner with determination, even in the face of serious difficulties and challenges. Jay Allen is one of those Wollondilly battlers, fighting melanoma in his own life, and then working tirelessly to fight for others. Mr Allen was diagnosed with skin cancer more than a decade ago, and through his own brush with death was inspired to help others who have suffered from the deadly disease. He created the Melanoma March, walking various distances around Australia to help raise money and awareness for the Melanoma Institute. In recognition of his contributions to melanoma research funding and awareness, Mr Allen has been included in this year's Australia Day Honours List and has received an Order of Australia Medal. He has helped to raise more than one million dollars for melanoma research in the last decade, was the subject of a TV documentary. He has now finished working with the Melanoma Institute and is moving into education work as "The Melanoma Man". I would like to thank Mr Allen for his generous spirit in helping to raise awareness of this terrible disease and by doing so, saving countless lives.

RETURN AND EARN

Mr RAY WILLIAMS (Castle Hill)—I would like to take this opportunity to thank all my constituents who have utilised the 6 Return and Earn machines that exist within my Electorate. As of December last year over 43 million containers had been returned, saving many bottles and cans from becoming litter and damaging our natural environment. The scheme means that \$4 million has also been returned to the local community, with the money being used as pocket money for local children, as well as being collected by sports clubs, girl guides, scouts and family groups. Of particular note is the Return and Earn at Woolworths Kellyville, which has amassed

14 million returns, as well as Aventus Castle Hill with 5 million, The Centre Dural with 6 million, Woolworths North Kellyville with 3 and a half million, Kellyville Village with 6 million and Home Co Rouse Hill with 8 and a half million returns. This is part of the 5.2 billion returns across New South Wales, an effort the whole community should be congratulated for.

THE FIDDLER ROUSE HILL

Mr RAY WILLIAMS (Castle Hill)—I would like to take this opportunity to recognise a \$100,000 donation by local tavern, The Fiddler, to 4 RFS brigades within the Hills. \$25,000 was given to each of the Oakville Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade, Rouse Hill Fire and Emergency Fund, Kellyville Fire and Emergency Fund and Nelson Bush Fire Brigade. Located in the heart of Rouse Hill since 1826, the donation is just another example of how community oriented the tavern is, and I know the money will go to good use within the Rural Fire Service branches in upgrading equipment to be better prepared for the types of bushfires we saw last summer. Tara Bonser, who took over as Acting General Manager in April last year, has done a fantastic job in managing the difficulties associated with running a hospitality venue in COVID Times, and the fact that room was still found in the budget for such a selfless donation is testament to the managerial skill and altruism of all involved.

WEDDIN COMMUNITY SERVICES

Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra)—I would like to recognise the wonderful work of the Weddin Community Services team who celebrated 25 years' service recently. The Service then known as Weddin Shire Neighbourhood Aid was formed in 1995. The service offered social support to the Weddin community assisting the elderly, the disabled and their carer's. Over the years the services have been increased to include a newsletter, bus trips, handyman services, leisure groups, community luncheons, Cinema trips and art and craft groups. The team now comprises Community transport merged with Cowra & Young and Neighbour Aid/Social Support under the banner of Weddin Community Services Inc. Funding has been instrumental with the scope of what can be provided but at the heart of this organisation is the people, willing to give of their time to support the community and provide much needed assistance to all in need. My congratulations to the Weddin Community Services team on 25 years' service to their Community.

ANDREW AND NICHOLA BAKER OF GRENFELL – FARMING EXCELLENCE AWARD

Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra)—I would like to recognise the amazing work of Andrew and Nichola Baker who were amongst 60 finalists and more than 500 entries in the running for the 2020 Farming Excellence Award. The Farming Excellence Award is a trophy that is awarded to the team who may not have won a crop award, but have proven to be the most efficient in management of the crop, property and overall farming program. Andrew and Nichola were placed fourth in the Central Zone just short of third place. Their mixed farming enterprise includes all members of their family and their farm consistently grows high yielding crops based on rotation utilising their crops and pastures, showing efficiency in management of the crop, property and ensuring an overall farming program. My congratulations to Andrew and Nichola for their achievement in being selected for this prestigious award.

LORNE RESIDENTS PLANT 5000 NATIVE TREES

Mrs LESLIE WILLIAMS (Port Macquarie)—Today I acknowledge the sensational conservational efforts of the community of Lorne for planting over 5000 trees through the WIRES and Landcare Wildlife Relief and Recovery Grants. Residents of Lorne, Dale and Taliska Arentsen are one of 24 landholders in the area that have undertaken a mammoth task of restoring koala habitat in a region severely impacted by the 2019-2020 summer bushfires. Guided by Hastings Landcare's, Peter Fitzroy and his team, the project aims to create additional food resources for koalas while rehabilitating the natural environment and supporting sustainable land management practices. Since partaking in the project, Dale and Taliska have planted an astounding 200 native trees on their property from saplings generously donated by the Port Macquarie Koala Hospital. Protecting koala habitat and rejuvenating the land is a passion I share with the Arentsen family who are being rewarded for their efforts seeing the plants mature and evolve to produce wildlife havens and food sources for our native species. This is a wonderful funding initiative by WIRES and Landcare Australia to enable new habitat for our koala population living on the Mid North Coast.

