



New South Wales

Legislative Assembly

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES (HANSARD)

**Fifty-Seventh Parliament
First Session**

Thursday, 13 May 2021

Authorised by the Parliament of New South Wales

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Budget.....	6469
Budget Estimates and Related Papers 2020-2021	6469
Bills.....	6473
Residential Tenancies Amendment (Reasons for Termination) Bill 2021	6473
Second Reading Speech.....	6473
Announcements	6477
Legislative Assembly Broadcast.....	6477
Bills.....	6477
ICAC and Other Independent Commissions Legislation Amendment (Independent Funding) Bill 2020	6477
Second Reading Debate.....	6477
Independent Commission Against Corruption Amendment (Ministerial Code of Conduct - Property Developers) Bill 2021	6484
Second Reading Debate.....	6484
Motions	6488
Rotary Club of Sydney Centenary.....	6488
Hunter Region Code One Incidents	6492
Members	6497
Member for Camden.....	6497
Member for Terrigal	6497
Member for Gosford.....	6497
Member for Cabramatta.....	6497
Member for Wollondilly.....	6497
Member for Shellharbour	6497
Visitors.....	6497
Visitors.....	6497
Members	6498
Representation of Ministers Absent During Questions	6498
Question Time	6498
Farm Land Tax	6498
Regional and Rural Economies	6499
Regional Roads Reclassification	6501
Upper Hunter Road Infrastructure	6502
Sydney Children's Hospital Paediatric Cardiac Surgery	6504
Commuter Safety.....	6505
Illegal Donations.....	6507
State Emergency Service Funding.....	6508
Website Domain Names	6509
Regional Workplace Safety	6511
Committees	6512
Legislative Assembly Committee on Law and Safety.....	6512

TABLE OF CONTENTS—*continuing*

Petitions	6512
Petitions Received	6512
Business of the House	6512
Suspension of Standing and Sessional Orders: Government Business.....	6512
Withdrawal of Business	6513
Private Members' Statements.....	6513
Multifaith Communities in Bankstown and South-West Sydney	6513
Vaucluse Electorate Funding Grants	6513
Road Tolls.....	6514
Myall Lakes Electorate Sports Funding	6515
Tamworth Electorate Sports Volunteers.....	6516
Petitions	6516
Firearms and Weapons Legislation.....	6516
Bills	6521
Payroll Tax Amendment (Jobs Plus) Bill 2021	6521
Returned.....	6521
Private Members' Statements.....	6521
St John's Anglican Cathedral COVID-19 Prayer Service.....	6521
Central Coast Council Financial Audit.....	6522
International Day of the Midwife	6523
International Nurses Day	6523
Penrith Electorate Health Workers	6524
Tamil Genocide Remembrance Day.....	6525
Tribute to Michael Thomas Wilson	6526
Terrigal Electorate Community Building Partnership Grants	6527
Canterbury Hospital.....	6528
Affordable Quality Housing	6528
Dine & Discover NSW	6529
Seven Hills Electorate Schools.....	6530
Eid Al-Fitr.....	6531
Israel-Palestine Conflict.....	6531
Les Gonye, Legislative Assembly Deputy Clerk.....	6531
Koala Populations and Habitat	6531
Les Gonye, Legislative Assembly Deputy Clerk.....	6533
Central Coast Asset Privatisation	6533
Housing Strategy	6533
Young Police Station	6534
Port Stephens Electorate Public Land.....	6535
Eastern Suburbs Bus Services	6536
Community Recognition Statements	6537
Ladies of Love	6537
Coast Opera Australia.....	6537

TABLE OF CONTENTS—*continuing*

R&r Care.....	6537
St Joseph's Catholic College Fundraiser.....	6537
Georgia Zannino	6537
Inner Sydney High School.....	6538
Grenfell Food Hall.....	6538
Saint Nikolai of Zhicha.....	6538
Kevin and Ryan Jones	6538
Medowie 7 Day Makeover	6538
Tribute to Paul Schiebaan.....	6539
Victory Day Seventy-Sixth Anniversary.....	6539
Bianca Fuller.....	6539
Dimitris Bassis.....	6539
3Bridges Youth Zone.....	6539
Lions Club of Gwandalan Lioness Inc	6540
North Shore Bombers Australian Football Club.....	6540
Eid Al-Fitr.....	6540
John Hodge	6540
Central Coast Cricket Association.....	6540
Tunstead Oysters	6541
Vesak Day Celebrations	6541
Festival of Fun for Seniors	6541
John Goddard.....	6541
Make Way Music Event	6541
Eid Al-Fitr.....	6542
Elizabeth Macarthur High School Agriculture Team.....	6542
Save Our Kids from Suicide Program	6542
Riley Whatman	6542
International Workers' Memorial Day.....	6542
Rotary Club of Mosman	6542
Community Recognition Notices	6543
Australian Chinese Buddhist Society Celebration of Buddha.....	6543
Bankstown Bulls A Grade Senior Presentation Night.....	6543
Community Building Partnership.....	6543
Fixing Local Roads.....	6543
Carol and Raymond Harding	6544
University of Newcastle	6544
Blake Pardey.....	6544
Brennan's 50th Wedding Anniversary.....	6544
Waverley Senior Week	6544
Anzac Day	6545
Liverpool Pioneer Memorial Park	6545
Russell Thornton.....	6545

TABLE OF CONTENTS—*continuing*

Warren Cocksedge	6545
Sky Mason	6545
St Brendan's Debutantes	6545
Grenfell Hospital Auxiliary Awards	6546
Alina Wakeling	6546
500 Years of Christianity in the Philippines	6546
Minister for Emergency Services Welcomes New Frnsw Graduates	6546
Rosa Italian Pensioners Group	6546
Barbara Dawson Craft Group	6547
Marrickville High School Shakespeare Carnival	6547
130 Years: Christian Brothers' High School Lewisham	6547
St Anthony's and St Paul's Coptic Orthodox Church Easter 2021	6547
Ann-Maria Martin	6547
Gwen Johnston	6548
Celebrating Our Local Entrepreneurs	6548
Sydney Writers' Festival Welcomes Ceridwen Dovey	6548
Pam Savage	6548
Mr Sean O'Brien	6548
Moorebank Cricket Club	6549
Wattle Grove Social Club	6549
Secc Seniors Festival	6549
Bayside Seniors Festival	6549
Fix-It-Sisters	6549
St George Hospital Visit	6550
Kogarah Historical Society	6550
Lions Club of Gwandalan Lioness Inc	6550
Elouera Surf Life Saving Club	6550
Fair Treatment Campaign	6550
Wish	6551
Belfield Methodist / Uniting Church 100th Anniversary	6551
Community Recognition Statement – Hills-Kellyville Community Garden	6551
Community Recognition Statement – William Clarke College	6551
Prince Philip	6551
Toongabbie Christian College 2021 School Leaders	6552
The Hills School 2021 School Leaders	6552
St Gertrude's Catholic Primary School	6552
International Day of Mourning	6552
Heroes Without Capes	6552
Angie Galante & Claudia Glyntzos	6553
St Catherine Laboure GyMEA	6553
Vote for Tyalgum - NSW Top Tourism Town Awards 2021	6553
River Tracks Program – Supporting Young People in Murwillumbah	6553

TABLE OF CONTENTS—*continuing*

Professor David Lubans	6554
Local Colouring Competition	6554
Brenda Williams	6554
Connie Potts - 2021 Moree Senior Citizen of the Year	6554
National Indigenous Basketball Tournament	6555
Dr Royden Lake and Tara Lake-Ultramac B-10	6555
Edo Kahn & A Sound Life	6555
Elizabeth Hanns	6555
Balmain Rozelle RSL Sub-Branch	6555
Como Public School	6556
Rafaela Kopellos	6556
Barbara Anderson	6556
Elizabeth D'anastasi	6556
Molong Portrait Gallery	6556
Committees	6557
Committee on Children and Young People	6557
Membership	6557
Bills	6557
Local Government Amendment Bill 2021	6557
Consideration in Detail	6557
Payroll Tax Amendment (Jobs Plus) Bill 2021	6560
Consideration in Detail	6560

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Thursday, 13 May 2021

The Deputy Speaker (The Hon. Leslie Williams), in the absence of the Speaker, took the chair at 09:30.

The Deputy Speaker read the prayer and acknowledgement of country.

[Notices of motions given]

Budget

BUDGET ESTIMATES AND RELATED PAPERS 2020-2021

Debate resumed from 12 May 2021.

Mrs LESLIE WILLIAMS (Port Macquarie) (09:46): I am pleased to continue my contribution to debate on the 2020-2021 budget and its enormous benefits for the Port Macquarie electorate. Earlier I mentioned the Crown Reserves Improvement Fund, which is an important fund that provides funding for community projects and facilities across New South Wales. It has been particularly beneficial in my electorate of Port Macquarie. I spoke about the investment in new stables at the Port Macquarie Racecourse. It is exciting to see construction start on that. Some \$330,000 has been announced for the construction of a new accessible multipurpose facility at Laurieton Sportsgrounds, which will include accessible amenities, change rooms, meeting rooms and spectator areas. That project is part of the master plan for the sportsgrounds. The Government has worked closely with the local council to ensure that those facilities in that growing residential area continue to be improved.

As I have mentioned in this House a number of times, the recent floods have had an enormous impact on our community. Obviously, they had an impact on people's personal property and assets but also, not surprisingly, on the banks of our rivers, particularly at Blackmans Point. Recently I visited that area to inspect some of the damage. It gave me confidence to know that the Government has already invested in stage one of the upgrade to the erosion bank. That will continue with further funding from the Crown Reserves Improvement Fund. Other beneficiaries of that fund include the Johns River Community Hall and Recreation Reserve. I give a shout-out to all members of the small community of Johns River who are involved in the upkeep of that important asset. In particular, I acknowledge Chris Bawn, who has been instrumental over the years in ensuring the ongoing improvement of the hall. The Hannam Vale Recreation Reserve received funding to replace fencing and to connect electricity to its barbecue.

Small amounts of funding make an enormous difference to small communities. I have spoken previously about a range of significant infrastructure projects that are in the pipeline across my electorate. They include the upgrade at Hastings Secondary College, the ongoing expansion of the Port Macquarie Base Hospital car park, the establishment of the Emmaus Memory Support Community Centre and the Port Macquarie Koala Hospital redevelopment, which we are very excited about. Critically, that investment in local infrastructure is creating hundreds of local jobs, which will go a long way towards supporting our community through the ongoing pandemic. In addition to the initiatives that I have mentioned, the Government has supported a range of projects under the Stronger Country Communities Fund, including upgrades to the Bonny Hills Community Hall, which I opened recently. It was great to be there with the local progress association and other community groups including the local CWA, which uses that facility. There are plans for more upgrades to that space, which I look forward to supporting in the future.

The Liberal-Nationals Government has worked extremely hard to deliver infrastructure to key areas while also managing the State's finances, with a real emphasis on getting people back to work by creating jobs and concentrating on fast-tracking infrastructure investment, particularly in regional communities. The Government has funded other initiatives to support our communities, particularly our business communities, including through a reduction in payroll tax, which members have spoken about this week. I note that everybody is absolutely delighted to make use of the four \$25 Dine & Discover vouchers, two for dining and two for discovery. I was pleased to use both of my dining vouchers in my local community and I have no doubt other members are doing the same. I look forward to using those discover vouchers as well. The Government has also provided \$1,500 vouchers for small- and medium-sized businesses to help pay for government fees and charges. At the end of the day, any assistance that the Government can provide to support local businesses in our communities will continue to create local jobs.

Our thoughts are with the Treasurer, who is at home in isolation. I commend Mr Perrottet on the work he has done alongside the strong Government leadership team, which includes the Premier, the Deputy Premier and the other Ministers. Over the past 12 months they have delivered for our regional communities across New South Wales, and Temporary Speaker Singh and I both know they will continue to do deliver. These have been some of the most extraordinary times in the past century, not only with the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic but also with the bushfires in 2019 and the recent floods on the mid North Coast. I pay credit to all of our communities, particularly those that have been heavily impacted by the floods and fires, for continuing to work together for the broader good of the State.

Mr MARK TAYLOR (Seven Hills) (09:52): I contribute to debate on the budget estimates and related papers for 2020-21. It was fantastic to hear the member for Port Macquarie outline the great initiatives taking place and infrastructure being built across her electorate. We have heard similar stories from other members in electorates across New South Wales. They have spoken about new schools, roads, hospitals, police stations and fire stations that have been built. We have also heard about the magnificent work of the Government through its budget in support of local businesses, families, farmers, volunteers and the vulnerable in electorates across New South Wales. I congratulate the Treasurer of New South Wales, Dominic Perrottet, on the 2020-21 State budget handed down on 17 November 2020, and the great outcomes that have resulted from it.

Given that it is only a short time until the next budget is handed down, I will outline the purpose and features of one of the most important State budgets in the history of New South Wales. The theme of the 2020-21 State budget was "creating jobs and securing our future". That could not have been more timely, given the clouds of economic uncertainty that were so pervasive throughout 2020. Those clouds are starting to lift and we can see that the path is far more clear than it was last year thanks to many years of budgetary prudence from successive Coalition governments. The Government has not spent wantonly; rather, it has spent wisely. Money that the Government has not invested has been kept safe for a rainy day, as do many families and households in the electorate of Seven Hills. Unfortunately, that rainy day has certainly arrived. It began with the Black Summer bushfires, which crippled the properties and livelihoods of the people who live in the regions of our great State.

One thing that those bushfires could not take away was the community spirit in our regions and across the entire State. That community spirit came to the fore when people chipped in to help and support those in need and it was relied on heavily when the global pandemic hit our shores. As the Treasurer so eloquently stated in his Budget Speech, the Government has put the economy and the lives and livelihoods of its citizens before budget deficits. Our State has been well placed to provide swift support to people in need during the pandemic thanks to the Government's strong economic management. At the time the experts said that we should go hard and go early. That is exactly what we did on this side of the House. In fact, the Government went even further. Not only did it go hard and go early but it also went targeted.

The dual budgetary targets were: First, to respond to the health crisis created by the global pandemic; and secondly, to respond to that economic crisis with job-creating spending and investment. While the stimulus contained in the budget is unprecedented in both scale and quantity, it is also overtly oriented towards generating jobs for the citizens of the State. However, there are limits to the good that stimulatory public spending can do. While it was certainly necessary in the 2020-21 budget in order to combat the dual crises that the State faced, it is by no means a permanent solution. The budget has got the economic ball rolling without creating economic woes for future generations. The Government is unwilling to do that.

In characteristic style, the budget contains its fair share of budgetary discipline, including \$12 billion worth of economically sensible fiscal repair measures over the next four years. The Government will also continue to swap old assets for more productive assets where it is in the public interest. For example, the net proceeds from the WestConnex transaction will fund the next generation of world-class infrastructure, including the Sydney Metro West project, which will connect the Seven Hills electorate with the Sydney and Parramatta CBDs. Yesterday the Premier and transport Minister announced new Sydney Metro West stations, which will not only fantastically improve our city but also provide greater opportunities for residents in the Seven Hills electorate to access the city more quickly for work and leisure, tourism and entertainment. The future looks great for the fantastic residents of my electorate.

The Government's budgetary strategy will deliver shrinking deficits over the next four years with a return to surplus forecast for the 2024-25 financial year. The State will be back in the black within the parliamentary term following our nation's first official recession in three decades. Only under the current Government could that be possible and then delivered. Just as so many constituents in the electorate of Seven Hills have done, the New South Wales Government has started saving for the next rainy day. Although we hope and pray that day is many years away, hopefully decades, it is only right that the Government starts to save now. If there is anything that the current pandemic has reminded us, it is that we can never be sure what is around the corner. When the next challenge comes, we will be ready once again. The Government knows that many families are still doing it tough.

That is why it is keeping the pandemic policy of 15 hours of free preschool per week in place until the end of this year. Critically, the budget delivered \$337 million for intensive tutoring to ensure that any learning gaps that might have been created by the remote learning of 2020 are covered and that no student is left behind.

The overwhelming weight of research into the education of our young people shows that small gaps in learning at a young age can multiply over time and have adverse life outcomes throughout adulthood and mature age. Given how transformative a school education can be and the particular importance accorded to that by my constituents in Seven Hills, I was particularly pleased when that tutoring program was announced amid the pandemic and then funded by the State budget. I know that families—the mums and dads of school-aged kids in Seven Hills—will make the most of the investment in tutoring. The Government is also replacing lights with long-life LEDs in more than 700 public schools across the State. In times of uncertainty it is often the small but necessary projects such as those that prop up cash flow and customer referrals for local tradies, many of whom live in my electorate.

Kids are back in the swing of things for the school year and I am sure they will benefit greatly from the support being provided by an additional 100 or more mental health nurses in our schools. That is just part of the biggest spend on mental health in the State's history. It is only right that we ensure that the unseen enemy, the coronavirus, does not lead to other unforeseen consequences, such as a decline in mental health, across our State and country. We know from the data that the pandemic and the necessary lockdowns have had an impact, particularly on working women within our community. It is essential, therefore, for the Government to ensure that inequalities of opportunity in the workplace are not created and entrenched by the change to employment status and the nature of the work itself. The Government was right then to finance return-to-work grants of up to \$5,000 in the State budget to help women in particular to get back to work.

A number of not-for-profit organisations in my electorate will also benefit from the \$50 million fund contained in the State budget to help them continue their great work in a safe manner. It would be remiss of me not to make mention of the headline-grabbing Dine & Discover vouchers. Many local cafes, restaurants, clubs and other hospitality venues in the electorate of Seven Hills are welcoming the extra foot traffic and the possibility of creating new, loyal, ongoing customers. A number of weeks ago I had the pleasure of attending a number of outlets in the Seven Hills electorate, in company with the Hon. Scott Farlow from the other House. It was excellent to see that the Dine & Discover vouchers were being taken up quite strongly by those in Seven Hills. Most of the shopkeepers and businesses involved in the Dine & Discover scheme were very pleased with the extra traffic it brought them, particularly after such a tough year.

It is fair to say that Seven Hills is not known for its tourism; however, that does not mean we cannot put on a good show. I expect that many of the pubs, clubs and hospitality venues will support local artists and host live music performances, as well as special events and activities for all ages. It is my hope that if the constituents are not using the "Discover" half of their vouchers in our electorate over the next few months, they are instead supporting businesses across the region, particularly those in western Sydney. My electorate needs a boost, but arguably our regions need it more after the years of drought, then fires and, most recently, the pandemic. Today I have sought to highlight that this is not a budget that locks in ceaseless sugar hits, but one that instead ensures that the Government continues to lay solid foundations for future economic growth and job creation.

One of the strongest foundations of growth is transport infrastructure. That is something the Government has been so successful in delivering for the constituents of Seven Hills, whether it has been through the delivery of the Metro North West, WestConnex and NorthConnex, the widening of the M2, upgrades to the Prospect Highway or the early works for the Parramatta Light Rail and Sydney Metro West. Those projects are all productivity drivers and, importantly, job creators. It will not be long before families and small to medium-sized businesses in my electorate will be even better connected to the Parramatta CBD and all of its opportunities for economic activity. Perhaps more significantly, they will soon be connected via road and rail to the new Western Sydney Airport and the opportunities that will bring. It will be a game changer for reducing congestion and travel times, as well as for creating significant export opportunities for the manufacturing and logistics hubs immediately to the south of the Seven Hills electorate, in western Sydney.

Complementing the budget's record investment in transport are record investments in health and education. That means more than just an increase in nurses and doctors for Blacktown and Westmead hospitals in my electorate. I am pleased to note that this record investment in health includes other significant investments in palliative care. The budget will secure \$5,000 for more end-of-life home support packages, which is an issue very important to those in my electorate. Further, up to 20,000 training places in aged care will be created over the next 12 months. The record spend on education means there will be more teachers in the classrooms of the brilliant public schools local to the people of Seven Hills and, importantly, more police on the beat and staffing the local stations, such as the new Wentworthville Police Station and local area command.

Funding is also contained in the budget for 1,000 additional Service NSW staff, some of whom will, by the end of this parliamentary term, be the first port of call for the constituents of Seven Hills in their interactions with the New South Wales Government once the new Service NSW centre is delivered around Northmead. This is the first budget that demonstrates the Government is willing to listen widely and act decisively on the basis of what it has heard. The budget includes funds to increase our resilience to natural disasters and to help our regional and rural communities rebuild and rebound from the Black Summer bushfires of 2019-20. The Government is investing \$192 million to implement the NSW Bushfire Inquiry's recommendations and \$150 million has been allocated to establish Resilience NSW with the resources it needs over the next four years.

The Government is also investing in 190 new upgraded fire trucks before July 2021. Should fire ever again reach the doorsteps of New South Wales homes, I am sure that we will be better prepared than ever before. The budget also makes a critical investment in building the skills of our young people and groups that currently face particular challenges in re-entering the workforce, specifically women and mature-age people. As such, the budget contains support for more than 100,000 training places over two years under the State- and Commonwealth-funded JobTrainer program; 300 youth apprenticeships, including social housing tenants; and more than 400 apprenticeships and traineeships across New South Wales agencies. Further, the new Trades Skill Pathways Centre funded by the budget will develop new trades skills training pathways to increase participation for under-represented groups.