AUSTRALIA NATIONAL FIELD HOCKEY CHAMPIONSHIPS

Mrs LESLIE WILLIAMS (Port Macquarie)—I rise to congratulate young hockey sensations, Maddi Drewitt and siblings Bayden and Emersyn Smith for their recent selection to compete in the Australia National Field Hockey Championships. It has been a difficult 12 months for sporting organisations across the country as COVID-19 restrictions have significantly impacted training schedules and events in order to comply with public health order. For Maddi Drewitt her selection into the 2020 New South Wales Hockey side was sadly cut short with all major sporting codes ceasing operations to maintain the health and safety of their players. Fast-forward

12 months, Maddie is more determined than ever to accomplish her goals in hockey and if results are anything to go by she is going from strength to strength as she prepares to compete in the under-18 program in 2021. Joining Maddie on her crusade in April to rub shoulders with the State's best and brightest in Launceston Tasmania will be local teen Bayden Smith, after he was selected for his talents to play in the Blue's team. Emersyn Smith is also on track to add to her achievements in hockey competing in Bathurst in April for the under-15 side state representatives. Congratulations.

MULTICULTURAL COMMUNITY GARDEN

Mr GUY ZANGARI (Fairfield)—I was recently welcomed by the CNA-Italian Australian Services for the official opening of the Multicultural Community Garden in Bossley Park. I was accompanied by my Parliamentary colleagues the Hon. Anne Stanley MP, Federal Member for Werriwa and Dr Hugh McDermott, State Member for Prospect. This project could not have been possible without the assistance of Club Marconi through the Club Grants Program and Fairfield City Council. Community gardens are a great way for people to come together and share their skills and knowledge of all things gardening. They are also a means of providing fresh, affordable produce while at the same time allowing people to interact, socialise and work together. They are also a means of providing fresh, affordable produce while at the same time allowing people to interact, socialise and work together. I would like to thank Mr Giovanni Testa MLO, President of the CNA-Italian Australian Services for welcoming us all on the day. It was a very successful event and I would like to wish all our gardeners the very best of luck with their produce.

IRAQI AUSTRALIAN UNIVERSITY GRADUATES FORUM AUSTRALIA DAY CELEBRATIONS

Mr GUY ZANGARI (Fairfield)—The Iraqi Australian University Graduates Forum (IAUGF) in collaboration with the Association of Iraqi Academics in Australia and New Zealand held the Annual HSC Student Achievers' Ceremony at Mounties. The event also coincided with Australia Day Celebrations which was sponsored by the Australia Day Council. This year's Australia Day theme 2021 was "Reflect, Respect, Celebrate". The IAUGF support and promote academic excellence in the community. They encourage youth to study hard to achieve their best during school and University studies. During the event local and interstate Iraqi health care workers were acknowledged for their work during the Covid-19 pandemic. The Iraqi community in Australia has a proud tradition of contributing towards the health profession. As always all IAUGF celebrations showcase talented individuals through their performances in poetry, song, music and dance. I wish to extend my congratulations to the President of IAUGF Dr Bushra Alobaidi, Executive Member Husam Shkara and committee members for hosting a well organised Australia Day Celebration.

HAPPY 90TH BIRTHDAY MAX RAY

Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland)—Happy birthday Max Ray, Maitland's 2012 Citizen of the Year, recipient of Maitland's 2008 NSW Volunteer Community Service Award and a McKell award in 2017, who turned 90 on recently. An Honorary Member of the SDA, since 1991, Max joined the Union in 1962. Max racked up an incredible 134 years' of volunteering, serving as Treasurer for East Maitland Men's Probus for 18 years, East Maitland Branch of the ALP for 12 years, Bruce Street Community Hall as Treasurer for 12 years and Secretary of local Masonic Lodges for a total period of 67 years. Max is still an active member of the East Maitland Branch of the Labor Party and Lodge Wallis Plains. Max grew up in Barraba, and started work in DMR (Main Roads) in Sydney on £2/8/6 a week, but as he said to me recently, "you couldn't afford a house on that money!" Max and his wife Maureen eventually moved to Maitland in 1960, where they lived together until Maureen passed away on 29 November 2016. Max we wish you Happy Birthday and thank you for your long service to our community!

ALEK SCHULHA

Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland)—I acknowledge Alek Schulha, for his dedication and passion in preserving the memory and historical significance of the Greta Migrant Camp. From 1949 to 1960 the camp housed more than 100,000 displaced persons from 18 war-torn European nations. The roots of Australia's modern multicultural society are found within the stories of those who came to the camp. Alek's parents, Peter and Nada, came to Greta in 1949, and worked as a bus driver and a hospital interpreter, respectively. Alek was born in the camp in 1951, and went on to work as a Newcastle Herald journalist, and author the best-selling book, *Beneath the Shadows of Mount Molly Morgan*. For this project he undertook thousands of hours of interviews, to document the triumph and tragedies of life in the migrant camp. Alek also serves as the Vice President of the Hunter Multicultural Communities, and I offer my thanks for his outstanding commitment to community service in the Maitland region. The land where the camp once stood was recently sold. I share Alek's hope that the new owners will add a monument that celebrates the Greta Migrant Camp, to share the site's historical significance with future generations.

HELENE GATLAND

Ms TAMARA SMITH (Ballina)—I recognise the achievement of Helene Gatland, whose unwavering dedication to providing quality childcare has been acknowledged in the 2020 Excellence in Family Day Care Awards. Helene was selected from more than 5600 nominees as the ACT/NSW Educator National Finalist, and also took home the Regional Educator of the Year award for Lismore and the Far North Coast region, which are hosted by Family Day Care Australia. Helene has been operating her service — Le Cocon Family Day Care — since shortly after arriving in Lennox Head in 2015, but her passion for providing exceptional childcare began many years before in her hometown of Toulouse, France, where she earned a degree in child psychology. She has worked internationally as a child psychologist, teacher, child-carer, nanny, family coach and, currently, educator. Helene credits her award to the love and support she receives from the children she cares for and their families, but her parent/clients believe her success is a result of the love she shows for the children in her care. The Ballina electorate is fortunate to have a talented and committed person working in this crucial sector, and I am pleased to recognise her accomplishments.

MACEDONIAN AUSTRALIAN WELFARE ASSOCIATION

Mr MARK COURE (Oatley)—I am honoured to recognise the Macedonian Australian Welfare Association for all their continued hard work for the past 35 years across the St George region. Last year, I recognised the organisation with a Community Group Award as part of the St George Community Awards. I also presented Roza Georgieva and Zorica Nikolova with individual awards for their commitment to assisting those in need. The St George Community Awards are an annual program that recognise hard working men, women and youth who go above and beyond every day to give back to their community. The Macedonian Welfare Association runs a number of services including physical assistance to elderly and vulnerable individuals and mental health services. So many members love these services and popular programs include meditation, art activities and social outings to connect members with the wider community. I would again like to congratulate the entire organisation on everything they have achieved in the past 35 years and I wish them many more years of success in the future.

KATRINA HAYLER

Mr MARK COURE (Oatley)—Speaker, I am proud to acknowledge the achievement of an inspiring young woman from St Georges High School who last year won the under-18 category of the 2020 RD Walshe Memorial Writing Competition. The competition is run by the Sutherland Shire Environmental Centre and Katrina won the Environmental Prize for her moving speech on the topic "I am Earth". From a young age her parents Antonio and Peter Hayler were always encouraging her to 'think about and respect the environment'. This is where she developed her love for bushwalking and observing the natural environment. Every day she walks her two dogs in the abundant bushland that surrounds her Lugarno home. The national writing competition honours the founder of the Sutherland Shire Environmental Centre, Mr Bob Walshe, who unfortunately passed away in 2018. The judges were touched by Katrina's 'poetic story' on the importance of environmental conservation and I am delighted to note that there were over 80 entries to the competition. Well done Katrina, I wish you all the best and I hope you continue your passion for writing and the environment in the future.

SUGAR PINES

Dr JOE McGIRR (Wagga Wagga)—Once known as the "Pine Cathedral" and the "Fairytale Forest", the iconic Sugar Pine Walk was one of the most photographed tourist spots in NSW before it was devastated by the Dunns Road bushfire. Sadly, the damage to this beautiful part of Bago State Forest near Batlow was so extensive that the Forestry Corporation was left with no choice but to remove the fire-damaged trees. But now, thanks to the dedication of people like Jamie Gould and his family from Gould's Nursery at Batlow, a new generation of sugar pines is being carefully nurtured. Mr Gould and his family, with the blessing of Forestry Corporation, have been able to propagate the beginnings of a new pine planting after carefully gathering seedlings that sprouted naturally under a patch of 1930s sugar pine trees close to the famous attraction. In all, they managed to gather up about 1700 seedlings. The bulk of these will be replanted as a replacement to the former Sugar Pine Walk, with almost 200 also donated to the National Arboretum in Canberra for their botanical collection. It is wonderful to think that, one day, we will once again see sugar pines soaring in the Snowy Valleys.

NEIL DAVIS 90TH BIRTHDAY

Mr MATT KEAN (Hornsby—Minister for Energy and Environment)—Today I would like to acknowledge Neil Davis of Berowra who recently celebrated his 90th birthday. Neil who has lived in Berowra for 87 years first moved to the suburb with his family from Dubbo in 1933. When his father Robert Davis took on the role as Berowra Railway Station Master. He married his beautiful wife Merle in 1954 and they built their home in Waratah Road in Berowra, where they still live today. Neil who is a qualified plumber worked for Hornsby Council for 25 years as a plant operator before retiring in 1996. He has four children Mark, Janelle, Clint and

Michelle, 11 grandchildren and 9 great grandchildren, many who live in the local area. Neil celebrated this milestone in his beautiful backyard surrounded by family and friends. Happy 90th Birthday Neil!

INNOCLUB

Dr JOE McGIRR (Wagga Wagga)—Every journey begins with a single step. In Wagga Wagga recently, the InnoClub organisation took a few steps towards assisting our veterans, by holding an InnoClub pitch day. The initiative has been developed to assist modern veterans develop their business ideas and support their innovation. In association with Wagga Wagga RSL and sub-branch, this was the first regional pitch day in NSW. During the event, we heard details about eight inspiring projects presented by 10 veterans. The veterans and some spouses also took part in a six-day entrepreneurship course. I commend Alistair Mills, Elizabeth Thomson, Tony Wennerborn, Mark Nelson, Nigel McMullen, Steve Batcheldor, Tim Lewis, Steve Barker and Jason Frost who brought forward their ideas. Ultimately, Mr Lewis was successful in gaining a \$1000 seed funding grant for the Veteran Brewing Company, which would make craft beer and give 75 percent of profits to veteran causes and businesses. Our veterans have given so much of themselves in service to our nation. This is a great way that we can support them in return. It is great to see InnoClub forming a national business eco-system for veterans, and I wish them all the best.