The Government is also, quite rightly, helping more women to stay in the workforce with a new paid paternity leave policy scheme for the New South Wales public sector, making 14 weeks leave available to all eligible workers. The budget is delivering on the Government's plan to help New South Wales recover and rebuild from the pandemic and, importantly, take pressure off families and businesses. The Government is protecting jobs, supporting small businesses and investing in more skills and training so that during the recovery there will be more opportunities for the great citizens of this State. The budget is a considerable achievement, given the year we have had. It is only the beginning. As the Treasurer rightly said when he handed down the budget, the recovery comes first but the Government's vision extends way beyond the here and now. The budget is for the future of New South Wales. Therefore, this is a budget for the future of the electorate of Seven Hills.

I now turn to a number of matters contained within the budget that are of particular importance to the Seven Hills electorate. This budget ensures new and continuing funding for projects across the Seven Hills electorate and for much of north-western and western Sydney. Enabling works on the Prospect Highway upgrade began in the middle of last year, and heavy construction will commence later this year. The budget allocated \$13.8 million for that project for this financial year alone. I thank the Federal Government for assisting in providing funds for that important project for the people of greater Blacktown and western Sydney as a whole. The constituents of Seven Hills will be far better off due to the foresight and the effort of both the New South Wales and Commonwealth governments on the Prospect Highway. The Government has also allocated significant funds for additional commuter parking at Wentworthville's railway station. That is terrific news for train users across my electorate. [*Extension of time*]

My parliamentary colleagues and I have strongly advocated for this project. I was pleased to read that it is being supported by the Government in this most recent budget. Further funds have been allocated to finish the additional commuter parking along Junction Road at Winston Hills. That is fantastic news for the people of Winston Hills, who for some time have had to put up with a very rough and unsafe arrangement of parking along Junction Road to use the M2 buses. Community expectations are high for the completion of that job. I am sure everyone will be very satisfied when it is finished. The funds will assist in making parking safer for the locals of not only Seven Hills but also Baulkham Hills, Northmead and Winston Hills, who park in the vicinity and travel via the M2 buses to places such as Macquarie Park and the Sydney CBD. Transport for NSW continues work with both the City of Parramatta and The Hills Shire Council to ensure that this project is delivered on time. I thank the Winston Hills community for its support and advocacy on this matter, which has resulted in a very positive outcome.

It is terrific to have more bus services around Seven Hills getting locals to and from work, the local shops and recreational venues across greater Sydney, particularly those in Blacktown and Parramatta. I note that the service routes of the 611, the 705 and the 711 buses, which are heavily used by the people of Seven Hills, have all been boosted. Funds have also been allocated for the design of a bus layover at Sunnyholt Road in Blacktown, which will bring much satisfaction to commuters who have raised that matter for some time. The Government has also allocated funds to the Walking and Cycling Program for a pedestrian refuge and footpaths in Toongabbie, near the railway station, and for construction of a shared path and boardwalk along Finlayson Creek, between Mons Road and Darcy Road in Westmead. That is great news for young families who live near those areas and are keen to both walk and cycle along that part of the district. Projects of regional importance include Sydney Metro West and Parramatta Light Rail, both of which will have stops at Westmead. I note the

\$2.5 billion for the continuing works on the new metro and the \$614 million for the continuing works of stage one of the light rail.

Education infrastructure has also been boosted in the community at Pendle Hill High School. A \$1.2 million upgrade commences this year. The project includes delivery of 14 modern, flexible learning spaces along with a range of core facilities and students' amenities, a lecture learning unit, a new library unit and prototypical learning area and staff development spaces. The upgrade will include a new three-storey building and a new main pedestrian entry along Binalong Road at Toongabbie. That new infrastructure and refreshment of Pendle Hill High School is great news and will benefit students from Constitution Hill, Girraween, Old Toongabbie, Pendle Hill, Wentworthville and as far as Westmead. Funds have been allocated for making plans to upgrade Darcy Road Public School in Wentworthville and Matthew Pearce Public School in Baulkham Hills, both of which serve the constituents of Seven Hills. Importantly, a new vocational education and training facility at Seven Hills High School will open in 2023. Attending that school last year with the Premier for that important announcement was an absolute pleasure.

Health infrastructure continues to grow across the Western Sydney Local Health District, with the completion of stage one of Westmead Hospital's redevelopment, which included \$870 million spent on final finishing, occurring this year. I know that communities across The Hills and Parramatta are keen for the Central Acute Services Building and its new emergency departments. Stage two of the Blacktown Mount Druitt Hospital redevelopment was completed with an \$8 million boost to funding. The Cystic Fibrosis Specialist Services Unit at Westmead Hospital received \$28 million, and the Children's Hospital at Westmead was allocated \$36 million for its redevelopment, which included a new building and additional parking.

Debate interrupted.

Bills

RESIDENTIAL TENANCIES AMENDMENT (REASONS FOR TERMINATION) BILL 2021

Second Reading Speech

Debate resumed from 6 May 2021.

Ms JULIA FINN (Granville) (10:16): In its response to NSW Fair Trading's discussion paper entitled *Statutory Review of the Residential Tenancies Act 2010*, the Tenants' Union of NSW stated:

It is a common occurrence for tenants to receive a notice of rent increase with a notice of no-grounds termination in the same envelope, inviting them to choose which one they prefer. Nor is it unusual for tenants who take their landlords to the Tribunal, on matters of performance of residential tenancy agreements, to receive a no-grounds notice of termination some time thereafter. We are aware of one occasion where a real estate agent served a no-grounds notice of termination in the lifts on the way out of the Tribunal; and another where an agent drafted a no-grounds notice of termination and handed it to the tenant before the Tribunal member had finished delivering a decision on an application for repairs.

Anyone who suggests that landlords are not issuing no-grounds notices for termination to avoid doing repairs is living in fantasy land. It continues:

The 'termination without grounds' provisions affect more than just whether tenants can make informed choices about where they will live, and for how long. They serve as a constant reminder to tenants that their hold on property is tenuous, and only ever at the will of the landlord. They actively undermine tenants' ability to enforce any of their existing rights.

The union proposed a change to the Residential Tenancies Act to amend sections 84 and 85 to remove the option to end tenancies without grounds, and instead provide an expanded list of grounds. That is what we are looking at doing as well. The union suggested the list could include circumstances where the landlord requires the property for another legitimate purpose or where the property is to be renovated such that vacant possession is required:

The question should be: does the landlord have a purpose that requires recovery of vacant possession, or could it be affected without displacing a sitting tenant? Such a question should be subject to rigorous oversight by the New South Wales Civil and Administrative Tribunal, and the Tribunal should have discretion to decline to make termination orders where appropriate. This discretion should be available to the Tribunal even where a landlord's grounds for termination are made out, in circumstances where the tenant's need to remain in occupation outweighs the landlord's need to recover possession.

... This expansion of grounds would be in addition to those that already appear in the Act, such as the tenant being in breach of the residential tenancy agreement (for fixed term and periodic tenancies), where vacant possession is a condition of sale ...

In some cases, that may be too far and allow things to get bogged down in the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal [NCAT] for months on end when there are legitimate reasons for the tenant to be removed. Nonetheless, it is something we must consider. There are occasions where a landlord can carry out the necessary repairs or renovations without the tenant needing to move. Those should always be considered.

More recently, in light of the pandemic, the Tenants' Union said that outside of a pandemic no-grounds provisions are used unfairly and in cases of discrimination by landlords retaliating against a tenant who asserts a

right. In New South Wales, as in most jurisdictions, such retaliatory evictions are very hard to challenge. Removing "no grounds" or "no reason" eviction provisions from tenancy legislation has long been a focus for housing advocates and it has been a consistent feature in recent ongoing reviews of tenancy law across the country. The impact of a no-grounds eviction and a subsequent forced move is profound. There is an immediate and significant impact on households that receive a no-grounds eviction in household upheaval, emotional stress and financial strain. The ability of a landlord to evict someone for no reason undermines all other rights provided under current tenancy law, and for low-income and vulnerable renters in particular this increases the risk of eviction into homelessness.

The pandemic showed us a new way in which landlords might make use of no-grounds provisions: to evade obligations or other measures in place to protect renters. We hope other States and Territories that are still in the process of reviewing their tenancy legislation take the opportunity to remove no-grounds provisions and significantly improve security for people who rent their homes. Ninety organisations, including the Tenants' Union of NSW, Homelessness NSW, Shelter NSW, St Vincent de Paul, the Uniting Church, the Ethnic Communities Council of NSW, Community Legal Centres NSW, Unions NSW, CHOICE, Mission Australia, the NSW Council of Social Service [NCOSS], the Combined Pensioners & Superannuants Association, Council on the Ageing, and Settlement Services, said a few years ago:

Let's make renting fair. Over 2 million people rent their homes in NSW. That's one in every three households. Many of these are families, as well as an increasing number of older people, and people sharing homes. They could be evicted without a reason. It's time things changed ...

More people are renting and they are renting for longer. A third of all private renters are long-term renters who've been renting continuously for 10 years or more. As home-ownership becomes more unattainable, a growing number of people imagine they'll be renting for life.

Renters deserve safe, secure and affordable housing. But the reality is that rental laws in NSW aren't fair. Renters don't experience the same security and comfort in their homes as homeowners. Many are constantly worried about losing their home and feel they are powerless to assert their rights.

The cause of this insecurity is unfair evictions.

No-grounds evictions are not hypothetical; they happen to real people and they have real impacts on people across New South Wales. In the current environment, with rents increasing enormously, particularly in regional areas, often people who are being forced to move out of their home having received a no-grounds eviction are applying for properties where there are up to 200 other applicants. They fear homelessness. It is not an irrational fear; it is a realistic fear.

National surveys, each of over 1,000 renters, commissioned by CHOICE, National Shelter and the National Association of Tenant Organisations, looked closely at the experience of renting in Australia and found that renters often face discrimination, are worried about insecure tenancies and felt they must tolerate poor quality or substandard housing—including mould, water leaks and flooding—and a landlord's failure to undertake the required repairs or risk losing their home. The surveys found that between 8 per cent and 10 per cent of Australian renters surveyed had experienced a no-grounds eviction. In New South Wales, they found it was closer to 10 per cent.

The recent data released by NSW Fair Trading from its pilot bond-exit survey indicate that around 9.5 per cent of all tenancies that end do so because of a no-grounds eviction from the landlord and that when a landlord ends the agreement they use no-grounds evictions over 55 per cent of the time. Looking at the bond-exit survey data in more detail we find that landlords are ending agreements around 17 per cent of the time, that is, one in six moves by renting households are forced moves. The Australian Bureau of Statistics data and other research indicate that the number of forced moves initiated by landlords are higher, but the number of landlords and managing agents who responded to the survey was much lower than the number of tenants who responded. This lower result is likely due to the lower number of landlord or agent respondents.

Of all the tenancies that ended during this period of the survey, around 9.5 per cent ended because the landlord served a no-grounds eviction notice, with no reason given to the tenants. Of the tenancies ended by the landlord, over half were on no grounds, but most were on no grounds given at the end of a fixed term. It is clear that a breakdown of landlords' reasons for ending an agreement shows that "no grounds" is the most prevalent cause. That means that more often than not landlords do not explain why the tenancy has been brought to an end. In ending a tenancy agreement, 55 per cent were on no grounds, 23 per cent were for the sale of homes, 8.5 per cent were for arrears, 7.5 per cent were for other reasons, 3.5 per cent were for a breach of the agreement aside from arrears, and 2 per cent were because the premises had become uninhabitable.

The Tenants' Union also advised that its Tenants Advice and Advocacy Services data support these findings. In relation to the number of tenants it is providing advice to about no-grounds evictions, the data indicate that the number of clients calling in advance about no-grounds eviction matters has risen significantly since the

start of COVID. The service has seen a consistent increase through 2020, especially in regional New South Wales. Whilst we have an eviction moratorium, what that has meant in practice is that the notice period has increased. Evictions without grounds have not ceased; it just takes 90 days now to evict a tenant. In regional areas in particular there has been a sharp increase in the first quarter of 2021, which reflects the tightening rental market. The Blue Mountains, the Northern Rivers, the Illawarra and the South Coast and Hunter regions were particularly hard hit, with between 15 per cent and 25 per cent of clients calling in to tenants' advisory services seeking advice on a no-grounds eviction.

Close to half of all services have seen the number of clients calling them about no-grounds evictions double, and in some cases they have seen a fourfold increase in the first quarter of 2021 compared with the first quarter of 2020. That is to be expected, because with low vacancies and increasing market rents, such as those we have seen across regional New South Wales, there has been an increase in no-grounds evictions. Many landlords may be ending existing tenancies to then re-let and take advantage of higher market rents, often up to \$200 a week higher in the same town. This is certainly what a number of renters have been told directly by their landlord or agent.

I know of one family in Lake Macquarie who received a no-grounds eviction notice in mid-December last year, just a few days before Christmas. The family of mum, dad and two young daughters aged three and seven had rented for 2½ years and had a spotless record, were ahead in their rental payments and were good tenants. After Christmas they looked for somewhere to move to in the Lake Macquarie area so their kids could stay at the same school. They inspected and applied for 32 properties without success. They inspected another 30, which were not suitable. They offered more rent than was advertised by the agents but successful applicants were bidding rents sometimes up to \$150 a week higher.

Most properties had 20 people or 30 people applying and sometimes up to 40 people. No matter how hard this family tried they could not find anywhere in their price range or even a little above it. In mid-April the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal gave them two weeks' notice to vacate and by the end of April the family had left the property and had put their belongings into storage. Fortunately, a relative in Cessnock was able to take them in, otherwise they would have had nowhere to live. Public housing waiting lists in Lake Macquarie, like in other parts of the State, are long, and even in an emergency situation such as this, the Department of Communities and Justice was not in a position to assist. This is the reality of no-reason evictions.

Even during the COVID rental eviction moratorium, tenants are being evicted on no grounds, as I said, with 90 days' notice. I know of a gentleman on the North Coast who recently received a no-grounds eviction notice. He was 82 at the time and had lived in the premises for 14 years. The tenant believed the notice of termination may have been issued after he had verbally requested repairs to the tenancy, which he had been requesting for a long time. In addition, there had been a significant increase in fortnightly rent. The notice was issued on 3 February, giving the tenant three months to vacate, and he is now living with a friend 34 kilometres away from his original home. He told me that the whole process "really stinks" and that no-grounds evictions are a "raw deal". It is not right that elderly tenants should be forced out of their homes without a reason. It is not right that landlords can evade doing necessary repairs and push up fortnightly rents after evicting tenants of 14 years' standing. When people in their eighties should be enjoying their retirement, the last thing they should have to worry about is picking up their lives and relocating to a new town.

One of my own constituents raised with me directly her experiences of a no-grounds eviction. My constituent raised her concerns with the agent about a proposed rent increase and overdue repairs on the property. The rental increase matter went to NCAT and also to conciliation but the outcome remained that she was evicted from the property. She later told me that the landlord had claimed that they had intended to move into the property but that she had found out that the property was vacant and back on the market a few weeks later. As a result, my constituent and her young family were forced to relocate to another property, which was very difficult for them. She has a daughter with a disability, which made the whole experience even more difficult. My constituent was a good tenant and received her full bond back, yet she was a victim of a no-grounds eviction which she believes was in retaliation for standing up for her rights as a tenant.

While I am discussing endorsements of the campaign to end no-reason eviction, along with case studies of people who have experienced no-reason eviction firsthand, I say to the Government that this is not about pitting tenants against landlords. It is not about letting bad tenants get away with bad behaviour. The bill ends no-grounds eviction and includes three new reasonable grounds in addition to a regulation-making power. The list of all existing reasonable grounds and three new grounds are: section 91, use of the premises for illegal purposes; section 86, sale of premises; section 87, breach of agreement; sections 88 and 89, non-payment of rent or charges; section 90, serious damage or injury by tenant or other occupant; section 92, threat, abuse, intimidation or harassment; section 93, hardships of the landlord; section 94, termination of long-term tenancies; and section 95, occupants remaining in residential premises.

The bill introduces three new reasonable grounds in addition to a regulation-making power. The new section 84 introduces a need to occupy the premises as a reasonable ground—that is, a landlord may give a termination notice if the landlord has a need to occupy the premises. This may take on numerous forms, such as that the landlord intends to take up residence. The new section 84 (1) (c) (ii) introduces significant repairs, reconstructions or renovations as a reasonable ground—that is, the landlord may give the renter a termination notice if the renter, by act or omission, endangers the safety of other occupiers of neighbouring premises, the rental provider or the provider's agent, or a contractor or employee of any of those people, during the time of the repairs.

It introduces section 84 (1) (c) (iii) relating to danger as a reasonable ground—that is, the landlord may give the renter a termination notice if the renter, whether by act or omission, intentionally or recklessly endangers the safety of an occupier of a neighbouring premises. The new section 84 (1) (c) (iv) introduces another reason prescribed by the regulations as a reasonable ground—that is, it may arise in the future that another specific reasonable ground not covered by the existing provisions is required. This means that there is a full package of reasonable grounds on which a tenancy can be terminated, along with a regulation-making power to enable additional reasonable grounds to be prescribed should appropriate grounds be identified, making sure it is fair for everyone.

The Government has already accepted in principle that no-grounds eviction was not appropriate during the pandemic. What this has meant in practice is that no-grounds eviction still occurred but with 90 days' notice. The COVID-19 Recovery Act implements a temporary moratorium on no-grounds termination, not allowing no-grounds termination until 26 September this year. The proposed section 28 required that the landlord must not give a termination notice under section 85 to an impacted tenant who accrued arrears during the moratorium period unless it is fair and reasonable in the circumstances. This is a significant move away from section 85 in the Act, which enables no grounds required to be given in relation to the termination. I said in the debate on that matter that a temporary moratorium was a step in the right direction and it remains a step in the right direction. It is right that the temporary moratorium is made permanent.

I now turn to the provisions of the bill in detail. Currently, landlords may end a tenancy on no grounds depending on the type of agreement. With fixed-term agreements, at the end of the fixed term a landlord must give the tenant 30 days' notice to terminate the agreement and tenants are required to give only 14 days' notice. With periodic agreements, or a landlord that wants to terminate a tenancy during a periodic agreement, they must give the tenants 90 days' notice, increased from 60 days. A tenant must give the landlord 21 days' notice. Generally three reasons are given by those who oppose ending no-reason eviction. For example, a real estate agent was reported on SBS saying:

A 'no-grounds' eviction is the legal term when a landlord decides a tenant needs to move out after a fixed-term lease has expired. Typically, it means the landlord: needs to move in, needs to renovate or needs the property empty to sell it. Once issued, the tenant has at least 90 days to move and can vacate at any point without giving notice. There is no legal obligation for the landlord or agent to disclose the specific reason for the 'no-grounds' notice to the tenant, but most will.

...

Removing the option for a 'no-grounds' eviction would make investment less appealing to landlords and would likely see an increase in short, fixed-term leases. Tenants are already competing with the likes of Airbnb ... We need legislation that continues to make long-term property investment appealing to landlords while protecting tenants from those who do the wrong thing.

I will address each of those concerns in turn. Ending no-reason eviction is the cornerstone of increasing greater security and stability into the rental market. There is no evidence to suggest that there will be a conversion of long-term rental properties into Airbnb style short-term leases due to this legislative change. In fact it is likely to be quite the opposite. If you are the sort of landlord who does not want to do maintenance, who will not make sure locks work and who is happy for the place to be mouldy, there is far greater capacity for your customers on Airbnb than your tenants to complain, and complain to anyone who will listen, that this is really somewhere you do not want to stay.

As we speak, some areas of the State have the lowest rental vacancy records on record following the COVID pandemic. This bill increases security in the market and thereby maintains the attractiveness of investment. Where tenants do the wrong thing, there are mechanisms to bring them back into compliance with their lease or eviction. It is time to ensure that landlords can no longer do the wrong thing through the use of no-reason evictions. The real estate agent who spoke on SBS raised valid concerns and so the bill is drafted to ensure that the current range of reasonable grounds for eviction are maintained while no-reason eviction is ended.

In recognition of the sorts of issues raised by the real estate agent and others, the bill includes the three new reasonable grounds—the need to occupy, significant renovations and danger. I reiterate my earlier comments in relation to the Government's temporary moratorium on no-grounds termination. The Government has now accepted in principle ending no-reason termination and so it now should join us in ending no-reason eviction

permanently. The New South Wales Government has failed to support landlords through the pandemic and its measures compare very poorly to those of Victoria, which instituted a rental assistance fund to provide rent relief payments of up to \$3,000 to Victorians experiencing rental hardship due to the pandemic.

I am aware of some concerns that the list of reasons does not go far enough. Taking the Victorian legislation as a starting point, the bill adds three new reasons and a regulation-making power so that future governments have the capacity to provide for other new reasons, depending on the development of technology or the development of property services markets in the future. Another concern is that landlords may be required to produce documents to NCAT to support the reason the landlord has advanced with the termination. NCAT's general advice is that parties to a case will need to provide some evidence to support their case. The type of information and documents they need to provide will depend on the orders sought.

In Victoria if a rental provider, a member of their immediate family, including parents and parents-in-law, or a dependant who normally lives with the rental provider will be moving in, then the need to occupy the property is a valid reason to evict. The types of evidence that the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal [VCAT] would accept include a witness statutory declaration signed by the rental provider stating either that they intend to reside in the rented premises or the name of the person who will occupy the rental premises, their relationship to the rental provider and declaring whether the person is a dependant, and that the rental provider understands that they must not re-let the premises to any person other than the person named to be moving into the premises in the statutory declaration, for use primarily as a residence, before the end of six months after the date on which the notice was given, unless approved by VCAT. A similar approach in New South Wales would be appropriate.

Debate interrupted.

Announcements

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY BROADCAST

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Greg Piper): I note for the House and anybody listening that there are technical difficulties with the Legislative Assembly Chamber broadcast system, which at this stage has video streaming without titling. Management apologises for any inconvenience and hopes to resume normal broadcast soon.

Bills

ICAC AND OTHER INDEPENDENT COMMISSIONS LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (INDEPENDENT FUNDING) BILL 2020

Second Reading Debate

Debate resumed from 6 May 2021.

Mr ALISTER HENSKENS (Ku-ring-gai) (10:38): I resume my speech from last Thursday on this bill. When time ran out I was making some comments about the provisions of the bill. I had started with schedule 1 to the bill. It proposes to make the Chief Executive Officer of the Independent Commission Against Corruption subject to the Government Sector Employment Act. The title of the bill would suggest that it is intended to enhance the independence of government agencies such as the Independent Commission Against Corruption. But taking the CEO of ICAC out of the control of the chief commissioner and putting that officeholder under the Government Sector Employment Act would, in fact, take away the independence of ICAC, because the responsible Minister rather than the Chief Commissioner of ICAC could replace the CEO. It makes the ICAC less rather than more independent from government.

That is my first point. With the greatest respect, it is an example of the thin thinking behind the way the bill has been put together. My understanding is that the ICAC does not support the bill. I do not know whether any of the other government agencies that it impacts have been consulted; certainly, the ICAC was not consulted. I cannot speak for the other agencies, but it is a matter of some concern that schedule 1 would erode the independence of the employees of the ICAC if the bill was passed by the House.

Mrs Helen Dalton: How is it already funded?

Mr ALISTER HENSKENS: I can hear some murmurs across the table. I will go to the question of the funding of ICAC. It is important to make a few points about that. [*Extension of time*]

Since the ICAC was created in 1988, its funding model has not been changed. Until very recently, no-one has suggested that having the Executive determine the funding for the ICAC in any way erodes its independence. The reason for that is obvious. There has never been any suggestion that the independence of bodies like the New South Wales Supreme Court, District Court or Local Court, whose independence and integrity are beyond

reproach, is compromised by the fact that the Executive sets their budget. It has always been the case that the Executive Government sets the funding for commissions of inquiry, royal commissions, the ICAC, the Ombudsman and our independent judiciary.

There is a very good reason for that: When the Executive Government formulates the budget, it has to make hard decisions. Sometimes those hard decisions may mean we either provide a school in the electorate of Orange, the electorate of Murray or the electorate of Barwon, or we give an extra \$5 million to the ICAC. Executive Government has to make those sorts of real decisions all the time. I can bet you one thing. We will not have the member for Orange, the member for Murray, the member for Barwon or any members who support this bill putting their hand up and saying that their electorate will take less to give the bureaucrats in government agencies more money. They will never say that. That is the reality.

Mrs Helen Dalton: Maybe they'd be less corrupt—more money, less corruption.

Mr ALISTER HENSKENS: It is unfortunate that there is chatter across the Chamber. The reality is that those hard decisions have to be made. That is why the entirely conventional model set up in 1988, which assumes Executive Government will set the budget for the ICAC, has lasted for as long as it has. There is somewhat of an irony here, because I understand that there is a reliance on what I consider to be a legal opinion by Bret Walker that I do not agree with that deals with the question of ICAC funding. Bret Walker does not mention the fact that the Executive Government sets the budget for the court system and a whole lot of other independent bodies without any question. But when Bret Walker delivered advice that the Hon. Natasha Maclaren-Jones had been duly elected to the presidency of the upper House, guess who voted against that? It was the Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party. It seems as if Mr Walker is a sage adviser when they agree with his advice but not when they do not like it. They removed a female President from the upper House contrary to advice of Bret Walker, SC, that she had been duly elected. Is the selective reasoning that applies to people like the member for Murray and her party on matters like this not interesting?

Mr Philip Donato: Point of order—

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Greg Piper): The Clerk will stop the clock.

Mr Philip Donato: What the member is talking about is in no way relevant to the bill.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Greg Piper): I will rule on that very quickly. I do not uphold the point of order. I call the member for Ku-ring-gai to resume his contribution.

Mr ALISTER HENSKENS: I make another point in the limited time that I have: Schedules 2 to 5 to the bill provide that a different set of politicians to the Executive will make the decision—that is, joint committees of Parliament will make the decisions about funding. It is just a substitution of one group of politicians for another. My second point is that all that those committees making decisions about funding will do is be able to give the agencies a 25 per cent uplift on the budget approved by the Executive Government in this Parliament, which means it is very easy for the Executive Government to circumvent the bill if it wants to. It can just reduce everyone's funding by 25 per cent. It is a nonsense bill. It is a ridiculous bill that has so many holes in it. [*Time expired.*]

Ms MELANIE GIBBONS (Holsworthy) (10:47): I make a short contribution to debate on the ICAC and Other Independent Commissions Legislation Amendment (Independent Funding) Bill 2020 introduced by the Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party in the other place. The bill seeks to amend the Government Sector Finance Act to require that appropriations made by the annual Appropriation Act to certain integrity agencies be paid directly to those agencies; that there be a contingency fund for four integrity agencies equal to 25 per cent of their respective appropriations; and that the Treasurer authorise the payment of a requested sum out of the contingency fund for one of those integrity agencies if their appropriation has been exhausted and certain other conditions are met.

The bill also seeks to amend the Electoral Act, the Independent Commission Against Corruption Act, the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission Act and the Ombudsman Act to require that each agency refer any requests for contingency fund payments to their parliamentary joint committee; and that those committees review information prepared by the relevant agency for use in budget preparations and make recommendations to the Treasurer on budget priorities having regard to this information. It also seeks to amend the Government Sector Employment Act to include the ICAC as a separate public service agency. First and foremost, it is imperative that I identify that the bill has been introduced on a false premise that the ICAC is underfunded or that the Government has funded it insufficiently. As such, the Government will be opposing the bill for this and a number of other reasons, many of which have already been raised.

The premise on which the Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party has brought the bill to the Parliament is patently untrue and I will focus on that matter. In fact, the Government is a strong supporter of the integrity agencies, as this State has seen. We need only go back to the last budget to demonstrate this fact. It was announced in that budget that the ICAC would receive \$32.3 million, comprising \$30.9 million in recurrent expenses plus \$1.4 million in capital expenses. To put that into perspective, that increase represents a 61 per cent increase in the level of expenditure from the final budget of the previous Labor Government in 2010-11. In that budget, the last Labor Government left the ICAC with a rather paltry allocation of \$20.1 million.

But why look backwards? Let us look to the future. This Government is providing more than \$114 million in funding to the ICAC over four years. The 2019-20 budget allocated \$26.6 million plus an additional \$3.5 million in supplementary funding. The numbers speak for themselves: The ICAC is adequately resourced and has been for a number of years. In circumstances where the ICAC has additional work due to complex investigations, it has sought additional funding from the Government. That is consistent with past practice. The need for any additional funding is assessed throughout the financial year to ensure the ICAC continues to be fully equipped to investigate, expose and prevent corruption at all times.

It is within the ICAC's statutory charter to investigate serious and systemic corruption within New South Wales. To ensure that the ICAC is sufficiently equipped to fulfil its statutory role, it has been provided with supplementary funding on every occasion that it has requested it for at least the past 10 years. Just recently in 2018-19, supplementary funding of \$1.72 million was provided to the ICAC. The year before, in the 2017-18 budget, the supplementary funding was \$1.68 million. It is true that in a tight fiscal position agencies may be a little disappointed with the funding they receive in the budget. But while that may be the case, the ICAC's access to supplementary funding demonstrates that the Government is willing and able to provide it—and indeed does provide it—with the funds it needs to continue its important work. This Government is listening and always has an open door.

In the next month or so the Treasurer will hand down our State's next budget. As has been the practice for every budget we have handed down in the past 10 years of government, I have every confidence that the ICAC and other integrity bodies will receive sufficient funding to carry out their important work. The budget process works. The dialogue between the Government and the integrity bodies works as well. This bill is based on a false premise that integrity bodies are underfunded or that they are not able to receive additional funding throughout the year, and that is inaccurate. As such, this bill should be opposed.

Mr ALEX GREENWICH (Sydney) (10:52): The ICAC and Other Independent Commissions Legislation Amendment (Independent Funding) Bill 2020 would create separate appropriation items for four of the State's integrity bodies—the Independent Commission Against Corruption, the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission, the Electoral Commission and the Ombudsman—ensuring that the Parliament and not the Executive approves their budgets. Oversight and integrity bodies should not be beholden to Ministers for funding. Those bodies have powers to investigate Ministers and their colleagues and there is always a risk that a Minister could use budget cuts to hamper an investigation. The existing funding arrangements reduce the independence of those bodies and reform is clearly needed. I support the intention of the bill.

However, the Government tells me that it understands the concerns and is considering the most appropriate funding model to guarantee independence. I am told it will release its plan for reform in August. I will wait to see that plan in light of concerns raised with me about provisions in this bill that would restructure the integrity bodies to make them public service agencies. An outcome of this change is that the Minister, instead of the organisation itself, would appoint the chief executive officer. That goes contrary to the aims of the bill and is a significant concern. Integrity and oversight bodies are fundamental to healthy democracies and I am concerned that any change to their structure requires extensive consultation with the organisations and the stakeholders that use their services. Currently I am not aware of the position of those organisations. I will not support the bill at this stage. However, I agree fully with its intention and reserve my position to support the changes after seeing a detailed response from the Government in August.

Mr JAMIE PARKER (Balmain) (10:54): What a fantastic opportunity the House has been given today to raise yet again what the Independent Commission Against Corruption has told the Premier, this Parliament and the community. We have seen the legal advice provided by the commission making it clear that independent funding is not only necessary but also critical. It is critical because the ICAC should not be required to go cap in hand to the Department of Premier and Cabinet asking for funds to perform its important role of corruption fighting. If it were not for Labor and the Liberal Party, the ICAC would not be so busy. The ICAC is so busy because so many members from Labor and the Liberal Party have been before the ICAC, involving the significant and resource-intensive requirements that we have seen over the past few years. We all support the work that the ICAC does and it is important that we give it the independence to allow it to continue to do it.

As to why this bill is so important, I give as an example what happened yesterday in the House. I asked the Premier about the introduction of a public interest disclosure bill relating to the protection of whistleblowers, three long years after a very long committee of inquiry had recommended changing the law. It has taken three years. That is a long time for whistleblowers to wait, considering there is a political consensus in this place that the legislation should proceed. But three years later we still do not have the bill. We were promised the bill in December 2019, then we were promised the bill later on down the track and then the ICAC committee received a letter saying the bill would come in the first quarter of this year. The first quarter of this year has passed. It is important that this bill is before us today because it applies the pressure and focus on the Government that is needed as it very clearly outlines why independence is so important.

In October 2019 the Chief Commissioner told a hearing of the parliamentary committee for the ICAC that funding cuts would have an immediate and serious impact on the body's ability to function effectively. The ICAC had been advised to expect funding of \$24.81 million for the financial year 2020-21, which was a reduction of \$673,000 compared to the appropriation in the financial year 2019-20. The ICAC warned the Government that this allocation is \$3.943 million less than it requires to "maintain the tempo of its operations". And we wonder why it takes so long for matters to be addressed! The member for Drummoyne has had to wait a very long time for his matter to come before the inquiry. Such periods should be reduced, where possible, to make sure that members of this place and members of the public service or related organisations do not have to wait under a cloud for two or three years or potentially more.

In May 2020 the ICAC made the case for a totally new funding model that would see its funding made independent of the Executive Government. The report was referred to the Auditor-General by the Premier. In October 2020 the Auditor-General released a report examining the effectiveness of the financial arrangements and management procedures of four integrity agencies and found that the current approach to determining and administering annual funding for the integrity agencies presents threats to their independent status. In question time I asked the Premier when she would adopt the recommendations of the Auditor-General's report. She said that the Government was undertaking a consultation process and would have something to say in the first quarter of 2020 or early this year. We need more than just "something to say". We need the Government to take action, particularly as this matter was raised in October 2019. We knew throughout 2019 that it was an issue the ICAC was concerned about. In November 2020, after no action from the Government, the ICAC laid out a parliamentary solution to the funding model problem and called on the New South Wales Parliament to take action.

It is a remarkable situation that in 2019 the ICAC identified significant problems but throughout 2020 there was still no clear action taken after the Auditor-General had released her report. There was no commitment from the Government saying it would ensure independent funding and would deliver it. In November 2020 the ICAC had to come forward and ask members of Parliament to take action. It is a remarkable state of affairs. The ICAC was established by the Parliament and is answerable to the Parliament, not to the Executive. It should not have to go to the Executive cap in hand to ask for funding. But now we see it is more and more dependent on the Executive for funding, and that is exactly the legal advice from eminent senior counsel provided by the ICAC. It outlined that this funding is not independent. It does not meet the requirements of the ICAC Act and is potentially unlawful. Yet the Government is dragging the chain, passing it off to the Auditor-General and not acting effectively and quickly to address this issue.

We need to continue to raise this issue and that is why I welcome this bill. It aims to make amendments to various Acts to facilitate the administrative independence of the Independent Commission Against Corruption, the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission, the NSW Electoral Commission and the Ombudsman's office. The Public Accountability Committee in the other place looked at the issue and also helped to drive forward this agenda. I acknowledge all the members of that committee, and the non-Government members in particular, who have fought so hard to push the issue. I acknowledge Government members who also have been alarmed by the advice that the ICAC has given. They want to get this issue resolved but it is taking such a long time.

The bill will require an annual appropriation for each relevant government sector finance [GSF] agency, including a contingency fund of 25 per cent, to be paid directly to the agency. It will require the Treasurer to authorise payments of each relevant GSF agency's contingency fund with the approval of the relevant joint committee for the agency and if certain other requirements are met. The functions of the bill are laudable. The member for Sydney, a person I respect, talked about the Government's view, and of course I hear its view. The member for Murray, who moved this bill, and other members who have spoken on it have all said that the Government should get on with it. The Government can only blame itself for these bills coming forward because the member for Murray and others are trying to fill a gap that is there because of the Government's inaction. We have known this for a long time.

The Greens support the bill because we want to send a powerful message to the Government. We want to send a message saying, "Let us fix what is going on in ICAC." Whether it is the Shooters, Fishers and Farmers

Party, The Greens or Independents, we are the ones who are talking about this issue. I commend the member for Murray for bringing the bill forward to say that we have to start fixing the way it works. If we cannot have a strong, independent corruption-fighting organisation in our State, we cannot have good democracy. Democracy demands a strong position against corruption and an organisation that can tackle and fight corruption. That is why we are here today not only supporting and defending ICAC, but also wanting to listen to what ICAC says and the advice it has given us. We all have the important responsibility to ensure that the funding is adequate and independent. I thank the member for Murray for bringing forward the bill. She has done a fantastic job of raising this issue in the Parliament. I do not think my saying she has done a fantastic job will go on her election leaflet, but it is important to acknowledge members when they have done the right thing, and I want to acknowledge her in particular.

Ms Jo Haylen: You never acknowledge Labor, Jamie.

Mr JAMIE PARKER: I often acknowledge Labor. I just wish you were in the House yesterday—

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Greg Piper): I ask the member for Balmain to direct his comments through the Chair.

Mr JAMIE PARKER: I just wish the member for Summer Hill was in here voting with us yesterday on the take-note debate rather than heckling a good bill that has been put forward by the member for Murray. I acknowledge all sides in this House, whether Labor or Liberal. But I want to acknowledge the fact that the member for Murray brought forward the bill, and that is a very positive step. I thank all those who work so diligently and so hard in ICAC. I note the member for Heffron is in the Chamber, who sits on the ICAC committee with me and other members. We see directly what ICAC does and the effort ICAC staff make, whether it is the commissioner, the CEO or others. They are fantastic servants of the people of New South Wales, and I thank and acknowledge them for their sterling work. The ICAC is an organisation that the public strongly supports. Whether it is today or next month or next year, I think we are going to get that independent funding. I acknowledge everyone's commitment to seeing that outcome.

Mr RON HOENIG (Heffron) (11:04): I make a contribution to the ICAC and Other Independent Commissions Legislation Amendment (Independent Funding) Bill 2020. I indicate that I will vote in favour of the bill, not just because I am bound to, not because I think the bill is perfect, but because the bill clearly seeks to address a considerable concern that goes all the way back to the Executive through the Treasury, trying to usurp this House and its intentions and in breach of the doctrine of the separation of powers. A culture has developed in this Parliament for some decades where governments of the day are answerable to this House in name only. The New South Wales Constitution requirement that this House is to allocate funding for the ordinary services of government is completely usurped by the Executive side of Government, not because it necessarily has a political mandate or a philosophical strategy but because of the absolute belligerence of Treasury boffins who think their way is the only way. That usurps proper public policy.

Whilst everybody is focused on the Independent Commission Against Corruption and its funding, one should note that the bill is designed to provide a mechanism of funding not just for that commission but also for the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission, the NSW Electoral Commission and the Ombudsman's office. That is what one expects from an eminent member of the other place, the Hon. Robert Borsak, MLC, who introduced the bill. Each of those integrity agencies has been starved for funding in some way. Some of that funding manifested itself at the last State election when members of this House saw huge queues of people waiting to get into polling booths because there was not enough staff and money allocated to the NSW Electoral Commission. I think that is disgraceful. Anything that inhibits people's easy participation in democracy is terrible and disgraceful. Nobody who is willingly a member of this House would cut funding that would impact upon the queues at polling booths. But we, as members of this House who are not part of the Executive, are marginalised by Treasury boffins and that then impacts upon the statutory independence and operations of the Electoral Commission.

I make this point: This Parliament sets up integrity agencies like the Independent Commission Against Corruption, the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission and the Ombudsman's office, and gives them statutory independence and wide discretion to investigate. But when there are objections to the results that are occasioned because those agencies have acted in accordance with the discretions within their Act, then individuals are targeted. The Government gives the ICAC power to investigate certain things and ICAC pursues using its discretions under the Act. When it does not like the result, it sacks Justice Latham as commissioner by an Act of Parliament. The Government does not like the way in which Justice Adams—who is known affectionately as Fatty Adams—of the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission is conducting an inquiry because it happens to be embarrassing to police. Even though Justice Adams is acting in accordance with the Act, the Government does not renew his contract at the commission. So there are problems in adequately funding these agencies.

With great respect to the country's most eminent counsel, Bret Walker, I have seen the advice that he has provided. There are assertions that ICAC is virtually a fourth tier of government and should have its own guaranteed funding to enable it to do whatever it wants to do without having to account for that funding to the Treasurer or the Premier on the basis that it could have its funding restricted to punish it for investigating certain people, so it should be given independence. With great respect to Mr Walker and to a number of other people who are trying to assert that ICAC and these other integrity agencies are not part of the Executive branch of Government, I say they are wrong. ICAC is an investigator. It is part of the Executive branch of Government. It has been given statutory independence by Parliament and by this House, as have a number of other organs of the Executive branch.

Crown Prosecutors are given statutory independence in respect of their operations. Nobody would want funding cuts that would restrict the ability of a Crown Prosecutor to fairly prosecute people in this State. Public Defenders, who represent legally-aided people, are given statutory independence and are funded via the Executive Government. The NSW Police Commissioner has statutory independence, yet he is funded by this Parliament via the Executive Government. Nobody says the police should be given a guaranteed amount of money every year because otherwise the Government will pull funding out to prevent the police conducting an effective investigation. The police can investigate a Minister or member of Parliament or anyone for the most minor offences.

This bill asks for the consistent shortfall in funding for these integrity agencies to be addressed because that shortfall does not allow the Parliament's will for the functions of those agencies to operate properly. Parliament set up those agencies and gave them functions. The agencies are saying, "We cannot perform our statutory functions because we are not getting the funds necessary to do so." Either Parliament tells them not to perform their functions and changes or repeals the Act, or it provides the proper funding. The problem is that the practical reality of the way in which this Parliament operates is that, although we are supposed to provide funding under the Constitution, it does not work that way because every year the Treasurer moves the budget, the budget is adopted and then it is pushed down the track for a take-note debate. None of us have a say. When the budget documents drop next month, none of us will even know how much money is going to these organisations. We do not get a say because we do not even know. We have to wait for the agencies to complain that they cannot discharge their statutory functions.

The bill is the product of a frustrated House of Parliament. By passing the bill, the upper House is clearly saying that the Government, which is accountable to this Parliament, is preventing our agencies from performing the functions this Parliament set them up to perform because the Government is not giving them a consistent level of funding. The Parliament is demanding some level of funding. The Government's response was to refer the issue to the Auditor-General, which is the typical response of a government that feels politically wedged by accusations such as, "You're soft on corruption. You're interfering because you're under the investigation of ICAC, and therefore you don't like the result, so you are not giving us any money. You're going to cut the money."