LYN MCCRINDLE, OAM

Mr MATT KEAN (Hornsby—Minister for Energy and Environment)—Today I would like to acknowledge Lyn McCrindle of Pennant Hills who received her OAM on Australia Day this year. Lyn has made a significant contribution to the education landscape of our local area and this is a well-deserved honour. Lyn was the foundation teacher at the Pennant Hills Christian School. The school opened with just 8 students in two rooms and she taught every single subject. The school continued to grow and moved out to Dural to become Pacific Hills Christian School. Today the school has over 1400 students and 6 campuses across the state. Lyn spent 17 years in the classroom at Pacific Hills and another 14 years serving on the school board. She has more recently assisted former student Matthew Hillier with the creation of CMI Aid. An organisation which delivers shipping containers of supplies to some of the poorest villages in Eastern Europe. Lyn has taught and inspired thousands of children who have passed through her classroom and I thank her for her service not just to the Hornsby community but around the world.

ELIZABETH ELENIOUS

Mr ALEX GREENWICH (Sydney)—On behalf of the Sydney electorate, I wish to put on record the thanks for the long term work and advocacy of Elizabeth Elenius of Pymont. As an early resident in the newly redeveloped Jacksons Landing, Elizabeth has been a strong advocate for government and council to fulfil their roles providing the infrastructure that residents need – and has done this for more than two decades. She has been a driving force in local resident group Pymont Action and numerous consultative groups and bodies. Elizabeth reliably commits to assessing the numerous plans and strategies for the peninsula, and actively representing community concerns to decision makers. Elizabeth has strong focus on the environment, with involvements in the local Landcare group as well as broader campaign groups working to protect the natural world that sustains us. I nominated Elizabeth as the 2021 Sydney Electorate Woman of the Year to recognise her ongoing community work and advocacy, and to thank Elizabeth for her contribution to the Pymont community. She has made sure that residents' needs and concerns are always in front of decision makers.

CAROLE TWIST

Mr ALEX GREENWICH (Sydney)—On behalf of the Sydney electorate, I wish to put on record thanks for many years of unpaid community work by Carole Twist, backed by her partner Brian Delaney. When Carole moved to Pymont, she found herself helping new residents settle into the newly developing area, connecting people, sorting problems, finding resources and organising events like seniors' bus trips and a Women's Art Group. She has been a key member of numerous local bodies, including the Mustard Seed Church and regularly part of the annual Anzac Day service and carols. Carole established and managed the Ultimo Op Shop, with a knack for finding the right thing people needed. Clover Moore, then local MP, recognised Carole's contribution to the community by nominating her as 2012 electorate Woman of the Year. I've known Carole as a community stalwart who cannot let someone in need go without help, and who make sure that elected community representatives do our job getting the services and facilities the community needs. I thank Carole and Brian for their many years as community builders and their ongoing efforts to make their community a great place to live for everyone.

PLUMTREE CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Ms JO HAYLEN (Summer Hill)—For over 30 years, Plumtree in Marrickville has provided essential support to inner west kids with developmental delay or disability, and their families. Like so many other organisations, the wonderful staff at Plumtree were forced to pivot during the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure the

vulnerable kids and families in their community continued to be supported and engaged. Staff hosted a number of online events and playgroups throughout the pandemic, including a morning tea and disco via zoom, Music Together with Amanda, and artplay online. These events were tailored to meet each child's needs and enabled all kids to continue playing and learning in a safe, engaging and accessible way. I acknowledge the wonderful and expert staff at Plumtree, led by Sylvana Mahmic, who strive to make sure kids and families don't feel isolated, but rather connected, supported and informed. Thank you to all the wonderful early childhood educators, staff and disability support workers at Plumtree Children's Services for helping little inner westies stay engaged and connected during the pandemic and beyond.

JOHN COLEMAN

Ms JO HAYLEN (Summer Hill)—Local inner west historian and author, John Coleman, has written a new book shedding light on the lives of fallen inner west soldiers who died during WW1. They Shall not Grow Old shares the stories of the servicemen memorialised at the Holy Trinity Anglican Church in Dulwich Hill, telling the tragic stories of the over 50 inner west men who died on the battlefields, never to return home. John aims to provide schools and the community with an inner west perspective of WWI, allowing people to hear stories about their forebearers who lived and walked on the streets they live on today. With the help of Petersham RSL and with assistance from the Australian War Memorial archives, John has been able to create an engaging and thoughtfully illustrated tribute to the men and their families, revealing a little known piece of local and Australian history. 100 copies of the book will be distributed to local high schools, primary schools, RSLs, community libraries, local historical groups, and to the Holy Trinity Anglican Church. Congratulations and thank you John for creating a wonderful historical resource and for sharing the lost stories of fallen inner west WWI soldiers.

NEWROZ

Mr JAMIE PARKER (Balmain)—Today I bring to the attention of the House the Kurdish community who are celebrating Newroz at this time of year. This evening I will have the pleasure of co-hosting the Newroz or Kurdish New Year celebrations here at NSW Parliament. Newroz is the celebration of the spring equinox and is one of the most important festivals in Kurdish culture. Kurdish communities mark the start of spring with traditional food, fireworks, singing, dancing and poetry. I especially want to acknowledge Mr Brusk Aeiveri and Ms Gulfer Olan Co-Chairs of Democratic Kurdish Community Centre of NSW and Ismet Tastan who organised the event and is a community leader. Celebrating the diverse traditions and cultures of our community is one of the greatest privileges of representing the Balmain Electorate. I know I speak on behalf of everyone in the Balmain Electorate when I thank the Kurdish community for making our community a more vibrant place to live.

LLOYD POLKINGHORNE

Mrs HELEN DALTON (Murray)—Today I would like to recognise and congratulate Lloyd Polkinghorne of Barham. Lloyd is a third-generation mixed irrigator turned newspaper owner and editor as well as an advocate against the Murray Darling Basin Plan. In 2020, Lloyd decided to raise awareness and to tell the story of what was happening to communities, businesses, farms and environments in northern Victoria and southern New South Wales as a result of the Murray Darling Basin Plan. Lloyd walked a total of 303 kilometres from Barham to the Hume Dam. Along the way, Lloyd spoke with communities about their experiences with the Murray Darling Basin Plan, giving them a much-needed voice. Lloyd's hard-work and dedication to ensuring the voice of rural communities is heard is to be celebrated.

LINDSAY CANE AM

Mr ROY BUTLER (Barwon)—For the past 10 years, Lindsay Cane AM has lead Royal Far West as their Chief Executive. With Lindsay at the helm, Royal Far West has established itself as financially robust, nimble, respected, and acknowledged for its clinical excellence. Lindsay has lead with great skill, administrative flair and importantly passionate belief in the mission of Royal Far West – to improve the health and wellbeing of children and young people who live in rural and remote communities. Lindsay has taken Royal Far West from an organisation of 90 staff to one with over 250. In 2011, Royal Far West supported 800 country kids and their families, and in 2020 they supported 10,000 country kids and families, educators, and health providers in 500+ communities across NSW, WA, and QLD all while under Lindsay's leadership. Lindsay has changed many lives for the better through her work and the work of Royal Far West. To Lindsay on behalf of the Barwon electorate and all the families she has helped – Thank You.

BINNAWAY SHOW SOCIETY

Mr ROY BUTLER (Barwon)—I would like to recognise and congratulate Binnaway Show Society on their hard work in the building of the new Horse Sport Yards. The Show Society were successful in receiving funding through My Community Project. Since receiving the funding they have worked tirelessly to complete the project with more than 600 hours of volunteer labour. The yards are now a place that the whole community can

enjoy and will bring visitors to town to compete and watch horse sports, and spend some time in the region. Their hard work and passion is a fantastic asset for the community of Binnaway – no doubt they'll continue to go from strength to strength. I commend the Binnaway Show Society – Howard Scifleet, Margaret Scifleet, Brendan Phillips, Jane Phillips, Harry Powell, Claudia Dunlop, Mark Scifleet, Tom Scifleet, Ashley Scifleet, Emma Staples, Dave Staples, Stephen Coe, Julianne Thompson, Larry Tolmie, Pam Southwell, Tim Rains, Meghan Rains, Any Rains, Ben Rains, Frank Letts, Callum Letts, Ren Letts, Ian Selwyn, Rob Adams, Tom Robertson, Stephen McEvoy, Dan Stewart, Simone Wilson, Will Smallwood, Jen Sansom, Michael Rapley, Michelle Rapley, Jack Rapley, Eleanor Rapley, DJ Henley, Jim Larkin, Melinda Larkin, Jack Larkin, and Emily Larkin.

NUBALIN PRESCHOOL

Ms JODIE HARRISON (Charlestown)—Nubalin Preschool, based at Windale Public School, won the coveted 2020 Kidsafe National Playsafe Design Award for Preschools. The school celebrated its award on 24 November 2020 at a renaming ceremony for the preschool. "Nubalin" is an Awabakal word that means learning, acknowledging the important role of culture within every child. The preschool's award-winning playground is a stimulating environment incorporating natural materials that promote open-ended opportunities for creative play. It was my pleasure to partner with the school community, the Minimbah AECG and Andrew Smith Timber Creations, to help deliver the playground, a wonderful addition to the school. Windale Public principal Cindy Sadler said, "Our families wanted their children to have more space to play and explore interacting with the natural environment. The possibilities are now endless for our youngsters – and are only limited by their own imagination." That sounds like an ideal way to help children learn and to broaden their horizons. Congratulations to the Windale Public community, the fantastic staff at Nubalin, and to everyone involved in securing this award. Well-deserved!

2021 LAKE MAC AWARDS

Ms JODIE HARRISON (Charlestown)—I attended the 2021 Lake Mac Awards, which ever year recognises some of the leading lights of our local community. Lake Macquarie is home to some truly extraordinary people, who give a lot of themselves to benefit our community. The 2021 Lake Mac Ambassador is Jonathan Power, a disability services advocate who has established Empowered Community Services in Lake Macquarie. Residents of the Charlestown electorate were among those honoured. Christine Speer, commander of the Lake Macquarie Emergency Service Unit, was named Volunteer of the Year. After everything she and the local SES have done to support our community in recent times, it is an award well-earned. I salute her for her tireless efforts. Jessica Conneely, director at Dance4wellbeing, was awarded the Lake Mac Arts Leader prize. Dance4wellbeing are dance and movement leaders in arts health for community and care providers. The service offers programs for over-55s which are inclusive, artistic and easily accessible. Congratulations to all those recognised at the Lake Mac Awards. People like this are why I'm so proud to be a part of the Lake Macquarie community.