The Opposition makes that accusation, and the Premier says, "I will refer all these integrity agencies to the Auditor-General," thinking, as the Temporary Speaker knows, that in every corner of every public sector organisation, in councils, there are hollow logs or inefficiencies. The Premier expects that somehow or other the Auditor-General will report that the Independent Commission Against Corruption is inefficiently run and not properly accountable for its funds, the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission is not properly run and wastes money and the Ombudsman is not properly run because money has been wasted on its big inquiry. But that was not the result of the Auditor-General's investigation. [*Extension of time.*]

The Auditor-General reported that the Independent Commission Against Corruption was probably one of the best run, financially accountable agencies in the State. As all members of the House would know, the Auditor-General is not backwards in coming forwards when criticising the efficiency of public sector organisations and the public service. She is not at all frightened of criticising the Government's management of its major political infrastructure operations. She certainly would not be scared of criticising ICAC for fear of an investigation by ICAC of the Auditor-General in some sort of quid pro quo. The Government's strategy has backfired.

In her report, the Auditor-General has given the Government a way forward by providing various options for funding these organisations to show that there is some independence from Executive Government. The Auditor-General has shown the way forward. She is not taking away Parliament's ability to fund the organisations because that is up to us under the Constitution. It is also up to this Parliament to hold the Executive Government to account as to how that money is spent. The Auditor-General understands that and is not trying to set up some other branch of government. She has found a way forward to ensure that there is Executive accountability to this House and that these integrity organisations are properly funded under the Constitution. This Parliament wants those organisations to operate independently, unaffected by Executive interference. That is the way forward.

I have listened to the contribution of my learned friend the member for Ku-ring-gai, an eminent silk whose views I respect. The bill may not be perfect but what else are the Houses of Parliament to do when there is no movement from the Executive Government? Despite all its resources—access to Parliamentary Counsel, the Treasury and the budget, the Crown Solicitor and the Solicitor General, and an Auditor-General's recommendation—it chooses to do nothing. The Parliament responds, as best it can, with a bill to try to address a significant issue affecting integrity agencies that say they cannot operate in accordance with the will of the Parliament because they are insufficiently funded to perform their statutory functions. For that reason, the Opposition supports the bill. We commend the bill to the House, and we commend the Hon. Robert Borsak for steering it through the other place.

Mrs HELEN DALTON (Murray) (11:18): In reply: I thank all members who contributed to debate on the ICAC and Other Independent Commissions Legislation Amendment (Independent Funding) Bill 2020. I commend the bill to the House.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Greg Piper): The question is that this bill be now read a second time.

The House divided.

Ayes40
Noes46
Majority.....6

AYES

Aitchison, J	Harris, D	Minns, C
Atalla, E	Harrison, J	O'Neill, M
Bali, S	Haylen, J	Park, R
Barr, C	Hoenig, R	Parker, J
Butler, R	Hornery, S	Saffin, J
Car, P	Kamper, S	Scully, P
Catley, Y	Lalich, N	Smith, T
Chanthivong, A	Leong, J	Tesch, L
Cotsis, S	Lynch, P	Voltz, L
Crakanthorp, T	McDermott, H	Warren, G
Dalton, H	McKay, J	Washington, K
Donato, P (teller)	Mehan, D	Watson, A (teller)
Doyle, T	Mihailuk, T	Zangari, G
Finn, J		

NOES

Anderson, K	Greenwich, A	Roberts, A
Ayres, S	Griffin, J	Saunders, D
Barilaro, J	Gulaptis, C	Sidgreaves, P
Berejiklian, G	Hancock, S	Singh, G
Bromhead, S	Hazzard, B	Smith, N
Clancy, J	Henskens, A	Speakman, M
Conolly, K	Kean, M	Stokes, R
Constance, A	Lee, G	Taylor, M
Cooke, S (teller)	Lindsay, W	Toole, P
Coure, M	Marshall, A	Tuckerman, W
Crouch, A (teller)	McGirr, J	Upton, G
Davies, T	Pavey, M	Ward, G
Dominello, V	Petinos, E	Williams, L
Elliott, D	Preston, R	Williams, R
Evans, L	Provest, G	Wilson, F
Gibbons, M		

PAIRS

Daley, M	O'Dea, J
Dib, J	Perrottet, D

Motion negatived.

INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION AMENDMENT (MINISTERIAL CODE OF CONDUCT - PROPERTY DEVELOPERS) BILL 2021

Second Reading Debate

Debate resumed from 18 February 2021.

Mr ALISTER HENSKENS (Ku-ring-gai) (11:30): I contribute to debate on the Independent Commission Against Corruption Amendment (Ministerial Code of Conduct – Property Developers) Bill 2021. Corruption is a perversion of democracy and ultimately leads to the waste of taxes paid by our citizens. The Coalition has done much about it within the New South Wales Parliament. It was the Greiner Coalition Government that introduced the Independent Commission Against Corruption Act in 1988. Why was it that the Greiner Government needed to introduce that legislation? Quite simply, it was because the preceding Wran Labor Government was rife with corruption.

For example, in the 1980s Rex Jackson, the Minister for Corrective Services in the Wran Labor Government, was found with \$100,000 in cash in the boot of his car. He was engaging in a corrupt "cash for release" scheme whereby criminals would be released into the community for a payment of money. He was ultimately put in jail. Former Labor senator Lionel Murphy was then appointed by Labor to the High Court of Australia. He was prosecuted for conspiracy to pervert the course of justice, also in the 1980s, before the Greiner Government came into power. What happened there? The sequence of events was that he was found guilty in his first trial for one of the two counts of perversion of the course of justice. He gave evidence in that trial and the jury did not believe him.

The matter then went to the Court of Criminal Appeal, which quashed the guilty verdict and ordered a retrial. In the retrial, Lionel Murphy—a High Court judge, no less—did not get in the witness box to challenge the sworn evidence that was given against him. He gave what was called an "unsworn statement from the dock", which was then available in New South Wales. That procedure had begun in the 1800s for people of little education with no legal representation, who could stand up and plead their case to the jury without any cross-examination when they were charged with a serious criminal offence. Lionel Murphy, an icon of NSW Labor, resorted to coward's corner and gave an unsworn statement from the dock.

He was ultimately acquitted in that retrial, but more material came forward and the Australian Parliament conducted an exhaustive inquiry to determine whether he was fit to remain a High Court judge under the Australian Constitution. As under the New South Wales Constitution, the Australian Parliament was the parliament that would have to remove a Federal judge for misconduct. That parliamentary inquiry was done very appropriately and independently. This was after Senator Michael Tate, a Tasmanian Labor senator, voted against the other Labor members of the judiciary committee of the Australian Parliament and recommended that there was a case for Murphy to answer. When they conducted the parliamentary inquiry, it was done with retired judges and counsel assisting.

The counsel assisting was the Hon. Stephen Charles, QC, who would later become Justice Stephen Charles of the Victorian Court of Appeal. During the course of that investigation, Lionel Murphy contracted cancer. Rightly, from a humane point of view, they determined that he would die before the inquiry process would be completed and the inquiry was ceased. Unusually, the Federal Labor Government embargoed the papers and the findings of deliberations for a period of 30 years—longer than Cabinet secrets, which are given 20 years. Recently when those papers were released, they showed that there was a prima facie case that Murphy had misled the jury in four respects in his unsworn statement from the dock, which would warrant proceedings to remove him—

Mr David Harris: Point of order: I take a point of order under Standing Order 76. I have been through the provisions of the bill carefully. I am listening to the member's contribution and I believe he is way outside the provisions of the bill. Temporary Speaker, I ask that you bring him back to the bill.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Greg Piper): I thank the member for Wyong for his point of order. The history lesson being provided by the member for Ku-ring-gai is relevant in setting a context for the overall issue. In his introductory remarks he is talking broadly about corruption and the actions of Ministers. At this stage, the member is in order.

Mr ALISTER HENSKENS: The bill is about a proposed change to the Ministerial Code of Conduct under the ICAC Act. I am simply giving the historical context for the creation of the ICAC Act and the problem of corruption in New South Wales within the Labor Party in the 1980s, which gave rise to the passing of the bill by this Parliament in 1988.

Dr Marjorie O'Neill: Let's talk about project Spicer.

Mr ALISTER HENSKENS: Do not worry, I will get to more recent Labor corruption in a moment. Not only were there four instances in which Lionel Murphy misled the jury in his unsworn statement from the dock, but also there were other matters of corruption, for which the parliamentary inquiry determined there was a prima facie case for investigation. At the time, prior to 1988, the former Labor Government had been led by Neville Wran, who was frequently called "Nifty" Neville Wran. There was a royal commission, conducted by Justice Street, into whether he had engaged in corrupt conduct. There was the Kevin Humphries affair involving the NSW Rugby League and an ABC exposé that led to that inquiry.

Interestingly—and this is interesting for present purposes and current controversies—when Lionel Murphy was acquitted in the second trial, where it was found later there was a prima facie case of misleading the jury on four occasions, Neville Wran got up and said, "This was always a political prosecution." He was found guilty of criminal contempt of court by the NSW Court of Appeal. The relationship between Wran and Murphy was incredibly close. It comes as no surprise that the ABC has recently revealed, in respect of the Luna Park fire, that Wran and Murphy were involved in the cover-up and were associates of the disgraced criminal figure Abe Saffron. That was the important context in which the 1988 bill was passed by both Houses of Parliament, creating the Independent Commission Against Corruption Act.

When that legislation was introduced, there was an extraordinary degree of consideration about it. I have seen the long and detailed submissions by the New South Wales Bar Association relating to particular aspects of the bill. The Parliament was creating a body unlike any body we had at that moment. We have a police force that is independent of the prosecution service. We have a prosecution service that is independent of the courts, which ultimately makes determinations. This Parliament created the Independent Commission Against Corruption, which has an investigative function and the power to make decisions to hold public hearings. It also has a determinative function with the power to determine findings of corruption and to refer individuals to the Director of Public Prosecution for its consideration to prosecute. That was why there needed to be a great deal of consideration when creating the ICAC. I will go to some features of the Act that interplay with codes of conduct, which is the subject matter of the bill. The Act has been amended over the years, but its basic foundation is still the same.

Ms Jodie Harrison: Are you going to support this bill or not?

Mr ALISTER HENSKENS: I will ignore the interjections from across the Chamber. After the Act constitutes the commission, it has section 7, which states:

- (1) For the purposes of the Act, corrupt conduct is any conduct which falls within the description of corrupt conduct in section 8, but which is not excluded by section 9.

That is particularly relevant for reasons I will describe. Section 8 has a general description of corrupt conduct, which is quite exhaustive. It states:

- (1) Corrupt conduct is—
- (a) any conduct of any person ... that adversely affects, or that could adversely affect, either directly or indirectly, the honest or impartial exercise of official functions by any public official, any group or body of public officials or any public authority, or
 - (b) any conduct of a public official that constitutes or involves the dishonest or partial exercise of any of his or her official functions, or
 - (c) any conduct of a public official or former public official that constitutes or involves a breach of public trust, or
 - (d) any conduct of a public official or former public official that involves the misuse of information or material that he or she has acquired in the course of his or her official functions, whether or not for his or her benefit or for the benefit of any other person.
- (2) Corrupt conduct is also any conduct of any person (whether or not a public official) that adversely affects, or that could adversely affect, either directly or indirectly, the exercise of official functions by any public official, any group or body of public officials or any public authority and which could involve any of the following matters—

Then there is a list of matters:

- (a) official misconduct (including breach of trust, fraud in office, nonfeasance, misfeasance, malfeasance, oppression, extortion or imposition),
- (b) bribery,
- (c) blackmail,
- (d) obtaining or offering secret commissions,
- (e) fraud,
- (f) theft,

- (g) perverting the course of justice—

that is relevant to the matters I raised with regard to Lionel Murphy—

- (h) embezzlement,
- (i) election bribery,
- (j) election funding offences,
- (k) election fraud,
- (l) treating,
- (m) tax evasion,
- (n) revenue evasion,
- (o) currency violations,
- (p) illegal drug dealings,
- (q) illegal gambling,
- (r) obtaining financial benefit by vice engaged in by others,
- (s) bankruptcy and company violations,
- (t) harbouring criminals,
- (u) forgery,
- (v) treason or other offences against the Sovereign,
- (w) homicide or violence,
- (x) matters of the same or a similar nature to any listed above, and
- (y) any conspiracy or attempt in relation to any of the above.

It is very expansive in regard to what corrupt conduct is. Section 2A has been added since the original Act was enacted. Section 9 is relevant to the Greiner case, of which members would be aware. It states:

- (1) Despite section 8, conduct does not amount to corrupt conduct unless it could constitute or involve—
 - (a) a criminal offence, or
 - (b) a disciplinary offence, or
 - (c) reasonable grounds for dismissing, dispensing with the services of or otherwise terminating the services of a public official, or
 - (d) in the case of conduct of a Minister of the Crown or a member of a House of Parliament—a substantial breach of an applicable code of conduct.

That is relevant to this bill, because it deals with an applicable code of conduct. It further states:

- (2) It does not matter that proceedings or action for such an offence can no longer be brought or continued, or that action for such dismissal, dispensing or other termination can no longer be taken.

That is important because we know that corrupt conduct is, by nature, concealed. It may not arise for some time and statutory limitation periods should not prevent the finding of corruption by reason of its concealment. Nick Greiner, the creator of the ICAC, was ultimately found—wrongly—to be corrupt. He was forced by the crossbench at the time to resign as Premier. He was ultimately vindicated in the Court of Appeal, it having been a wrongful finding of corruption. But he was lost to public life as a consequence because he left Parliament before the court process could be exhausted. That is the importance of a code of conduct and why it is important to corruption findings. The issue is an important one, but it is important to be analysed and understood within that historical context.

It is true to say that, with the exception of that wrongful finding of corruption against Nick Greiner, no Liberal member of this Parliament has been found to be corrupt in the course of performing their duties as a member of Parliament. That is by contrast to the members who sit opposite us who frequently attempt to lecture us about corruption. If a member were to introduce a private member's bill, one would think that their second reading speech, to which I am responding, would set out the matters I have just set out, that it would go to the applicable code of conduct and would say, "This is the problem with the current ministerial code. This is the hole. That is why we are bringing forward a bill to fix the hole." That is not what we heard from the Leader of the Opposition in her second reading speech. The Leader of the Opposition—the member for Strathfield—said:

The Opposition is introducing this legislation because we believe politics in New South Wales needs to return to a higher standard.

That is it. That got me thinking, in light of the history of the Labor Party in this State, which I just outlined to the House, what standard is the member for Strathfield referring to? I thought a little bit about her history as a politician to try to understand what that history and higher standard might be. We know that the member for Strathfield has had two lives as a member of Parliament. You will know, Mr Temporary Speaker, given that it is around your neck of the woods and it is certainly around areas that I am very familiar with, that there was a member in this place who represented the electorate of Newcastle called Bryce Gaudry. Bryce Gaudry, as I understand, had the support of the Left—of the Labor Party and the local branches. At that time, around about 2007, the head office of the New South Wales branch of the Labor Party was controlled by characters like Eddie Obeid and Joe Tripodi.

Ms Jodie Harrison: Point of order: I do not see how this can be at all relevant to the bill before the House. The member is severely straying from the leave of the bill.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Greg Piper): I note that the previous point of order taken by the member for Wyong addressed the historic context, which I was happy to uphold. I was surprised it took so long for a second point of order to be taken. I uphold the point of order from the member for Charlestown. The member for Ku-ring-gai will return to the leave of the bill.

Mr ALISTER HENSKENS: Mr Temporary Speaker, I am not trying to argue with you, but I am putting this in the context of the second reading speech of the bill. The Leader of the Opposition justified the need for the bill by claiming that, according to her standards, we needed to return politics in New South Wales to a higher standard. I am talking about those standards.

Ms Jodie Harrison: Point of order—

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Greg Piper): The member for Ku-ring-gai is speaking to my ruling on the point of order, so I will hear him further.

Mr ALISTER HENSKENS: I am entitled, in my respectful submission, to understand what the higher standards are that the member for Strathfield, formerly the member for Newcastle, has applied to her political life so that we can understand—

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Greg Piper): If I accept that argument as a defence against the point of order, I would have no ability to bring you back to the detail of the bill. In this instance I do not accept that and I ask you to come back to the leave of the bill rather than detail the history of the member for Strathfield.

Mr ALISTER HENSKENS: When the member for Strathfield first entered the Parliament in 2007 she shared a party room with—

Mr David Harris: Point of order—

Mr ALISTER HENSKENS: This is a matter of fact.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Greg Piper): I will hear the point of order.

Mr David Harris: It relates to Standing Order 73. If the member wishes to comment specifically on the member for Strathfield, he should do so by way of substantive motion, not by using the second reading debate of a bill to attack the member for Strathfield.

Mr Ray Williams: To the point of order: As has already been pointed out, the member with carriage of the bill made specific comments in her second reading speech that are now being debated. I believe that those remarks should and can be addressed in the second reading debate, as the member for Ku-ring-gai has clearly pointed out.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Greg Piper): I thank the member for Castle Hill for his assistance. I do not accept that the comments at this stage would constitute a requirement to use Standing Order 73. I do not uphold the point of order. I stand by my previous ruling on the point of order from the member for Charlestown and ask the member for Ku-ring-gai to return to the leave of the bill.

Mr DAVID HARRIS: I move:

That the question be now put.

The House divided.

Ayes41
Noes45
Majority.....4

AYES

Aitchison, J	Harris, D	Minns, C
Atalla, E	Harrison, J	O'Neill, M
Bali, S	Haylen, J	Park, R
Barr, C	Hoening, R	Parker, J
Butler, R	Hornery, S	Saffin, J
Car, P	Kamper, S	Scully, P
Catley, Y	Lalich, N	Smith, T
Chanthivong, A	Leong, J	Tesch, L
Cotsis, S	Lynch, P	Voltz, L
Crakanthorp, T	McDermott, H	Warren, G
Dalton, H	McGirr, J	Washington, K
Donato, P	McKay, J	Watson, A (teller)
Doyle, T	Mehan, D (teller)	Zangari, G
Finn, J	Mihailuk, T	

NOES

Anderson, K	Gibbons, M	Roberts, A
Ayres, S	Greenwich, A	Saunders, D
Barilaro, J	Griffin, J	Sidgreaves, P
Berejiklian, G	Gulaptis, C	Singh, G
Bromhead, S	Hancock, S	Smith, N
Clancy, J	Hazzard, B	Speakman, M
Conolly, K	Henskens, A	Stokes, R
Constance, A	Kean, M	Taylor, M
Cooke, S (teller)	Lee, G	Toole, P
Coure, M	Lindsay, W	Tuckerman, W
Crouch, A (teller)	Marshall, A	Upton, G
Davies, T	Pavey, M	Ward, G
Dominello, V	Petinos, E	Williams, L
Elliott, D	Preston, R	Williams, R
Evans, L	Provest, G	Wilson, F

PAIRS

Daley, M	O'Dea, J
Dib, J	Perrottet, D

Motion negated.

Mr ALISTER HENSKENS (Ku-ring-gai) (12:07): I apologise, it is difficult getting back in the saddle after divisions under the current standing orders. I think I was just pointing out that in 2007 the New South Wales parliamentary Labor caucus included Eddie Obeid, Ian Macdonald, Tony Kelly, Joe Tripodi, Angela D'Amore and Karyn Paluzzano, all six of whom served in the caucus with the member for Strathfield and all six of whom were found corrupt by the ICAC. In fact two of the Ministers who served with the member for Strathfield in the former Labor Government, Tony Kelly and Joe Tripodi, were both found corrupt by the ICAC.

So when the Leader of the Opposition introduces the bill and says that she wants to return politics to a higher standard, I do not think we want politics in New South Wales returned to her standard—the standard that she walked by when she was first in this Parliament and the standard which meant that at no time in that four-year parliamentary term between 2007 and 2011 when the Labor Government had the numbers in this place did the member for Strathfield once move that there be a ministerial code of conduct, because there was not one in existence.

Debate adjourned.*Motions***ROTARY CLUB OF SYDNEY CENTENARY**

Debate resumed from 6 May 2021.

Mr MARK COURE (Oatley) (12:09): As I mentioned a week ago, Rotary has a number of programs that are developing the next generation of leaders and providing funding to make the world a better place. Those projects and programs include the Rotary Peace Fellowship and community corps. Certainly a lot of young people in my electorate have participated in the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards and the youth exchanges. In my electorate there are many Rotary clubs. For example, the Rotary Club of Hurstville, of which my wife is a member, meets at Mortdale. I also acknowledge Janice Hall, who was the district governor nominee and now incoming governor. Her inspirational women's awards for 2021 were launched in this place only a week ago. Rotary does a great job in every local community, including mine. I acknowledge Rotarians both here and across New South Wales, Australia and the world.

Mr RAY WILLIAMS (Castle Hill) (12:10:3): First of all I acknowledge the centenary anniversary of Rotary in Australia. I congratulate all the various Rotary clubs and the many Rotarians who have given up so many hours of their lives to raise funds on behalf of important issues, not least the eradication of polio worldwide. If I remember correctly back to the last Rotary event that I attended, I think the problem with polio persists in only one country in the world, although it was envisaged that over the next year or so that it would be completely eradicated. I certainly hope that is the case. I also acknowledge the mover of the motion, the member for Heathcote, for bringing it to the House. As members of Parliament we have many Rotary clubs within our electorates that undertake fabulous commitments to their community over a commitment to self.

It was my absolute pleasure to receive a Paul Harris Fellow award in 2019 from my Rotary club in Castle Hill. I acknowledge that club, the work it does and its president, Mike Blair. I thank it once again. Receiving an award named after the founder of Rotary worldwide was a humbling experience. I am also a Rotary honorary member at Dural and have been since 2007. That club undertakes many regular Bunnings barbecues to raise important funding on behalf of various charitable events and organisations. I acknowledge its president, George Truelove, and the many members of Dural Rotary. I always love to attend one of the Dural Country Club's many and varied functions or dinner nights because they are always enjoyable occasions.

Hills-Kellyville Rotary organises one of the most outstanding events—The Hills garden competition. The Hills area is known as the garden shire and is notable for the many gorgeous gardens that pervade that particular area and certainly across my electorate. Each and every year we see some outstanding exhibitions of gardens acknowledged and awarded. I acknowledge its president, John Van Der Burg, its long-serving secretary, Wilf Van Emmerik, and its membership director, John Collignon. Some of those members have had a bit of ill health in the last while, so we wish them all the best. I am also an honorary member of the Norwest Sunrise (Bella Vista) Rotary, as it is now called. It was originally named the Norwest Rotary. It, too, applies itself to the task of raising money on behalf of charitable events. I acknowledge its board members: Alex Hezari, Bev Jordan, Mercedes Durante, Gary West, Cherlyn Suzuki, Robert Bredlin, Dennis Riva, Martin Collins and Jeremy Carter.

Glenhaven Rotary is another wonderful club in my area. I acknowledge president Annie Bradley and board members Jan Duffy, Helen Games, Barry Philps, Vito Dullab, Annette Waterson, Jo Norton, Barry Wailes and Marie Campion. Finally, Kenthurst Rotary is an outstanding club. The many great people there include president Michael O'Connor, Victoria Burakowski, Chris Redman, Chris Gaskin, Kathy Bray, Paul Rapp, Tony Goode, Phil Bishop, Peter Bray and Todd Melrose. They look after Kenthurst Rotary Park and, amongst other things, hold wonderful events for the Orange Blossom Festival, Anzac Day and Australia Day. I acknowledge all those wonderful Rotarians and Rotary clubs. I wish them the best and a happy anniversary in the 100th year of Rotary.

Mr JUSTIN CLANCY (Albury) (12:15): By leave: I welcome the opportunity to speak to the motion moved by the member for Heathcote. I congratulate the Rotary Club of Sydney on its centenary. It was the first Rotary club in Australia. In that sense we are celebrating the Rotary Club of Sydney, but we are also celebrating 100 years of Rotary throughout this nation. The third point in the motion of the member for Heathcote recognises "the humanitarian ... projects that Rotary does to improve people's lives in Australia and around the world". That very much speaks to the motto of "service above self". For me, part of being a Rotarian is about the larger scale. We have projects such as the eradication of polio. Over a number of years Rotary, in conjunction with collaborators, has made a significant dent on that disease across the globe, to the point where it is now identified in just a few countries around the subcontinent. It is a massive effort and testament to the global power of Rotary.

But what we can do locally and the projects that happen at the local level are more important. Rotarians talk about having a "Rotary moment". As an assistant governor in former days of district 9790, I had a number of opportunities to have those Rotary moments. Once I had a conversation with a Rotarian at a meeting in Victoria. They were talking about how their Rotary club was working with villages in poorer socio-economic areas to provide proper effluent treatment. From that they were able to harness gas. That gas was used for cooking, which in turn led to less fires within dwellings which, in the end, also reduced eye diseases. Seeing multiple benefits from just one project is an absolute Rotary moment.

Another really important Rotary moment for me—and one in my own patch—that I am proud of the Tumbarumba community for is the Rotary Club of Tumbarumba's efforts with its Tumbarumba to Kokoda trek. People such as Grant Harris and Bruce Wright have been doing this for a number of years. They prepare young high school students over a number of months and then take them on the Kokoda Track, which is a life-forming experience for them. So many of them return imbued with values, particularly around leadership, and a willingness to contribute further in their own community. We see this time and again on other occasions when we are there for Tumba trek. It is a fantastic project and one of which the Rotary Club of Tumbarumba should be justifiably proud.

Back home in Albury, just the other week I attended the Nail Can Hill Run, which is an iconic event in Albury. It has been hosted for a number of years now by the West Albury Rotary Club. As I travelled to that event I drove past another Rotary club that was doing the Sunday markets. The story of Rotary is the Rotary moments that occur time and again. There are so many Rotary clubs and so many people making an effort. My own club had a project to fund a preschool in Kitenden in Africa, again helping people in need. I congratulate the Rotary Club of Sydney on its centenary and give a big shout-out to all members of Rotary throughout this nation.

Mr GURMESH SINGH (Coffs Harbour) (12:19): By leave: At the core of every Rotary club is a group of people with the desire to do good for our community, and that is exactly what one will find on the Coffs Coast. I acknowledge some of the local Rotary clubs in the Coffs Harbour electorate. The Rotary Club of Coffs Harbour was chartered in 1949. It is the oldest Rotary club in Coffs Harbour, with a diverse range of members of all ages and genders. A shining example of Rotary's heavy lifting in my electorate is the fitness station at Coffs Harbour's southern foreshores, which is a welcome addition to the community facilities in our city. This exciting project was all about enabling people to get healthy while taking in the stunning harbourside views. In October 2019 I joined members of the Rotary Club of Coffs Harbour for the official opening of the southern foreshores fitness station. Rotary identified the need to provide an opportunity for all members of our community to have free access to fitness equipment. I congratulate the Rotary Club of Coffs Harbour on delivering this important project and I am proud of the \$16,000 New South Wales Government grant that helped deliver it.

For over 16 years Rotary has run the annual Bookfest, where the sale of second-hand books to the public is conducted over a full week. It is held at the Coffs Harbour Showground and is the largest book fair on the North Coast, with 80,000 or so books for sale. They encourage customers to "Buy this year—give back next", which has been very much appreciated by the community. The Rotary Club of Coffs Harbour is also welcoming locals and visitors to the tenth annual Bendigo Bank Coffs Harbour Running Festival on Sunday 12 September 2021. It features the Beachside Radiology Half Marathon, the Cex Coffs 10km Fun Run, the Coastal Works 5km Fun Run, the Key Employment 3km Fun Run and the Mercedes-Benz Coffs Coast Nyami and Jaanybarr of the Creek—a combination of the half-marathon, the 10-kilometre and the five-kilometre distances for a total of 36.1 kilometres.

Coffs City Rotary was chartered in August 1986. It is an active club and has been a driving force in the Coffs Harbour community for decades. Coffs City Rotary has raised and donated well over \$800,000 to local and overseas charities. Coffs City Rotary members pride themselves on being involved in some of the biggest and best events on the Coffs Coast, including the NAB Coffs Coast Cycle Challenge. Their golf charity day is a four-person ambrose with a shotgun start. It draws over 100 entrants and requires more than 20 volunteers, supplemented by staff from the host course. For those of a more genteel persuasion, Coffs City Rotary runs the Wine, Beer and Food Enjoyment Day. Traditionally run each May at Novotel Pacific Bay Resort, the day brings together the best wine, beer and food producers of the Coffs Coast and delivers their wares directly to the public.

The National Cartoon Gallery is Australia's only dedicated cartoon gallery, exhibiting the largest private collection of contemporary cartoons in the Southern Hemisphere. The creation of the gallery is largely thanks to Coffs City Rotary and in particular the two drivers of the project, Tom Hamilton-Foster and the late John Champion. Their work in acquiring sponsorships and local business funding enabled the restoration of the building to proceed. Their caricatures are proudly displayed in the gallery's foyer. In February I was joined by Deputy Premier John Barilaro to officially open the National Cartoon Gallery at the Bunker, which was upgraded thanks to \$2.6 million from the New South Wales Government. It was an honour to officially open Australia's largest collection of more than 23,500 historical cartoons spanning over 120 years of Australian history. Coffs City Rotary also proudly supports the National Youth Science Forum by identifying and supporting talented young science students and helping them to pursue their goals.

The Rotary Club of Coffs Harbour Daybreak was chartered in 1991 and is a mixed club with youthful, energetic members. They are proud of their fundraising for 10 Welch Allyn vital signs monitors for the cancer unit, promotion for a PET scanner for Coffs Harbour Base Hospital and development of a walkway for the south side of Coffs Harbour. Last week I was joined on stage by Woolgoolga Rotary Club president Julie Marshall where we judged the Coffs Coast Science and Engineering Challenge, an event that brings together seven local

high schools. I pay tribute to all Rotarians on the Coffs Coast—from our northern beaches to Sawtell—for their passion, dedication and hard work in making our region an even better place to live.

Dr JOE McGIRR (Wagga Wagga) (12:23): By leave: Rotary has strong, long-established links to Wagga Wagga and I congratulate Rotary as an organisation on its 100th anniversary celebration this year. The oldest club in my electorate is the Wagga Wagga club, which was formed in 1930. South Wagga Wagga followed in 1960, Wagga Wagga Koorringal in 1969, Wollundry Wagga Wagga in 1978, Wagga Wagga Sunrise in 1991 and Wagga Wagga Murrumbidgee in 2006. In 2016 a Charles Sturt University [CSU] Wagga Wagga Rotaract Club was formed. There are also Rotary clubs in Tumut and Batlow and in 2019 the Lockhart Rotary Club handed in its charter after 63 years of service to its community. All of those clubs have a long and proud history of supporting the Rotary goals and ideals and of giving back to their communities.

Rotary came to the city of Wagga Wagga in 1929. That was just after the US share market collapsed—a major time. The new Rotary club, under the presidency of Harry Mitchelmore, was heavily involved in a project to resettle homeless people in north Wagga. While it was sponsored by the Albury club, it subsequently sponsored a number of clubs in the region. It was lucky enough to host a visit from Paul Harris in 1935. Over the decades the Rotary Club of Wagga Wagga has been involved in many community and charity events and this weekend it will host the hugely popular Rotary Book Fair, which is one of my favourites. The next to be established was the Rotary Club of South Wagga Wagga, and members of that club provide more than 2,000 hours of voluntary work each year. The club has supported a number of groups such as Country Hope, Ronald McDonald House, Kurrajong, Angel Flight, Can Assist and many smaller groups. The club has also sponsored young people at the National Youth Science Forum.

The Rotary Club of Wagga Wagga Koorringal celebrated its fiftieth anniversary in 2019. Koorringal Rotarians began the Peace City project in 1990, which continued to grow and in February 1993 saw the unveiling of a peace monument in Wagga—the world's first Peace City. The Rotary Club of Wollundry Wagga Wagga is one of city's largest and most active. The club manages fundraising markets that provide funds to support a variety of events. They include the Saturday markets, the Wagga Wagga Food and Wine Festival and the Gears and Beers festival.

The Rotary Club of Wagga Wagga Sunrise broke new ground with its formation. It began as a mixed-gender breakfast club, as it was believed there was a need for a new option in addition to the existing Rotary clubs in Wagga, and has a reputation for fun and fellowship among its members. The service projects allow them to work together. The club is a strong supporter of the Rotary District 9705 projects. Wagga is also lucky enough to have a Rotaract Club based at the city's Charles Sturt University campus. The Rotary Club of Wagga Wagga Murrumbidgee describes itself as a new-generation club that encourages younger people to become members, to initiate projects, to promote community liaison and to build awareness and support for community issues.

The Rotary Club of Batlow has been a vital part of the Batlow community since it was chartered in April 1970 by the Rotary Club of Tumut. By undertaking activities such as wood raffles, barbecues and other events for their community, its members continue to be strong supporters—particularly after the fires last year in Batlow. The Tumut club was chartered in 1953 and its members continue to work, an example of this being the immensely popular Falling Leaf Festival. One of its more recent projects was teaming up with the Snowy Valleys Council and the Blakeney Millar Foundation for the famous Community Labyrinth.

Before I finish I note a very significant event for us. In 2022 Wagga Wagga's Geraldine Rurenga will make history as the youngest district governor in Zone 8, taking over from Michael Moore. She is 29 and has been a member of the Rotary Club of Wagga Wagga Murrumbidgee since 2014. This year the Wagga district will merge with the Canberra district to form a super-district of around 80 clubs. I congratulate Ms Rurenga on that achievement. She is one of the few female district governors in the history of Rotary, which only started allowing women into the ranks about 30 years ago. I congratulate her on that achievement and I congratulate all Rotarians on their achievements and contributions to our community.

Ms Eleni Petinos: I seek leave to make a contribution to the debate.

Leave not granted.

Mr Ray Williams: I request an extension of time so that all members of this House who wish to speak on the wonderful work that Rotary does in all of our communities may do so. I am deeply disappointed that the member for Wyong would want to shut down debate.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Ms Felicity Wilson): I understand the point that the member for Castle Hill is making.

Mr David Harris: You have had a day and a half—

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Ms Felicity Wilson): The member for Wyong will remain silent. Unfortunately the standing orders do not allow for an extension of time.

Mr LEE EVANS (Heathcote) (12:29): In reply: It is a bit disappointing that we cannot finish the motion but I do acknowledge the time constraints faced by the House. I thank the member for Prospect for his very good speech in which he outlined the history and background about the start of Rotary in New South Wales and Australia. The member for Manly made poignant comments and the member for Fairfield spoke about his local clubs and the major fundraising that they do through raffles. The member for Myall Lakes discussed the Hay Run and the one-stop shop for drought and flood relief. The member for Maitland talked about Rotary Youth Leadership Awards [RYLA], overseas exchanges and lasting legacies. The member for Dubbo mentioned the Royal Far West bike ride and the member for Oatley spoke about the world's 12 million Rotarians and 35,000 clubs. I acknowledge the contributions made by members representing the electorates of Castle Hill, Albury, Coffs Harbour and Wagga Wagga. I thank all members who had an opportunity to speak about Rotary. It is the centenary of Rotary this month and I congratulate all Rotary clubs across Australia, particularly those in New South Wales on their fantastic work. Rotary volunteers put in hundreds of thousands of hours to do fantastic work here and overseas. I congratulate all those clubs that have relationships with clubs overseas.

The work that New South Wales Rotary and all the local Rotary clubs in our communities do cannot be overlooked. I acknowledge the amount of money that Rotary raises for not only Australian projects but also projects across the world. I spoke about the work that is being done all over the world, and the number one priority is the eradication of polio. It has been a long-term plan of Rotary to do that, and with the help of the Microsoft team and a large amount of money put in by them, there are about 65 cases left in Iraq and Afghanistan. We are almost there. The next big plan for Rotary once the world is rid of polio is to start on the eradication of malaria. I again thank all members who were able to speak and those who were preparing to speak to the motion. I wish Rotary New South Wales a very merry 100 years and a happy birthday.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Ms Felicity Wilson): I thank the member for Heathcote and add the congratulations of the House to Rotary on its centenary, which includes the North Sydney, North Sydney Sunrise, Crows Nest and Mosman Rotary clubs in my community. The House thanks Rotary for its service over those 100 years.

The question is that the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

HUNTER REGION CODE ONE INCIDENTS

Ms SONIA HORNER (Wallsend) (12:33): I move:

That this House:

- (1) Notes New South Wales has the second-slowest paramedic response times across Australia for code one incidents.
- (2) Notes ambulance services in the Hunter region are running at or above capacity, particularly on weekends.
- (3) Calls on the Minister for Health and Medical Research to review the minimum operating levels and employ more paramedics.

How would members feel if a nursing home patient in their electorate who had a broken hip waited six hours in agony for an ambulance to arrive? Like me, they might be shocked. In 2019 the health Minister announced that an extra 750 paramedics and call centre staff would be employed over four years. So far the number of new paramedics in the Hunter has not kept pace with the number of paramedics leaving the industry. It is obvious that the Government is not funding extra staff. Every time a paramedic goes on unplanned leave—and that is a regular occurrence because injuries remain sky high for ambulance workers—there is no money to call in a replacement.

It leaves the community down each shift close to one ambulance for every injured or sick paramedic. Hunter ambulances are running at or above capacity at the best of times, and weekends are much worse. In the Lower Hunter on Friday nights, only nine cars are working to service a vast area and a big population. It was on a typical Friday night on 5 February this year that a patient in a nursing home in the Wallsend electorate was forced to wait for six hours in excruciating pain until an ambulance arrived. Dozens of jobs were queued up and there were not enough ambulances to cover them. It is not unacceptable but it is not an isolated incident. Chad Kristy told me via social media:

When my daughter was seven months old I phoned an ambulance because she was having difficulty breathing. I waited an hour and rung them so many times in that hour saying she's getting worse and that I was worried about putting her in her seat as lying made it worse for her. Their response each time was "there's no ambulances". In the end my husband decided we would take the risk and

drive her up. Once we'd been through triage and things had settled I phoned them back to let them know to cancel the ambulance—they still hadn't assigned one to her.

Justin put it very well when he commented:

My wife called an ambulance for me last year. Took near two hours for an ambulance to arrive at our house and then I was told they couldn't take me to [John Hunter] as that would take them out of service for too long with limited crews available, so my family ended up driving me to hospital. Not a bad word can be said against the paramedics. They were great and were just doing their job in really tough circumstances but it definitely highlighted a clear problem.

I agree. Our paramedics are fantastic, but they simply do not have the numbers nor the support they need. Our populations are growing and ageing, and our hospitals are expanding their capacity, but the Government does nothing to increase the number of local ambulances and paramedics. Fewer ambulances in rotation and overworked paramedics means much longer response times, which puts patients' lives at risk. Paramedics tell me that they are stretched to breaking point, with many staff working multiple overtime shifts per week or being sent to cover staff shortages in other areas. On one recent occasion, paramedics from Newcastle were sent to the Central Coast to complete extra work after they had completed their exhausting 12-hour shift. It is now a regular event, and it is posing a serious risk to community safety. It is also a risk to the health and wellbeing of our paramedics. As Kay, a local, said in a Facebook post about this situation:

This is ridiculous. Our paramedics should not be stretched so far. Their own health is at risk saving others. Many in the community were horrified to learn that only nine ambulances are operating on Friday nights to cover a very large area and population. More resources are needed in the Hunter area to ensure that services can be delivered to the community even during peak-hour periods. Currently, fewer ambulances are operating in the Newcastle and Hunter than in 2010. I urge members to think about that. The problem has gone on for far too long. Paramedics are frustrated and worried about it. I call on the health Minister to review minimum operating levels and employ paramedics. That is what is best for our paramedics and for the health of our community.

Mr STEPHEN BROMHEAD (Myall Lakes) (12:40): The motion before the House does not properly reflect the situation in the Hunter and in New South Wales. Accordingly, I take pleasure in moving an amendment to the motion. I move:

That the motion be amended by leaving out all words after "That" with a view to inserting instead:

this House:

- (1) Notes New South Wales is receiving 750 new paramedic and control centre staff over four years, with \$27 million provided in this financial year to employ the third tranche of staff.
- (2) Acknowledges the significant investment in the Hunter region, including most recently the announcement of upgrades or new ambulance stations at Medowie, Stockton, Gloucester and Tea Gardens. These projects are being delivered as part of the \$100 million Rural Ambulance Infrastructure Reconfiguration [RAIR] program, stage 2.
- (3) Commends the Government for continuing this investment, the biggest in regional NSW Ambulance history, following the successful \$132 million stage 1 of RAIR.

NSW Ambulance is an integral part of the New South Wales health system, delivering mobile health services and providing high-quality clinical care, rescue and retrieval services to people with emergency health and medical needs. Paramedics provide an invaluable contribution to the health and wellbeing of the people of New South Wales. I take this opportunity to recognise the compassion, skill, professionalism and round-the-clock commitment of paramedics to patients in our community. NSW Ambulance continues to respond to a record number of 000 calls.

Over the past 12 months, NSW Ambulance received more than 1.2 million calls for assistance. That is one response every 26 seconds. Of course, NSW Ambulance emergency response times can be affected by local factors such as traffic conditions, distance, travel time and topography. Hunter Zone 1 and Hunter Zone 2A, encompassing Toronto, Belmont, Hamilton, Cardiff, Boolaroo, Birmingham Gardens, Stockton, Tanilba Bay, Nelson Bay, Kurri Kurri, Rutherford, Beresfield, Raymond Terrace and Cessnock, provide 24-hour, seven-days-a-week ambulance coverage to the Hunter region. Additional stations in the outer Hunter area of Hunter Zone 2 provide on-call services during the night. The Bureau of Health Information [BHI] publishes quarterly activity and performance information by Statistical Area 3 boundaries. NSW Ambulance provides quarterly activity and performance data to the BHI. In its quarterly report for the period October to December 2020, the BHI reported that the emergency Priority 1 emergency response time performance for the Newcastle area improved by 0.2 minutes when compared to 2019. For the highest Priority 1A incidents for the period July 2020 to March 2021, response times were within the established target of 10 minutes across New South Wales.