SAVE OUR SONS DUCHENNE FOUNDATION

Mr CHRIS MINNS (Kogarah)—I acknowledge the wonderful advocacy and work of the Save Our Sons Duchenne Foundation who are the peak charitable body for those living with the fatal conditions Duchenne and Becker Muscular Dystrophy. The organisation is raising money and awareness to help fund trials to ultimately find a cure and provide essential equipment, programs and services to enhance quality of life for affected persons through their annual Walk 4 Duchenne. The walk kicks off tomorrow, and will cover 192km over eight days, starting from Hurlstone Park and culminating at the front of Parliament House in Canberra. It is a wonderful initiative for a very worthy cause and I thank founder Elie Eid and the entire Board and Team for their hard work. I wish the walkers all the best as they make their way through the Kogarah electorate on Thursday on their way to Canberra.

LAURENE MULCAHY

Mr GREG PIPER (Lake Macquarie)—I often wonder how some people find the time to get everything done as they commit their days to going above and beyond, not just for family and friends, but for their entire community. Dora Creek's Laurene Mulcahy is one of those people. I've known Laurene for many years. She has been significantly involved with the Dora Creek Flood Ready Group, Dora Creek Sustainable Neighbourhood Group and Dora Creek School of Arts over many years, and in 2013 she took out a Local Legend Award at the Lake Macquarie Environmental Excellence in Landcare Awards for her efforts in building Climate Ready Dora Creek Landcare Group. Additionally, in 2018 she was nominated for an Australia Day Award. But it's perhaps her work within the U3A network that she's best known for. U3A is a non-profit organisation which offers a range of low-cost courses to retirees. Laurene was the founding president of Southlakes U3A and has risen through the ranks to be President of U3A Network New South Wales, dedicating countless volunteer hours. I commend and thank Laurene on all she has done and continues to do for the Lake Macquarie community.

AVONDALE SCHOOL CAPTAINS

Mr GREG PIPER (Lake Macquarie)—It's always wonderful to see young people accept responsibility and become leaders, whether it's within their immediate friendship group, broader school class or indeed the entire school. I would like to congratulate Chanel Boudan and Levi Venegas, and Benjamin Lindsay and Olivia Morton on their recent election as Avondale School's Primary and Secondary school captains. Chanel is known for her valuable insights and creative ideas that add value to her school. She is caring, compassionate and has a conscientious approach to her leadership position. Levi is regarded as caring and inclusive with his peers. He uses humour effectively to build connections and diffuse situations. His academic achievements, thoughtfulness and the respect he shows to both staff and students make him an excellent role model. Benjamin is a creative and compassionate young man who strives to leave a legacy of service and inclusion. His integrity, organisation and people focus make him an excellent leader. Olivia is organised, outgoing and driven to model excellence in all that she does. She is an excellent communicator, courageous and passionate about serving her school community. I'm sure we'll see great things from these four young leaders.

KIDS OF MACARTHUR HEALTH FOUNDATION

Mr PETER SIDGREAVES (Camden)—With a grateful heart I thank the generosity of local constituents of the Camden community, Gary Bastable and Cameron Armstrong, for coming together with Campbelltown and Leumeah hotel to raise over \$10,000 for Kids of MacArthur Health Foundation. Using a public fundraising program, patrons use a free membership to earn points for not only food, but also donate to their local charities. \$10,579.50 was raised in less than five months, which is a remarkable achievement to see our community coming together given the year we have had. Chief executive, Denise McGrath said "we will now be able to purchase a special wheelchair for the paediatric unit which will allow young patients to determine what wheelchair they might need and how to operate it". I am proud to recognise these members of the Camden community, and I thank you once again.

RECORD BREAKERS

Mr PETER SIDGREAVES (Camden)—I take this time to recognise the outstanding achievements of William Winsor and Jaxson Smith at St Gregory College for being named new record breakers. William a year 12 student at the college has broken the school's 20 year swimming record in the Opens 200m Individual Medley with a time of 2:31.46 seconds. Jaxson a year 8 student at the college has broken the schools 17 year swimming record for the Under 14s Individual Medley with a time of 2:29.09 seconds. I would like to congratulate these young men on their achievements and I wish you both the best of luck in your future endeavours and I hope you both continue to break many records.

BLACKTOWN AND MOUNT DRUITT HOSPITALS 2020 DOCTORS OF THE YEAR

Mr MARK TAYLOR (Seven Hills)—I acknowledge the winners of the doctor of the year awards announced in the past week at Blacktown and Mount Druitt Hospitals. Every year a vote is taken for intern, resident, registrar and consultant of the year. In 2020, over 200 votes were received across both Blacktown and Mount Druitt Hospitals. The award acknowledges doctors and trainees who have consistently demonstrated excellence with clinical practice, patient relationships, and mentoring skills throughout the year and beyond. I personally congratulate the 2020 recipients, including:

- Intern of the Year, Dr Vedant Dave;
- Resident of the Year, Dr Arun Ahluwalia;
- Registrar of the Year, Dr Mathew Economides; and
- Consultant of the Year, Dr Danette Wright.