Currently, NSW Ambulance employs over 5,000 staff, the vast majority of which are operational staff. The 2018-19 New South Wales Government budget confirmed an additional 750 paramedics and control centre staff across the State over four years under the Statewide Workforce Enhancement Program. As at 20 April 2021, 586 new positions have been recruited under the program. The program has also provided new call-takers across the four control centres. Those enhancements have improved the capacity of NSW Ambulance to provide

emergency out-of-hospital care to the community and have improved paramedic safety and wellbeing by reducing fatigue. Of the new positions recruited to date, 368 paramedics were introduced into regional locations around New South Wales. It is good to see that the vast majority are going to regional New South Wales. In many areas those enhancements have enabled regional New South Wales paramedics to respond to more patients while on duty, rather than while on call, and have reduced overtime. That is testament to the New South Wales Government's commitment to support regional communities and to improve the health and wellbeing of New South Wales paramedics.

In response to a recent increase in 000 calls, NSW Ambulance announced that the recruitment of 100 graduates for year four of the Statewide Workforce Enhancement Program would be brought forward and commence in three consecutive classes from April 2021. Those positions are full-time and permanent and are enhancements over and above existing rosters. The first class of 60 graduates commenced on 26 April 2021. This is the second year in a row that NSW Ambulance has been assisted with additional staff investment to bring forward previously committed enhancements. "Zone operating levels" set the minimum level of staff required to ensure service to the community is maintained. Since 2013 zone operating levels have increased to reflect staff increases and roster changes.

NSW Ambulance builds rosters with relief capacity to cover things like annual leave, training, workers compensation, long service leave, maternity leave and long-term leave. Once the roster has started, unexpected short-term absences may occur such as unplanned sick leave, personal carer's leave or other personal arrangements for paramedics. If the number of paramedics on duty for any shift falls below the updated zone operating levels, absences are filled using all available methods, including casuals, part-timers and flexible working arrangements. I am excited to inform the House that Myall Lakes will receive two new ambulance stations at Forster and Old Bar, both of which will have 12 full-time staff. It was a pleasure to host Minister Hazzard—New South Wales's best ever health Minister—in the electorate to make those announcements. Minister Hazzard has been to many other regional electorates to announce additional ambulance stations and paramedics to staff them.

Mr RYAN PARK (Keira) (12:47): I make a brief contribution to this important debate. I congratulate my colleague the member for Wallsend, who is a fierce advocate for her community and for the Hunter region. No member in this place—certainly not on our side of the House, nor on the Government side if members are honest with themselves—could deny the fact that the member for Wallsend is a real advocate, a strong parliamentarian and someone who fights for her community every day. This issue is worth fighting for because the Hunter region desperately needs more paramedics. Half of all patients in the broader Hunter, including the upper Hunter, wait longer than 15 minutes for an ambulance. In Muswellbrook 52 per cent of patients needing emergency care wait longer than 15 minutes for an ambulance. In Singleton that number climbs to just under 60 per cent. In comparison only 32 per cent of patients living in Sydney's eastern suburbs, such as Woollahra, Double Bay and Vaucluse, wait longer than 15 minutes.

Our paramedics do an incredible job, but they are continually being asked to do more with fewer resources, which results in delays in local residents getting the emergency care they need. The community has a right to expect that when they need emergency treatment they will receive it in a timely manner. But in places like the Upper Hunter and in the Hunter more broadly, the number of people waiting longer than 15 minutes to receive care is only increasing under this Government. Labor will not support the Government's amendment because it does not reflect reality. I congratulate frontline paramedics and the Health Services Union, which does a fantastic job of advocating for its members, as well as the member for Wallsend, who is a fierce advocate for her community, who always stands up for frontline workers and who always brings important, critical issues to the House to address growing concerns in her community and across the broader Hunter region.

Mr JUSTIN CLANCY (Albury) (12:49): I welcome the opportunity to contribute to debate on the motion. I thank the members responsible for the electorates of Wallsend, Myall Lakes and Keira for their contributions to debate. We all acknowledge the important and great work of our paramedics across the State. In March I met with paramedics in my electorate of Albury to catch up on their issues. I appreciate that it is important for all local members to engage with their paramedics directly in order to hear about their role as providers of health care, particularly in regional areas. I see two themes arising in debate today. The first theme, which was raised by the member for Myall Lakes, is the Government's significant investment in health across the State, and specifically in NSW Ambulance, both in physical resources through capital expenditure and also in human resources.

The Government will invest \$232 million to deliver the Rural Ambulance Infrastructure Reconfiguration program, which will rebuild and update NSW Ambulance stations and provide local paramedics with modern, fit-for-purpose infrastructure to better meet the emergency medical needs of communities in regional and rural New South Wales. The first stage of the program was a \$132 million commitment to deliver 24 new or upgraded stations. That was the biggest regional and rural transformation of infrastructure in NSW Ambulance's history.

Stations that have already been delivered under stage one of the project include at Wagga Wagga, Coolamon, Ardlethan, Griffith, Kiama, Wauchope and Bathurst. Further, planning is now complete for a new station in Iluka and construction will commence soon.

Health Infrastructure NSW is working with NSW Ambulance to develop a program for the \$100 million stage two operation. The site locations for stage two were informed by the NSW Ambulance's review of the condition, capacity and location of its regional and rural infrastructure in order to determine which locations would most benefit from investment under the program. Several new stations have already been announced, including at Lake Cathie, Old Bar, Forster and Medowie, as well as refurbishments to the stations at Coleambally and Lockhart, which are in my electorate. Further, the Government has invested in human resources by providing an additional 700 paramedics and 50 call takers over four years to areas where it is most needed. I understand the Hunter region has benefited from an additional 44 paramedics across the Toronto, Belmont, Hamilton, Rutherford and Birmingham Gardens stations.

The second theme that has arisen in debate on the motion is that NSW Ambulance consistently reviews its activity and performance, which is critical for our agencies in order to meet their needs. The Government appreciates that NSW Ambulance is busier than ever. The member for Myall Lakes mentioned that its control centres have received more than 1.2 million calls over the past 12 months. That increase in demand is not without its challenges, as demonstrated in submissions made to the upper House inquiry into regional health, which was outlined by the member for Wallsend. The Government must continue to work with its agencies to respond to that growing demand. Against the backdrop of increasing demand across the State and significant investment from the Government, we must continue to work together with NSW Ambulance for the betterment of our communities.

Ms JODIE HARRISON (Charlestown) (12:54): I contribute to debate on the motion, which I support. However, I do not support the Government's amendment. The signs are clear that paramedic staffing levels in the Hunter have reached crisis point and the consequence is that lives are at risk. Unfortunately that is not surprising because, as the Productivity Commission *Report on Government Services* makes clear, NSW Ambulance lags behind the national average in per capita funding. The national per person spend on ambulance services is \$159.46; in contrast, our State's spend is \$136.68. The per person spend on ambulance services in this State, which determines adequate response times, is \$23 less than the national average. It is little wonder that we are delivering a below-average ambulance service when it comes to the capacity to respond to emergency calls in a timely way. That is not the fault of our dedicated paramedics; that is an indictment on the Government's utter failure to deliver health services to the standard that the people of New South Wales expect, as evidenced in the inquiry into regional and rural health.

The Government is not just spending less; the State also lags behind on every measure of patient satisfaction. Only 59 per cent of patients in New South Wales were satisfied with the length of ambulance wait times compared to the national average of 64.5 per cent. That is a dismal result even when compared with the already low nationwide statistic. Quarterly performance data for March, published by the Bureau of Health Information, showed the worst response times from NSW Ambulance in the past five years. Only 54 per cent of emergency cases were responded to by an ambulance within 15 minutes of a 000 call. According to the bureau's figures, 66.4 per cent of call-outs to life-threatening emergencies arrived within 10 minutes; that is a drop of 3.2 per cent on the previous year. Every second counts in moments of crisis; extra minutes can mean the difference between life and death.

Government members can spin those figures whichever way they like, but they cannot deny people's real experiences. My office was contacted by the family of a 96-year-old constituent who lives at home as a hospice outreach patient and who takes medication for severe pain from metastatic bone cancer. When the family called an ambulance after his pain medication ran out, they unbelievably had to argue with the operator and the triage nurse to convince them to send an ambulance because his condition had been deemed to be not life-threatening. The family said to me, "Surely a man aged 96 with metastatic bone cancer, who is in extreme pain and cannot be moved, is entitled to an ambulance." The Government's amendment is absolutely outrageous. I support the motion from the member for Wallsend and I will vote accordingly.

Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS (Dubbo) (12:57): It was nice to hear from those members who contributed to debate on the motion. We all appreciate and recognise the dedication and extended hours that paramedics work right across the State, including in the Hunter, but we cannot pretend that nothing is being done to address the increase in demand. I have heard some of the figures that have been raised and I acknowledge that more can always be done in every aspect of life, but more is being done and that has to be recognised. The men and women who are paramedics make a difference to people's lives every day. It is also important to note that the Government is committed to ensuring that people right across New South Wales can access emergency care as and when they need it by delivering a record additional 750 paramedics and control centre staff over four years under the Statewide Workforce Enhancement Program, or SWEP.

NSW Ambulance regularly evaluates response times to ensure that sufficient numbers of paramedics are available in the right locations at the right time to provide safe and timely emergency health care to the people of New South Wales. As of 21 April regional areas in New South Wales have benefited from an additional 404 paramedic enhancements at 46 different locations. NSW Ambulance actively encompasses a range of services, from over-the-phone triaging through to aircraft retrievals. The ambulance service triages all calls to prioritise responses and then uses the most appropriate available resource. NSW Ambulance continues to expand referrals to other providers, such as Healthdirect, for low-acuity 000 calls. In 2020 more than 57,000 patients were referred to Healthdirect for assessment. In response to COVID-19, NSW Health initiated a secondary triage service involving NSW Ambulance, My Emergency Doctor and the Patient Transport Service.

On 15 May last year, the New South Wales Government announced a \$17 million increase in funding for 89 additional frontline ambulance vehicles. In February this year, many members were present when Minister Brad Hazzard announced a further 69 dedicated intensive care ambulances, 50 of which are being deployed to regional New South Wales, which is very important. All of the 104 intensive care ambulances will be equipped with mechanical cardiopulmonary resuscitation devices by the end of the rollout, and that is also really important. Those vehicles are currently under construction. They will be high tech and, importantly, rolled out as part of that earlier package. Last week it was great to join with Minister Hazzard in announcing upgrades to one of the ambulance stations in Mudgee under the Rural Ambulance Infrastructure Reconfiguration program; there was over \$100 million for that program. The New South Wales Government is continuing to support NSW Health in getting on with the job of delivering world-class health care, including ambulance services and emergency care.

Mr Tim Crakanthorp: I seek leave to make a contribution.

Leave not granted.

Ms SONIA HORNER (Wallsend) (13:00): In reply: This is a very important motion. I express my disappointment at the Government's lack of commitment to the health and welfare of not only our paramedics but also our elderly and other people who need the services of a paramedic in the Hunter region. The Government clearly does not take this seriously. In fact, the Government's back-patting, "I'm so very good," "Aren't I wonderful?" amendment is making a mockery of the needs and concerns that have been sincerely addressed to members of the Opposition by paramedics. I am sure those same paramedics would be trying to voice those opinions to members of the Government, but they are clearly not being listened to. I am embarrassed for the Government.

There is a clear need. We have a situation where elderly people are waiting six hours to get a response time from a local paramedic, and the member for Myall Lakes gets up in this House and makes a joke about the concerns of our paramedics. I ask Government members to think clearly. I suggest to them, as well, that they get their bureaucrats to start writing a few more heartfelt and sincere speeches, rather than not even trying to address the topic. People in our community read those discussions and they will think that what Government members are doing is a joke. Every paramedic in New South Wales today is watching and listening to members of the Government and thinking that they do not take their needs and concerns at all seriously; instead, they give themselves a back pat. I do not support the amendment. The Opposition does not support the amendment. The Opposition supports our workers; for that reason, it supports the original motion.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Ms Felicity Wilson): The member for Wallsend has moved a motion, to which the member for Myall Lakes moved an amendment. The question is that the amendment be agreed to.

The House divided.

Ayes43
Noes43
Majority.....0

AYES

Anderson, K
Ayres, S
Barilaro, J
Berejiklian, G
Bromhead, S
Clancy, J
Conolly, K
Constance, A
Cooke, S (teller)
Coure, M

Gibbons, M
Griffin, J
Gulaptis, C
Hancock, S
Hazzard, B
Henskens, A
Kean, M
Lee, G
Lindsay, W
Marshall, A

Roberts, A
Saunders, D
Sidgreaves, P
Singh, G
Smith, N
Speakman, M
Stokes, R
Taylor, M
Toole, P
Tuckerman, W

AYES

Crouch, A (teller)
 Davies, T
 Dominello, V
 Elliott, D
 Evans, L

Pavey, M
 Petinos, E
 Preston, R
 Provest, G

Upton, G
 Ward, G
 Williams, L
 Williams, R

NOES

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

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

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

PAIRS

O'Dea, J
 Perrottet, D

Warren, G
 Dib, J

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Ms Felicity Wilson): The numbers being equal, I give my casting vote to the ayes and declare the question to be resolved in the affirmative.

Amendment agreed to.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Ms Felicity Wilson): The question is that the motion as amended be agreed to.

Motion as amended agreed to.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Ms Felicity Wilson): I will now leave the chair. The House will resume at 2.15 p.m.

Members

MEMBER FOR CAMDEN

MEMBER FOR TERRIGAL

MEMBER FOR GOSFORD

MEMBER FOR CABRAMATTA

MEMBER FOR WOLLONDILLY

MEMBER FOR SHELLHARBOUR

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I wish members representing the electorates of Camden, Terrigal, Gosford, Cabramatta, Wollondilly and Shellharbour a very happy birthday.

*Visitors***VISITORS**

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I welcome guests of the Assistant Speaker and member for Oatley, who are watching question time from the Macquarie Room. I welcome to question time students from Blakehurst High School; Georges River College, Penshurst Girls Campus; Georges River College, Peakhurst; Georges River

College, Oatley; Bethany College, Hurstville; St George Christian School; and Marist Catholic College, Penshurst. I also welcome Beatrice Guo, a guest of the Speaker who is watching question time from the precinct.

Members

REPRESENTATION OF MINISTERS ABSENT DURING QUESTIONS

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN: On behalf of Ms Gladys Berejiklian: I advise the House that in the absence today of the Deputy Premier and Minister for Regional New South Wales, Industry and Trade, the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads will take questions.

Question Time

FARM LAND TAX

Ms JODI McKAY (Strathfield) (14:19): My question is directed to the roads Minister in his capacity representing the Deputy Premier. New South Wales farmers say the Government's new farm tax will bankrupt farmers during times of drought. Why is the Government and its candidate for Upper Hunter still advocating for a big, new, never-ending tax on farms?

Mr Andrew Constance: Did she say Minister for roads?

Ms Jodi McKay: Regional roads.

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

Mr Andrew Constance: I am the Minister for roads. I got asked a question.

Ms Jodi McKay: Are you serious? He is acting in that capacity.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Does the Leader of the Opposition wish to hear the answer from the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads? The member for Port Stephens and the member for Wakehurst will come to order. The Minister will be heard in silence.

Mr PAUL TOOLE (Bathurst—Minister for Regional Transport and Roads) (14:20): I thank the Leader of the Opposition for her question. I am certainly not going to be criticised or have fear and scaremongering from the Leader of the Opposition about farmers. The Liberal-Nationals Government stands shoulder to shoulder with our farmers and continues to support them right across the State. We have gone through the worst drought that this country has ever seen.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Leader of the Opposition will come to order.

Mr PAUL TOOLE: This Government has invested over \$4 billion in supporting our farmers across the State. We on this side have continued to provide subsidies and support around water and vehicle registration, especially when times were tough for families. Those opposite want to talk about what we are doing. What they should be focusing on is the people of this State. The Labor Party stands for nothing. They come into this place and do not stand up for the people of New South Wales.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member for Maitland will come to order.

Mr PAUL TOOLE: I do not know what the Labor Party represents or who it stands for in this place.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The Minister will resume his seat. I have not called the member for Port Stephens. Does the member rise on a point of order?

Ms Kate Washington: Point of order: My point of order is under Standing Order 129. The question was very clear: It is whether or not the National Party is going to be imposing a never-ending land tax on farmers.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have heard enough. The Minister has the call.

Mr PAUL TOOLE: Again, Labor comes into this place to create fear and scaremongering in our communities. This Government reduces the red tape. Those opposite attack our hardworking farmers across the State. What the Labor Party should be talking about—

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Minister will resume his seat. Order! The member for Keira should not approach the lectern and start yelling. The member will wait to be called. Is the member taking a point of order?

Mr Ryan Park: Yes, I am. My point of order is under Standing Order 129. After close to three minutes the Minister has failed to address an issue that is extremely important for New South Wales farmers.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have heard enough. The member will resume his seat. I call the member for Keira to order for the first time. The Minister has the call and will be heard in silence.

Mr PAUL TOOLE: To falsely put up a bill in this place—the Labor Party says one thing, and does the complete opposite. Those opposite come into this place and say they stand by our farmers. They put up a bill for the right to farm and what did they do? Voted against it.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Minister will resume his seat.

Ms Jodi McKay: Point of order—

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is this under Standing Order 129?

Ms Jodi McKay: Yes.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I ruled on that less than 30 seconds ago. My ruling remains. There is no point of order. The Leader of the Opposition will resume her seat.

Ms Jodi McKay: This is about a land tax on farms.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Leader of the Opposition will resume her seat. The Minister has the call.

Mr PAUL TOOLE: The Leader of the Opposition should enjoy her last day as leader, because I am sure it will change when we come back into this place.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Minister will direct his comments through the Chair.

Mr PAUL TOOLE: What the Leader of the Opposition should talk about is the division going on in her party right now—

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will not entertain points of order taken under Standing Order 129.

Mr PAUL TOOLE: All the people that are talking in the hallways, in our offices and in the lifts, talking about how those opposite are divided.

Ms Jenny Aitchison: Point of order—

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Minister will resume his seat.

Mr PAUL TOOLE: And her own members, when the Leader of the Opposition asks a question, they slip down under their seats because they do not want to be embarrassed.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Minister will resume his seat.

Ms Jenny Aitchison: The Minister should be asked to address his comments through the Chair.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I uphold the point of order.

Ms Jenny Aitchison: Standing Order 74 provides that a Minister is not to be quarrelsome or ridiculous in what he is saying. It is not true. Rule it out. Rule out the land tax.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member is interjecting, which is unparliamentary. The Minister will direct his comments through the Chair. Members will be silent for the remainder of the answer.

Ms Jodi McKay: Let's talk about land tax.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I call the Leader of the Opposition to order for the first time. The Minister has the call.

Mr PAUL TOOLE: I welcome questions from the Leader of the Opposition today because I do not believe she will be sitting there in a few weeks' time. The New South Wales Liberals and Nationals stand by our farmers and will continue to do so. Candidates like ours in Upper Hunter will be elected to this place to represent farmers as well.

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

REGIONAL AND RURAL ECONOMIES

Mr JUSTIN CLANCY (Albury) (14:25): Everything is focused on the regions. I address my question to the Premier. Will the Premier update the House on how the Government is supporting regional and rural economies?

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN (Willoughby—Premier) (14:25): I thank and acknowledge the member for Albury for his question. On the one occasion when we were forced to close our State border—I am well assured that it is the last time we will ever need to do that—it was impactful on the electorate of Albury and also all of southern New South Wales. I thank the member for Albury and his community for their resilience and patience

during that frustrating time. It is pleasing to see that not just the economy in Albury but also the economy in the regions have bounced back. In fact, unemployment levels are back to where they were pre-COVID, business confidence is higher in the regions now than it was pre-COVID and consumer sentiment is stronger now in the regions than it was pre-COVID.

Deloitte has estimated that the New South Wales economy will grow by 5.2 per cent in the next 12 months. It is very encouraging to know that a lot of that growth will be taking place in our rural and regional communities. The rural and regional communities of New South Wales not only are resilient but also have been able to manage the most difficult circumstances. I would like to think that this Government has been there to support them every step of the way and will continue to do so in the future. Similarly I want to thank those regional communities for the support they have given us in making sure that there is a safe space for our residents to visit, to spend their tourism dollars, to do business and to live.

I say to those communities that were impacted by drought that the New South Wales Government was pleased to provide more than \$4 billion in direct drought and water security support but, unfortunately, many of those drought-impacted communities then had to deal with horrific bushfires. The electorate of Albury, in particular, was impacted, yet this Government set aside \$4.5 billion or thereabouts for bushfire recovery efforts. We had not only droughts and bushfires but also devastating floods that hit, in particular, the Northern Rivers region, the mid-North Coast and the Nepean-Hawkesbury regions, amongst others. On that occasion 63 local government areas had natural disaster declarations and the New South Wales Government made sure it supported our communities through recovery.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members in the Cooper gallery will be silent. They are still part of the Chamber.

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: Their voices carry and we can hear what they are saying. They should keep their voices down.

Mrs Melinda Pavey: Was it only four more weeks to go?