The recipients were described as talented, driven and passionate by Blacktown and Mount Druitt Hospitals' acting general manager Bobbi Henao Urrego. I thank and congratulate these doctors for their continued efforts in caring for those across the Seven Hills Electorate. It is wonderful to see such high-calibre level of healthcare talent being developed on our community's doorstep.

CRONULLA SALTIES CLUB

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla—Attorney General, and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence)—I congratulate Cronulla SLSC on partnering with Surf Lifesaving Australia to form the Cronulla Silver Salties club – a group that promotes social connection and wellbeing for over 65s. Silver Salties has 20 programs on offer to cater for different levels of experience, fitness and mobility. Clubs can choose to offer one or more of the programs, depending on club capacity and participant interest. Salties Ambassador Laura Thurtell, together with Michelle Druery, led the first season of Walk and Talk in Cronulla last year. The program

is continuing in 2021 with Wendy Murray and Bernice Keane appointed co-leaders. I'm pleased to see this fantastic initiative 'making waves' in Cronulla. It's giving older people an invaluable opportunity to be active, to meet likeminded residents and to enjoy our beautiful beaches.

ALFORDS POINT PUBLIC SCHOOL P&C ASSOCIATION

Ms ELENi PETINOS (Miranda)—I congratulate Alford's Point Public School's Parents and Citizens Association on being awarded \$25,000 under the NSW Government's 2020 Community Building Partnership Program. Alford's Point Public School is a wonderful community who pride themselves on their welcoming and friendly culture with strong values of community engagement. This funding will provide an upgrade to the existing outdoor education space including new ergonomic seating, shade protection and ground covering. This will further facilitate educational opportunities by providing a more functional and appealing place for students to learn and also foster friendships. Of course, none of this would be possible without the hard work and dedication of school Principal Annette Wein, and Parents and Citizens executive including President Kynwyn Thomas, Vice President Danielle Meggos, Secretary Tia Croft, Treasurer Janette Magee and committee members Kylie Bray, Mark Vandy, Sarah Walker and Kate Davies. I congratulate the incredible Alford's Point Public School Parents and Citizens Association, and look forward to seeing this wonderful project completed.

ST MICHAEL ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

Ms ELENi PETINOS (Miranda)—I acknowledge St Michael Antiochian Orthodox Church in Kirrawee for securing \$2,750 under the NSW Government's 2020 Community Building Partnership Program. Since the first service in September 2012, St Michael's has provided a wonderful environment for the community to come together and worship, whilst forging their shared relationships. Through this funding, a number of child safety gates will be installed within the grounds to allow children to play freely and safely. Family values are at the heart of the church community, so it is fitting that these new gates will further support parents and caregivers by providing them peace of mind. Of course none of this would be possible without the hard work of the St Michael's committee. I especially commend Parish Priest Father Nektarios for his leadership, along with President Michael Fadel, Vice President Michael Abo Haider, Secretary Louis Mikhail, Treasurer Nick Hawi, Ladies Committee President Sally Khouri, and committee members Lilian Saad, Eddy Haddad, John Khouri, Khaled Jammal, Paul Murr, Michael Murr, Faraj Abo Ghazala and John Issa. I congratulate St Michael Antiochian Orthodox Church and look forward to seeing this project benefit the congregation.

LIBBY SMITH MOREE PLAINS GARDEN CLUB

Mr ADAM MARSHALL (Northern Tablelands—Minister for Agriculture and Western New South Wales)—I recognise Libby Smith, President of the Moree Plains Garden Club. In spite of COVID restrictions, Libby has done an exceptional job keeping the club members connected through the internet, giving members seasonal hints and updates on other garden clubs, and generally keeping members in a positive frame of mind. Now that restrictions have eased, Libby and her committee are well under way with planned garden visits and events for 2021. I congratulate Libby on the growing membership of the Moree Plains Garden Club which is the outcome of her inspirational enthusiasm for all that is gardening. I commend Libby for her infectious enthusiasm, her commitment to the members, and for sharing her love of gardens.

WESTMEAD PUSH FOR PALLIATIVE CARE

Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect)—Westmead Push for Palliative Care (WPFPC) is a local community group that is working tirelessly to ensure that Westmead Hospital gets its own dedicated palliative care ward. Led by Doctor Phillip Lee and Anna Pelle, the team at WPFPC have worked with families that have endured some extremely difficult days with the passing of a loved one, that wasn't able to secure a dedicated palliative care bed at Westmead Hospital. This has left a trail of distress and sadness for people who were let down by the NSW Health System. Doctor Phillip Lee's leadership and experience in dealing with palliative care has been an inspiration for many who are working hard for this cause. It is a testament to his character that even in retirement he still continues to fight for this important issue. Anna Pelle, with her experience in dealing with patients and their loved ones at the end of life stage, knows from first-hand experience how challenging not having a dedicated palliative care ward at Westmead Hospital is for families. I congratulate Westmead Push for Palliative Care on their continued efforts to get a dedicated ward at Westmead Hospital.

GALA FOR LIFE

Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect)—It was a pleasure to attend the annual Gala for Life Dinner on Saturday 27 February and hear from the inspirational speakers and organisers. Gala for Life aims to take a positive, practical and pragmatic approach to supporting women through unplanned pregnancies. They honour the union between mothers and their unborn children. Gala for Life believes that the best response to an unplanned pregnancy is to eliminate the crisis around the pregnancy, not the pregnancy itself. On the night we heard from

the guest speakers Jennifer Gurry and Preethy Abraham, Senior Counsellor at Diamond Women. This organisation provides support and education to women, including through their 'Mum 2 Mum' program, which connects pregnant women with current mothers in their community for mentoring. I would like to thank Bridget Spinks, Founder of Gala for Life, for organising this fantastic event and for working tirelessly in our community to support new and expectant mothers who have reached out for help at a time of need. The Gala is under the care of Our Lady of Guadalupe; "May all these women in crisis pregnancies hear the echo of her words in our hearts."

WING HING LONG MUSEUM - TINGHA

Mr ADAM MARSHALL (Northern Tablelands—Minister for Agriculture and Western New South Wales)—I recognise the many volunteers who have kept the rich history of Tingha alive through this wonderful example of an early Australian emporium, where in the isolated mining town of the 1800's, Ah Lin's general store sold anything and everything. The Chinese contributed to the development of early Australia and Tingha wanted to raise awareness of that by preserving this delightful window into history. The museum has been run entirely by volunteers for twenty-two years and continues to develop. Most recently the volunteers have added a Devonshire tea which is popular with both locals on a day out and tourists. I congratulate President Danny Coleman, Jean Symes, Dawn Buckley, Linda Mozzell, Narelle King, Rachel Short, Cathy Murphy, and Carol Shuttleworth for the magnificent presentation of the Wing Hing Long Museum. I commend the hospitable volunteers for their foresight in making Wing Hing Long Museum a must see stop in Tingha for travellers.

CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY 2021

Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore)—The first Clean Up Australia Day was held in 1989. Now run annually, it inspires and empowers communities to clean up, fix up, and conserve our environment. I want to acknowledge North Shore local, the late Ian Kiernan for his vision, and his daughter Pip Kiernan, Chair of Clean Up Australia, for continuing her father's great legacy and the incredible work he started. Sunday March 7 was the Clean Up Day 2021, and I was incredibly proud that many in the North Shore community participated in cleaning up our local areas, with specific clean up events organised in my electorate. I particularly want to acknowledge one of my local schools, Middle Harbour Public, for their efforts in hosting their own Clean Up day on Friday March 5. School leaders said the school community wanted to protect their environment, care for their community and respect their school space. This has led to the introduction of waste Free Wednesdays, an initiative to reduce rubbish found in the school playground. Thank you to Principal Laura Barry, teachers, staff, and students for their commitment to protecting our environment.

BILL WALKER OAM AWARDED NSW MASTERS SWIMMING SENIOR OF THE YEAR

Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore)—I acknowledge the incredible achievements of 92 year old Mosman local Bill Walker OAM, who has been awarded the 2020 NSW Masters Swimming Senior of the Year. Bill, a retired plastic surgeon and former Rotarian, had his first formal swimming lesson at the age of 70 and trains at Balmoral Baths most mornings. He credits the salt water and fresh air for his extraordinary success, holding 11 national records and 12 state records in the 90 to 94 age group. Most recently, at the ripe old age of 90, Bill won a swag of medals at the 2019 FINA World Masters Swimming Championships in Gwangju, Korea, taking home 4 gold medals and 1 silver medal. Bill enjoys the challenge of the race and has his sights set on the next FINA World Masters Swimming Championships to be held in Fukuoka, Japan in 2022. I congratulate Bill on all his achievements so far and wish him all the best diving off the blocks and going for gold in Japan later this year.

REGION 6 LITTLES STATE QUALIFYING MEET

Mr MARK TAYLOR (Seven Hills)—I acknowledge all of the hard work of the athletes, parents and coaches in my electorate of Seven Hills as many of them prepare for the Region 6 Littles State Qualifier. The meet will take place at the Blacktown International Sports Park at this weekend – the twentieth and twenty-first of February. This meet is the final opportunity for local under 9 to under 12 athletes to qualify for the upcoming Littles State Championships next month. Competing will be athletes from the North West Met Zone which includes the following little athletics centres: Kings Langley; Winston Hills; and Hills District. Also competing will be local athletes from the West Met Zone which includes the following centres: Blacktown; Quakers Hill; and The Ponds. Best wishes to all of our local athletics this weekend at Region 6. I look forward to updating the House on the results from this meet.

COURTNEY TOPIC

Mr PAUL LYNCH (Liverpool)—Saturday 27 February would have been the 29th birthday of Courtney Topic. She was shot by police on 10 February 2015 at the corner of Hoxton Park Road, and Cowpasture Road, at Hoxton Park. She was very likely suffering a mental health crisis and a coroner subsequently found her death preventable and raised issues about how police officers are trained to deal with people suffering from mental health issues. On 27 February a memorial bench and a plaque in memory of Courtney were formally dedicated at

the site where she was killed. Friends and family of Ron and Leesa Topic (Courtney's parents) gathered for the event and were joined by representatives of police, past and present and by community members. The bench and plaque show that Courtney will not be forgotten. The need to ensure proper training of police in dealing with people with mental health issues should not be forgotten either.

**The House adjourned, pursuant to standing and sessional orders, at 20:18 until
Wednesday 17 March 2021 at 09:30.**