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: They were talking about something of interest, so it is okay. Our communities have endured not only the drought, bushfires and floods but also a pandemic. Given their resilience and the innovative instinct of many of our regional communities, they used these difficult times as much as they could to support one another. The broader New South Wales community has also been there to support our regional communities in the area of tourism. I am pleased that the New South Wales Government's Dine & Discover vouchers have been very effective. In fact, more than 1.5 million registrations in New South Wales were outside the Sydney Basin. So 1.5 million times people have used their Dine & Discover vouchers in the regions, which is extremely positive. We know that there are more to go.

The New South Wales Government has also invested in the basic infrastructure that all our regions need, whether it is health, hospitals, the education system or transport and roads. It is also important to note that during the infrastructure pipeline delivery in the region, many regional communities now have a skilled labour force. Operators are active in their communities helping to build roads and infrastructure that previously did not exist, which is contributing to our State's low unemployment rate especially in the bush. That is why this Government will continue to support its communities.

I thank regional communities for their innovation during COVID. People are able to work virtually from anywhere in the State. Many businesses throughout the regions are flourishing. The biggest complaint I receive from small and large businesses in the regions is the demand for skilled labour—which is a good challenge. That is why during COVID we had at least 100,000 available TAFE courses, additional apprenticeship courses and opportunities for people to reskill—

Mr JUSTIN CLANCY: I seek further information. Due to background noise, I could not quite hear. Did the Premier say there was a 5.2 per cent growth for regional economies?

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: Indeed.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Additional time is granted.

Ms Jenny Aitchison: Point of order—

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

Ms Jenny Aitchison: I did not hear the member for Albury ask for extra time.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, he asked for additional time.

Ms Jenny Aitchison: He asked the Premier to repeat the question; he did not ask for extra time.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have made a decision and I have granted additional time. Before the Premier resumes, I remind members in the Cooper gallery that they are a part of the Chamber. The House can clearly hear their conversations. As a part of the Chamber, members in the Cooper gallery are expected to uphold the standing orders. If members do not wish to remain silent, they should remove themselves from the gallery. The Premier has the call. She will be heard in silence for the remaining two minutes.

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: I will keep my comments brief. When it comes to health care in the past 12 months at least \$900 million has been spent on health infrastructure—building those hospitals which our communities need. In fact, two-thirds of the 47 hospital redevelopments or upgrades which have started this year are all in regional or rural New South Wales. At least \$650 million of our education infrastructure budget is specifically targeted to our rural and regional communities. In transport and roads, the regional growth budget is the greatest it has ever been.

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

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: The success of the regions and their resilience has redoubled our incentive to look at providing better transport links between our large cities. Faster rail will be on the Government's agenda for the future, making sure we develop our inland cities and support growth in our regions—an enormous commitment that we want to make. I thank communities for their support and acknowledge that in the near future the New South Wales Government will be outlining its more detailed plans to improve transport within our regional communities. I thank the House for its indulgence

REGIONAL ROADS RECLASSIFICATION

Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland) (14:33): I direct my question to the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads. In early 2019 disgraced Nationals MP Michael Johnsen promised that Bucketts Way and Thunderbolts Way would be returned to the State Government within 12 months. Two years later, both roads are still the responsibility of local councils. Why has the Minister not kept his promise to fix those dangerous roads?

Mr PAUL TOOLE (Bathurst—Minister for Regional Transport and Roads) (14:24): I am pleased that I have been asked this question by an Opposition member. At the last election the Government went to the people saying that we were considering taking back up to 15,000 kilometres of roads. I cannot believe that Labor Opposition members complain about what this Government is doing when it is actually Labor's mess that this Government is fixing up. When Labor was last in government, overnight it dumped thousands of kilometres of roads back onto councils.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Members will come to order.

Mr PAUL TOOLE: When you dumped those roads back onto councils overnight, you gave them no support. You gave them no maintenance budget to be able to fix those roads.

Ms Jenny Aitchison: Point of order: Madam Deputy Speaker, could you please direct the Minister to direct his comments through the Chair. I was on that road and it was Labor that did the last lot of tarring, not you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I call member for Maitland to order for the first time. I am very pleased the member took a point of order, but it is not an opportunity for her to make a speech or debate in the House. I ask the Minister to direct his comments through the Chair. The Minister will be heard in silence.

Mr PAUL TOOLE: This Government is working to right what you have actually done wrong.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The member for Coogee and the member for Keira will come to order.

Mr PAUL TOOLE: The irony is—and I said this in budget estimates—that an independent panel has been selected. The panel has been out there talking to stakeholders and councils.

Ms Jodi McKay: You said within 12 months.

Mr PAUL TOOLE: No. That is why the Leader of the Opposition will not be the Leader of the Opposition in a few weeks time—because you do not do your homework. You are lazy.

Ms Jenny Aitchison: Point of order: Madam Deputy Speaker, the Minister is flouting your ruling. He keeps not directing his comments through the Chair.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I uphold the point of order, but I also point out that interjections continue. Under Standing Order 52 a member has a right to be heard in silence. If the member for Maitland relies on standing orders, we will abide by all the standing orders. The Minister has the call. He will be heard in silence in accordance with the standing orders.

Mr PAUL TOOLE: I have spoken about the road reclassification on a number of occasions. Even last year at budget estimates I said that in establishing the independent panel, it could actually take the panel 18 months to two years before it came back with priority roads. The panel has spoken to all regional councils and to metropolitan councils about the classification of roads in this State. As part of that work we have had the Hon. John Graham and the Hon. Mick Veitch from the other place who said that this is a complex process that should not be rushed and should be done properly. That is exactly what the Government is doing.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The Leader of the Opposition will come to order. The Minister is answering the question.

Mr PAUL TOOLE: I will tell Opposition members what this Government does. When we make a promise, we actually deliver. When Labor makes a promise, it is nothing but a hollow commitment.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member for Coogee will come to order.

Mr PAUL TOOLE: Labor members talk about roads and all of that, but this year the Government has invested \$8.7 billion just in regional transport and roads alone. That investment is unprecedented. It is record investment in roads that are making the lives of people living in those communities better.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member for Blacktown will come to order.

Mr PAUL TOOLE: When the Leader of the Opposition was the Minister for the Hunter, she made empty and hollow promises around the Singleton bypass. The Leader of the Opposition never delivered on it in the whole two years she was the Minister for the Hunter.

Ms Kate Washington: Point of order—

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Clerk will stop the clock. The member for Maitland will cease shouting across the Chamber. I was waiting for a Labor member who wants to take a point of order.

Ms Kate Washington: My point of order relates to Standing Order 129. The question is specifically about The Bucketts Way and it is a very serious question.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I have heard enough.

Ms Kate Washington: It is a serious question because a woman died on this road last week.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! This is not an opportunity for the member for Port Stephens to debate. The member for Port Stephens will resume her seat. The Minister has the call.

Mr PAUL TOOLE: I note the member for Port Stephens referred to a fatality that occurred on that road. Certainly I think that is a real tragedy, but this is a process that the Government is undertaking in a transparent manner. A number of years ago when Labor undertook road reclassification they took three years to complete that process. Labor then took the next seven years to roll out the reclassification.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I call the member for Port Stephens to order for the second time.

Mr PAUL TOOLE: It is this Government's investment and it this Government that is examining priority roads across the State. That is why we will continue to work with councils.

Ms Jenny Aitchison: You have a responsibility to save lives.

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

Mr PAUL TOOLE: The member for Maitland yells out comments across this Chamber. I will tell her this: Our investment in roads is saving lives. What you guys did was put no money into roads across the State, which left them in a mess.

UPPER HUNTER ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE

Mr STEPHEN BROMHEAD (Myall Lakes) (14:40): My question is addressed to the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads. Will the Minister update the House on investment going into communities in the Upper Hunter to deliver a safer and stronger road network?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I will wait for members to be silent. The Minister has the call.

Mr PAUL TOOLE (Bathurst—Minister for Regional Transport and Roads) (14:40): I thank the member for Myall Lakes for his question. The New South Wales Government is driving serious investment in roads right across the State in large and small projects that are making a difference to the everyday lives of people, especially those in communities right across the Upper Hunter. Investments made by this Government are creating

thousands of jobs and getting families to school, to work, to the shops and back home safely at the end of the day. Investments of that type also unlock economic opportunity.

Since 2011 the New South Wales Liberals and Nationals in government have invested more than one and a half billion dollars in roads and bridges across the Upper Hunter alone. The Scone Bypass, which supported more than 1,100 direct and indirect jobs, was delivered six months early. That bypass took thousands of vehicles out of the centre of town, delivered better connectivity and provided opportunity for emergency services and also provided a huge boost to productivity for the freight industry. It is only one of three bypasses under construction on the New England Highway. Those three bypasses alone represent an investment of more than \$1 billion. The projects are supported by the New South Wales Government and the Australian Government and will provide a safer and more reliable road network for motorists. Those three bypasses collectively represent more than 4,000 jobs.

At Muswellbrook we are powering ahead with a detailed design for a nine-kilometre bypass that will give local roads back to local residents and will move trucks and heavy freight vehicles out of town. At Singleton, it is full steam ahead on a bypass that will be a game changer for local people who regularly become stuck in the Singleton shuffle. I know that the mayor of Singleton, Sue Moore, has said that she is absolutely thrilled that together we have worked hard to make sure that this bypass will meet the community's needs.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member for Maitland will come to order. The Leader of the Opposition will come to order.

Mr PAUL TOOLE: That is why this Government also announced a full interchange at Putty Road. It is not at all surprising to hear noise from the Leader of the Opposition. You guys come in here and talk a big game about your bypasses. Again, you guys were in government for 16 years and you delivered nothing. You were the Minister for the Hunter for two years and you delivered nothing. You spoke about it but you could not deliver it.

Ms Jenny Aitchison: Point of order—

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I cannot hear anything. The Minister will resume his seat.

Ms Jenny Aitchison: Madam Deputy Speaker, can you ask the Minister to direct his comments through the Chair. If he is going to argue, we will talk about the \$1.7 billion on the Hunter Expressway.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member for Maitland is again taking the privilege of going to the lectern with a point of order and then debating the issue. The Minister has the call. The Minister will direct his comments through the Chair.

Mr PAUL TOOLE: When we talk about the Singleton bypass, we have designed it and we have done the planning, and it is this Government that is going to deliver it for that community. It will be the biggest infrastructure project that the Singleton community—

Ms Tania Mihailuk: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Mr PAUL TOOLE: You might laugh about it.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member for Bankstown will cease interjecting.

Mr PAUL TOOLE: That is typical of Labor's attitude towards regional communities.

Ms Yasmin Catley: Point of order—

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

Ms Yasmin Catley: The Minister is still flouting your ruling.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: And I note that members on your side, including the member for Bankstown, whom I just called to order, continue to interject. The member will resume her seat. The Minister has the call and will be heard in silence.

Mr PAUL TOOLE: We are helping councils to deliver smaller projects that also make a big difference. We have upgraded the Scone truck wash; there is a bigger, better and safer Omdale Brook Bridge; and projects that have been delivered with funding through our Fixing Country Roads program are tackling freight pinch points and reducing the time and cost of getting goods to market. On bridges alone we are investing more than \$60 million to upgrade and replace bridges right across the Upper Hunter. One example is the Middlebrook Bridge, a century-old, single-lane wooden bridge that was not up to the load. That was replaced in 2018, thanks to the New South Wales Liberals and Nationals in government.

Through the Fixing Country Bridges program we will replace another 45 ageing timber bridges across the region, more than half of them in Dungog. This is an investment that ensures that we meet the needs of the Hunter now and well into the future. We are helping councils fix their local roads, with more than \$25 million going to 15 Upper Hunter projects—from \$5 million to seal Yarrowa Road in Muswellbrook to \$560,000 for Callaghans Lane near Quirindi. Three of those projects are already under construction. At Dungog we are working very closely with council to get their roads up to the standard that the community deserves. [*Extension of time*]

As I said, at Dungog we are working closely with council to assist it in getting their roads up to the standard that the community deserves. In the past 12 months we have invested \$21 million in roads and bridges on Dungog's local road network, and on Friday we announced an additional \$25 million. The Deputy Premier and I were there to announce the additional funding.

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

Mr PAUL TOOLE: Dungog council says that this is a "game-changing announcement" for its community, and we will continue to work with council on its priorities. The people of the Upper Hunter will judge us on our record.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member for Rockdale will come to order.

Mr PAUL TOOLE: And our record on Dungog is clear: more than \$100 million in road and bridge projects in that local government area alone since 2011. Labor's record is also very clear. When Labor was last in government, it wasted no time in dumping hundreds of kilometres of roads onto councils like Dungog, with no support or maintenance delivered.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member for Maitland will come to order.

Mr PAUL TOOLE: Labor talks a big game on roads, but there is no bitumen to back it up. Labor members say one thing but their actions tell us a different story. As for the shooters party, they do not seem interested in Dungog roads at all.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I remind the member for Maitland that she is on two calls to order.

Mr PAUL TOOLE: When the Deputy Premier and I were in Dungog last week, members of the Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party did not even hang around to listen to our announcement. They took off; they ran for the hills. Do you know what their excuse was? They were keeping a COVID-safe distance. They sure were; they were at least 100 metres away. I applaud them on their interest in public health and I encourage them to maintain a COVID-safe distance of at least 100 kilometres from the people of the Upper Hunter at all times. It is the Liberals and The Nationals in government who have delivered more than \$1.5 billion in roads and bridges in that area.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members in the Cooper gallery will remain silent.

Mr PAUL TOOLE: And it is the New South Wales Liberals and Nationals in government who will continue to deliver for the Upper Hunter.

SYDNEY CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL PAEDIATRIC CARDIAC SURGERY

Dr MARJORIE O'NEILL (Coogee) (14:48): My question is directed to the Minister for Health and Medical Research. In January last year the Minister made a commitment to return routine paediatric cardiac surgery to Sydney Children's Hospital, Randwick. That commitment, unfortunately, has not yet been met. When will it happen, and will bypass surgery be included?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Minister will be heard in silence.

Mr BRAD HAZZARD (Wakehurst—Minister for Health and Medical Research) (14:49): I thank the member for Coogee for her question. It is a very complex issue. The honourable member will recollect—because she was invited by me to attend, as were other Labor members—the conference that was held at the International Convention Centre about 16 to 18 months ago. At that conference a range of views were expressed by those who have our children's interests at heart. They were professional people, of course; they were paediatricians, including rural paediatricians. Off the back of that, I appointed a group of highly expert medical professionals to work with the cardiac paediatric surgeons at the Children's Hospital at Westmead and at Randwick to try to find a way to work together in the interests of children. It is a very challenging issue because there are four, or possibly five, paediatric cardiac surgeons working at Westmead and there is only one at Randwick, who has an adult practice as well. About 425 of these highly specialised surgeries are done each year.

Dr Marjorie O'Neill: Point of order: It is on relevance. I appreciate all of this background information—

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

Dr Marjorie O'Neill: It relates to Standing Order 129. I appreciate all the background information, which I am deeply involved in and I am aware of. What I am asking for is a time line.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member will resume her seat. There is no point of order. The Minister is being relevant.

Dr Marjorie O'Neill: When is it coming back? Your Government made this mistake; it has been removed by your Government. When is it being returned?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member will resume her seat.

Mr BRAD HAZZARD: Can I give the member for Coogee a little bit of advice? It is good that she is being what I would call faux outraged about matters that are very complex.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I call the member for Coogee to order for the first time. I call the member for Coogee to order for the second time.

Mr BRAD HAZZARD: Seriously, Marjorie, don't be silly.

Ms Yasmin Catley: Point of order—

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

Ms Yasmin Catley: The Minister should refer to the member by her title, not by her first name.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member will resume her seat. The member should also uphold the standing orders and not stand at the lectern. The member for Swansea will resume her seat. The Minister has the call. The Minister will be heard in silence. I will take no more points of order on relevance.

Dr Hugh McDermott: Rule on the point of order, Madam Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I said there is no point of order. The Minister has the call and will be heard in silence.

Mr BRAD HAZZARD: As I say, the issue is highly complex. It is not a matter for political interference. It is a matter for the paediatric cardiac surgeons. There are only four of them, possibly five, who, across them, do about 425 surgeries a year. The advice from all international experts is that each of these surgeons, to maintain the level of expertise, must do about 125 surgeries per year. So one can see that instantly there is an issue, which has led to some of the conflict between those at Westmead and those at Randwick. I have appointed the committee to work through those issues. I have given the committee very clear directions that the Government would like to see it operational, provided it is safe and produces the best outcomes for children—and these are very young children generally. The Government has given very clear directions that we would like the committee to resolve the issue and to make sure there are appropriate paediatric cardiac opportunities at both sites.

In fact we allocated about \$10 million, as I recollect. I also indicated to them that if there is more money that is needed we will do it. But at the end of the day they have to work through those issues and I as the health Minister have tasked the paediatric experts. If a baby dies or a baby survives, it is in the hands of the paediatric cardiac surgeons. The arrangements that are going to be worked through there will be worked through by the professionals who we would want to be looking after our babies and our children in the appropriate way.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: If the member for Coogee is taking a point of order, she must seek the call. The Minister will resume his seat.

Mr BRAD HAZZARD: I have finished my answer.

COMMUTER SAFETY

Ms ELENI PETINOS (Miranda) (14:55): I address my question to the Minister for Transport and Roads. Will the Minister update the House on how the Government is keeping commuters safe, both now and into the future?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Minister will wait for members on both sides of the House to be silent, including members in the Cooper gallery. That includes the member for Fairfield. The Minister has the call.

Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE (Bega—Minister for Transport and Roads) (14:55): I thank the member for Miranda for this important question about now and the future. The obvious answer to keeping public transport safe in the future is to keep Labor out, and I will come to that shortly. But in terms of what we are doing right, now there are a number of key initiatives around the network that we are undertaking to improve safety. One of them, which is very important to us all, is the Safety After Dark program. What we are doing there is

trialling innovative technology to improve safety, particular for women travelling at night, as part of the Safety After Dark Innovation Challenge.

These projects include the use of technology such as artificial intelligence in CCTV to automate the detection of threatening behaviours, the use of datasets and algorithms to create routing that prioritises safety and a new platform for public safety and assistance. There is no doubt that it is not good enough, particularly for women across the network, that nine out of 10 Australian women experience harassment on the street and modify their behaviours in response. That is the country today. Let's use the technology and start to give that greater confidence and safety to our entire community.

In terms of safety improvements, one of the other exciting initiatives that we have at this time relates to gap filler technology. Anyone who has been down to Circular Quay station will now see the use of rubber gap fillers which reduce the gap between the train and the platform. Circular Quay was one of the worst stations on the network in terms of incidents involving the gap between train and platform. In fact, 13 per cent of incidents occur there. Across the network, five people fall through the gaps every week. Again, using this technology, since the trial has been running at Circular Quay we have not had one incident of someone falling through the gap.

We will continue to work at these initiatives. There is no doubt that, in terms of both the Safety After Dark and the gap filling initiatives, there is the use of greater technologies, particularly such as GPS in our tunnel network. We have seen safety measures in the road safety space, which I outlined last week, and we will continue to focus on that. In terms of the future, I indicated that one of the best ways to keep the transport network safe is to keep Labor not running it. There is no doubt, when you reflect on some of the commentary that I have heard from those opposite in recent weeks, that there are some real challenges amongst those opposite. Again, to echo the words of the member for Bathurst, I do wish the Leader of the Opposition well in her last question time. There is no doubt that the by-election will result in the elevation of the Minns-Park opposition. The theme song will be Michael Bolton. It will be the end of the Catley-McKay era. There is no doubt that social media—

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Clerk will stop the clock. I cannot hear what the Minister is saying. I call the member for Bankstown to order for the first time.

Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE: I wish social media would have the same attitude towards the Leader of the Opposition that they had to Craig Kelly and take her off it because there is no doubt that some of the misleading claims that I keep reading and seeing every day are simply outrageous. The Leader of the Opposition said that projects that I had been involved in had been a failure. I just want to help those opposite. I am happy to outline them. Metro North West—there is a "failure". NorthConnex—there is a "failure". The M4 tunnels, the M8—

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I call the member for Coogee to order for the third time.

Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE: Quite frankly, given that the CBD light rail has got a 96 per cent customer satisfaction rating and has the highest growth in the demand for public transport since COVID, I am very happy and proud to see the success of that project, which is changing lives in Sydney.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I call the member for Maitland to order for the third time. The member for Port Stephens will come to order.

Mr Michael Daley: Bus cuts are great.

Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE: I will come to them in a second. Those opposite are so smart. In *The Daily Telegraph* last week they said that patronage was down on the light rail last year.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member for The Entrance will come to order.

Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE: Rather than me giving the House the reason why, this is what the readership said: "Meaningless result in a pandemic. All forms of public transport use are still down in usage." Roger said: "Um, COVID! The city has been deserted for nearly a year. Best infrastructure ever." That is the CBD light rail. There is no doubt light rail has actually seen the largest patronage increase out of any of the transport modes since April 2020. [*Extension of time*]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I remind the member for Maitland that she is on three calls to order.

Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE: We get all these silly comments from those opposite. The good old member for Maroubra started to mention bus changes. Well, seriously. Marj from Coogee—what is going on there?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Leader of the Opposition will resume her seat. The Clerk will stop the clock.

Ms Yasmin Catley: Point of order: The Minister should be referring to the member by her title, not by her first name. This has to stop.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member for Swansea will resume her seat. I did not hear what the Minister said because there is too much noise in the Chamber.

Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE: I wonder if the member for Swansea has worked out why there are not international travel restrictions to Tasmania yet. Have you worked that out—that overseas destination of Tasmania?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The Minister will direct his comments through the Chair.

Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE: Coming back to the member for Coogee, when you put a light rail in, you have to change the bus network. We put in an extra 810 services on the L2 and L3 lines and we are putting an extra 2,000 services into Green Square. We are making some adjustments.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member for Pittwater will come to order.

Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE: One thing I will not tolerate is someone going to the media, particularly in relation to the member for Coogee—you know, you have a doctorate. Your constituents deserve someone who can actually navigate a website. Because Transport's website shows that we are improving the bus network in the south-east where there has been a 50 per cent increase in patronage.

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

Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE: In fact, if you look at the capacity improvements during the morning and afternoon peaks—morning at 40 per cent and afternoon at 45 per cent—why on earth are you attacking a consultation process to ask the community about the bus network?

Mr Michael Daley: Point of order: My point of order is on relevance under Standing Order 129.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member for Maroubra will resume his seat.

Mr Michael Daley: It was faster to get into the city in the twentieth century than it is in the twenty-first century.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is no point of order. The member for Maroubra will resume his seat.

Mr Michael Daley: It was faster 50 years ago than now.

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

Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE: I know the member for Maroubra enjoys public transport based on his driving record but the bottom line is light rail is 35 minutes end to end. It is actually quicker than a bus nowadays, old mate. So there you go. There you have it. The reality is we have improved light rail to now take 35 minutes end to end. It is quicker than the buses. And on that, you are getting additional express services. You people should learn to say thank you and stop whingeing.

ILLEGAL DONATIONS

Ms YASMIN CATLEY (Swansea) (15:04): My question is directed to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services. Last week I accused the Minister of being "bent". He pretended not to know what I was talking about. Therefore, I ask him: Why did he solicit illegal donations from property developers, gambling and liquor industry figures and representatives of the Chinese Communist Party by inviting them to a fundraising event attended by the New South Wales Treasurer? Will he submit himself—

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I cannot hear the member. The Minister will resume his seat. The member for Swansea has not finished her question.

Ms YASMIN CATLEY: Will the Minister submit himself to an audit of his personal and campaign finances by the Independent Commission Against Corruption?

Mr DAVID ELLIOTT (Baulkham Hills—Minister for Police and Emergency Services) (15:05): This lady is a great host. She is the sort of person who comes to a party, brings a sixpack and drinks a carton. I do not mind being accused of things, but I am not a communist. Fundamentally that is not something that I agree with. I will cop anything in this place. I will cop corruption allegations or questions about my impropriety. I will even be accused of being a Sharks supporter. But I am not going to be called a communist. The member for Swansea is the one in the red dress. As the member for Swansea knows, these matters are dealt with by the political parties. If she does not know, she should probably go back to the many members of her own caucus who have been before ICAC because they actually solicited this sort of donation.

I give her a challenge. If she goes outside this Chamber and accuses me of corruption publicly I will submit myself to whatever audit she wants. But she has no evidence and she comes in here and wants to make false allegations using coward's castle. Last week when she made the allegations she promised me she would go outside the Chamber and make them, but she did not. I will let her go through my entire expense account, my securities account and my wife's bank card if she steps outside and makes these allegations. But she will not because she is a coward.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I call the member for Swansea to order for the first time. I remind the member for Coogee that she is already on three calls to order. I will not hesitate to remove her from the Chamber.

Mr DAVID ELLIOTT: I am in a generous mood. I wish her every success on today: her last day as the Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE FUNDING

Mr LEE EVANS (Heathcote) (15:07): My question is addressed to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services. Will the Minister update the House on what the Government is doing to ensure that the State is better prepared to combat emergencies and natural disasters?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I remind members in the Cooper gallery for the last time to come to order. If the member for Prospect wishes to have a conversation, he should remove himself from the gallery. This is his last warning. The gallery is part of the Chamber. The House can hear quite clearly members' interjections and conversations. Members will remain silent. The Minister has the call.

Mr DAVID ELLIOTT (Baulkham Hills—Minister for Police and Emergency Services) (15:08): I thank the member for Heathcote for his question and for his hospitality last week when I visited his electorate. I apologise to him; I could only spend a few hours there. While I am apologising to MPs, I have to use this opportunity to apologise to the member for Maroubra. On Tuesday I suggested that he was the most racist member of this Chamber, but last night I saw the disgraceful sectarianism tweeted by the Leader of the Opposition. So she is now the most racist member of this Parliament. Indeed, she should be warned that inciting violence on racial grounds in this State is actually a crime.

Ms Jodi McKay: You are such a grub.

Mr DAVID ELLIOTT: Did you call me a grub? The last Opposition member who called me a grub is not here anymore.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The Minister will direct his comments through the Chair.

Mr DAVID ELLIOTT: I thank the member for his question and for his advocacy and keenness to see that emergency services personnel in his electorate are looked after and their welfare is met. The recent 2018 bushfires that came through the range in the Sutherland shire impacted Menai in his electorate. There is frequent fire activity in the coastal heath of the Royal National Park and the tragic 1994 fires claimed many lives. The member for Heathcote has played and continues to play a key role in supporting his local emergency services. I was pleased that I could once again join him in his electorate. We visited the Fire and Rescue firefighters from Station 90, more colloquially known as the Menai Fire Station, which had welcomed two new firefighters to its retained ranks.

Those retained firefighters, Mark Eder and David Finley, are on-call firefighters ready to respond to local emergencies. Unfortunately, their working lives as A380 pilots have been put on hold due to the pandemic, but they are keen to put something back into the community as retained firefighters. They joined 30 other firefighters stationed in Menai and fall under the command and tutelage of the true veteran of the organisation, Captain Brady Clarke, who I know is a personal friend of the member for Heathcote. The two firefighters join the ranks of 208 newly graduated firefighters who the Premier, Governor and I witnessed marching out only recently. On behalf of the House, I wish them a rich and rewarding career with one of the greatest urban firefighting agencies in the world.

Last Friday the member for Holsworthy and the Parliamentary Secretary for Emergency Services and I met with some of the hardworking combat agencies in her electorate. We started at Casula Rural Fire Service, which works tirelessly to keep its community safe and deploys statewide to support other communities under threat. We acknowledged its achievement with a \$10,000 discretionary grant to provide the brigade with a new covered area to store its various trailers. I mention the leadership of and thank Captain Ben Graham and his team, and Inspector Brendan Doyle from the Macarthur Fire Control Centre, without whom this great work would not be possible. We also joined Commissioner Carlene York and the Liverpool SES, and provided a \$10,000 discretionary grant there too to allow the busy unit to purchase new lockers for members and a training prop.

On the topic of resilience and preparedness and the work our Government is doing to support our combat agencies with our record \$1.8 billion emergency services budget, it would be remiss of me not to mention the afternoon spent with the member for East Hills seeing firsthand the capability in action. We joined the busy Fire and Rescue firefighters at Revesby alongside the Commissioner of Fire and Rescue NSW Paul Baxter to walk for an afternoon in their shoes at one of Sydney's busiest suburban fire stations. It was not long until we got our first call-out. We took the printout, got in the various vehicles and proceeded to our first job, which was a cat in a tree. You could not make this stuff up! I saw the skilled firefighters rescue the cat as it tried to climb up another tree. I am sure that it will be party to a future media opportunity. From highly complex hazardous material incidents, factory fires and motor-vehicle accidents to the much easier task of rescuing our companion animals, we saw our firefighters live up to their motto. They were certainly "prepared for anything".

I am delighted to announce to the House that our preparedness and ability to respond to disaster will be bolstered thanks to the Government's \$6.2 million investment to upgrade 31 emergency operations centres [EOCs] across the State. These are the engine rooms to the local operational responses to flood, fire and other emergencies. They provide a central site for communication and coordination of operations and support during an emergency. Upgrades will occur right across the State, with locations including the Heathcote EOC, which the local member is very familiar with, having received briefings there during— [*Extension of time*]

The real winners with this new rollout are our regional communities, where more than 50 per cent of the funding will be spent. Recipients include emergency operations centres at Lord Howe Island, Port Macquarie, Tweed Heads and Coffs Harbour on the State's North Coast; and Glen Innes and Casino further inland. In our Central West, Dubbo, Coonabarabran, Orange and Broken Hill will also receive upgrades. In the State's south, Goulburn, Queanbeyan and Deniliquin will be upgraded, as well as Bega, Nowra, Wollongong and Albion Park on the South Coast. Around Sydney, we will see upgrades in facilities at Regentville, Windsor, Kenthurst, Katoomba, Guildford, Surry Hills, Terry Hills, Maroubra and Bass Hill, where the Premier and I were briefed on operations during the recent floods.

In the Hunter, East Maitland, Charmhaven, Wallsend and Scone will be the beneficiaries of this investment. The Scone emergency operations centre [EOC] will receive \$280,000 worth of funding, for example, to arm agencies with the tools they need to keep communities safe when disaster strikes. The funding being delivered by Resilience NSW will allow key information community and technology, audiovisual and utilities upgrades to enhance the operational capability of EOCs, and Resilience NSW is working closely with councils to develop funding agreements that reflect their particular local requirements.

I was in the upper Hunter on Monday with the Deputy Premier, The Nationals candidate for Upper Hunter, Dave Layzell, and our men and women in blue who call Singleton police station home. We announced a \$1 million commitment to the welfare of the officers who follow through every day on their pledge to keep the community of the upper Hunter safe. I visited this police station fewer than 12 months ago and saw firsthand the need for additional work to be done. I spoke with the officers who have had to work in the ageing facilities to the best of their abilities. That \$12 million will deliver a new Singleton police station and enhance facilities for officers who are currently stationed in an 1867-dated, heritage-listed building. The new fit-for-purpose station will meet the needs of the growing Hunter Valley. Only on this side of the House will we continue to deliver and stand by our frontline agencies. The Opposition, which continues to purport to stand by frontline workers, does not.

WEBSITE DOMAIN NAMES

Mrs HELEN DALTON (Murray) (15:15): My question is directed to the Premier. The Deputy Premier's office has been buying the website names of female political opponents and using the sites to smear them. When asked about this the Deputy Premier bragged, "We pulled their pants down." The Deputy Premier also called me "a disgusting human". Does the Premier endorse the buying of website names of female opponents? What is the Premier doing to combat the misogyny and bad behaviour of her deputy?

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN (Willoughby—Premier) (15:16): I thank the member for her question and I will answer it in two parts. Firstly, on the issue of websites, there was an article in *The Australian* this week saying that the New South Wales Labor Party was forced to delete a prominent website purchased in my name: gladysberejiklian.com.au. Apparently it was an independent body, the country's internet domain name administration authority—

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The Premier will be heard in silence. The member for Wakehurst will remain silent.

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: A few weeks after members of the Labor Opposition and others raised this as an issue, little did anybody know that they had actually committed the act themselves.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member for Swansea will remain silent.

Mrs Helen Dalton: Point of order: My point of order relates to Standing Order 129.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member for Murray will resume her seat. The question was in relation to websites and the Premier is being entirely relevant. She will be heard in silence.

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: I am happy to pre-empt to the member that I will answer both parts of the question, but the first question was about websites and domain names specifically. Documents obtained by *The Australian* revealed that the website gladysberejiklian.com.au was registered by the New South Wales branch of the Australian Labor Party and listed its chief contact as a particular gentleman whom I will not name in this place but who I imagine is a Labor Party official in Sussex Street. The person so named in the article was the chief information officer and chief technology officer of the Australian Labor Party. A subsequent investigation concluded that the purchase of the website by the New South Wales ALP was in breach of the administration authority that looks at such matters. Therefore I am pleased to say that my name has apparently been returned back to me. The address was subsequently deleted on 20 April and repurchased by the New South Wales Liberal Party.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The member for Wakehurst will remain silent.

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: I make the point that it is the height of hypocrisy for those opposite to have a set of rules for themselves under which they think it is appropriate to operate but then condemn or attack others for doing what they are doing.

Mrs Helen Dalton: Point of order—

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I remind the member for Port Stephens that she is on three calls to order.

Mrs Helen Dalton: My point of order relates to Standing Order 129. I am asking what the Premier is doing about it.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have ruled on that point of order previously. The member for Murray will resume her seat. The Premier indicated she was answering both parts of her question and I will hear further. The Premier will be heard in silence.

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: I simply say this is the height of hypocrisy. Last time we looked, the shooters party is preferencing Labor, so obviously those opposite condone that action. They have enough—

Mr Philip Donato: Point of order—

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Premier will resume her seat. I will hear the point of order. The member for Bathurst and the member for Oxley will remain silent.

Mr Philip Donato: My point of order relates to Standing Order 128. Imputations are being made by the Premier towards the member for Murray. The member for Murray did not purchase websites in her name. It is totally inappropriate and out of line to accuse the member for Murray—

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have heard enough. There is no point of order. The member for Orange will resume his seat.

Mr Philip Donato: Just answer the question!

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member for Orange will resume his seat. The member for Bathurst will remain silent.

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: I know the good member for Orange is very sensitive about the fact that the Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party is preferencing the Labor Party, but that is a fact.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The member for Maitland will remain silent.

Ms Yasmin Catley: Point of order—

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member for Newtown will remain silent. What is the member's point of order? I call the member for Newtown to order for the first time. I call the member for Bathurst to order for the first time.

Ms Yasmin Catley: The member has asked a very serious question, which should be answered. My point of order relates to Standing Order 129 because the Premier is talking about preference deals. That question had nothing to do with preference deals.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have heard enough. There is no point of order. The member for Swansea will resume her seat.

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: I am pleased to entertain an extension of time to be able to answer the second part of the member's question if the member would like to ask for such an extension. [*Extension of time*]

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

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: I simply make the point that hypocrisy has no place in the community.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member for Murray will resume her seat. She has just asked for an extension of time.

Mrs Helen Dalton: I am not a hypocrite!

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I call the member for Murray to order for the first time. The Premier has the call.

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: I simply make the point that the community wants to know that members of Parliament are focused on representing them and not engaging in the tit-for-tat hypocrisy that we see too often in this place. The member got on her feet to attack me for the use of websites when she should have known the party to which she is giving her preferences actually committed that offence.

Mrs Helen Dalton: Point of order: My point of order relates to Standing Order 129. Would you like me to read the question? I will read the question to you again.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member for Murray will resume her seat.

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: In relation to the second issue regarding the treatment of women and staff in this place, I am pleased to say the Deputy Speaker will be chairing a committee of the Parliament and has contacted various members to address the issues that were spurred on by the report that I asked previous Minister Professor Goward to undertake. I am someone who takes those matters seriously but I do not appreciate having them politicised in this place.

REGIONAL WORKPLACE SAFETY

Mrs WENDY TUCKERMAN (Goulburn) (15:23): My question is addressed to the Minister for Better Regulation and Innovation. Will the Minister update the House on how the Government is making regional workplaces and the community stronger and safer?

Mr KEVIN ANDERSON (Tamworth—Minister for Better Regulation and Innovation) (15:23): I thank the member for Goulburn for her question. We were recently in Goulburn, where we met with a number of real estate agents to talk about real estate reform and visited a couple of racing venues. It is a beautiful part of the world indeed. Goulburn was helping out Racing New South Wales when the rest of the racecourses were all flooded. Goulburn was still able to race, which was fantastic. The member for Goulburn, who was a highly respected police officer before coming to this place, cares deeply about the safety of her community. I thank her for her question.

In the 10 years since the Berejiklian-Barilaro Government was elected, we have worked hard to bring about real and tangible improvement in workplace safety. In fact, over the past decade there has been a 25 per cent reduction in work-related fatalities, which means that due to the work of this Government, on average, about 19 more workers are making it home to their families each and every year. That means 19 people whose loved ones will never have to face the heartbreak of having to say goodbye to someone who was lost in a workplace accident.

The New South Wales Liberals and Nationals want everyone to return home from work safely and to prevent workplace injury and death. That is our focus. That is why last year we introduced new laws, making it easier to prove and prosecute dangerous behaviour before an accident happens, not waiting until the end. Those opposite will try to be all things to all people, while actually delivering nothing for anyone. Laws against industrial manslaughter are championed by those opposite, who are keen to chase a headline. The Government has introduced the strongest legislation in the country, to make it easier to prosecute businesses who put their workers at risk of serious injury or death. We should not have to wait until someone is injured or killed before we take action. It should happen right at the start.

Many hazards are more common in regional New South Wales workplaces than in the city. For example, the risk of being injured by a quad bike is greater in Muswellbrook than in Martin Place. Unfortunately, agricultural vehicles accounted for over 30 per cent of workers' deaths in Australia last year. That is why the Government continues to support farmers through programs like the Quad Bike Safety Improvement Program, reducing the risk of death and injury on quad bikes. The Quad Bike Safety Improvement Program has provided

6,600 farmers with the opportunity to improve quad bike safety, and behaviours around and attitudes to quad bikes are improving in regional New South Wales.

It does not matter if you are a CEO, a coalminer or a horse breeder in the Hunter valley. Wherever you are in New South Wales, wherever you work and whatever you do, the New South Wales Government has got your back. This is a Government that lives and breathes regional New South Wales. That is why we continue to work with businesses to make sure that every regional workplace is as safe as possible. As the Minister responsible for SafeWork, I write to the family of every worker who has sadly passed away on a worksite. Every condolence message I send is one too many. It does not matter if you are a full-time worker or a part-time worker or if you job-share or are a casual worker. The Liberals and Nationals can be relied upon to support our workers. They trust us to do that. Do you know whom they cannot trust? They cannot trust Hunter-based union reps. *The Daily Telegraph* highlighted the poor record of Labor's standing up for workers—shallow to the core. The great pretender, Jeff Drayton, Labor's candidate for Upper Hunter, is very happy to beat his chest—

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

Mr KEVIN ANDERSON: —about safety for workers, until the picket line is in the rear-view mirror, as they scurry away. "Solidarity forever. United we stand. Divided we fall. We're mates till the end." This is the end for Labor in Upper Hunter. It is typical of Labor. They are very happy to talk about blue collar workers' safety for a construction site or a coalmine— [*Extension of time*]

It is another thing when they are in a boardroom or something entirely different, such as a by-election, when their polling shows that they need Green preferences.

Ms Kate Washington: Point of order: My point of order relates to relevance under Standing Order 129. The question was clearly about workplace safety, and the Minister is clearly straying well beyond the question, and you have indulged him by giving extra time.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: He has answered the first parts of the question. There is no point of order. The member will resume her seat. I will hear further.

Mr KEVIN ANDERSON: When it comes to workplace safety, the Labor Party has not been on the side of workers since black-and-white TV.

Dr Geoff Lee: Do you remember black-and-white TV?

Mr KEVIN ANDERSON: We do. The Labor Party has not been on the side of workers since the health Minister was a backbencher. That is how long it has been. Only the Liberals and Nationals can be trusted to put in tough measures for workplace safety. The Liberal and National parties are the only ones who lift safety and reduce injuries for New South Wales.

Committees

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON LAW AND SAFETY

Government Response

Mr DAVID ELLIOTT: I table the Government's response to report 1/57 of the Legislative Assembly's Committee on Law and Safety, entitled *Assaults on members of the NSW Police Force*.

Petitions

PETITIONS RECEIVED

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I announce that the following electronic petition signed by more than 10,000 persons has been lodged for presentation:

Sydney Children's Hospital Cardiac Surgery

Petition requesting the Legislative Assembly call on the Government to stop the cuts to cardiac surgery at the Sydney Children's Hospital, Randwick, received from **Dr Marjorie O'Neill**.

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

Business of the House

SUSPENSION OF STANDING AND SESSIONAL ORDERS: GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN: I move:

That standing and sessional orders be suspended at this sitting to permit:

- (1) The House to continue to sit after the conclusion of community recognition statements to consider any messages from the Legislative Council regarding Government Business, including the option for the Speaker to leave and resume the Chair on the ringing of one long bell.
- (2) Any messages from the Legislative Council regarding Government Business received before or during community recognition statements, for business before the House to be interrupted, excluding during the petition debate, for the consideration of the messages forthwith.
- (3) The House to adjourn without motion moved.

Motion agreed to.

WITHDRAWAL OF BUSINESS

Mr JAMIE PARKER: By leave: I withdraw written question No. 5875, standing in my name [Racing NSW and Australian Turf Club].

Private Members' Statements

MULTIFAITH COMMUNITIES IN BANKSTOWN AND SOUTH-WEST SYDNEY

Ms TANIA MIHAILUK (Bankstown) (15:32): Today I woke to the call of prayer, as my community, many members of whom are Islamic, began their celebrations for Eid al-Fitr. This three-day festival commences after a month of fasting and prayer for our Islamic community across Bankstown, western Sydney and, indeed, Australia and around the world. It is the second most significant festival in the Islamic calendar. I am very pleased to see that, despite the COVID restrictions, many of my community were able to attend mosques and prayer halls this morning, unlike last year, when very strict restrictions were in place.

I also take the opportunity to acknowledge the many Islamic community organisations in my electorate and the surrounding area for hosting iftar dinners and various events throughout the month of Ramadan. It is a time of prayer and fasting, and it is pleasing to see that each year more and more events are celebrating Ramadan around our community. It is also pleasing to see that schools and community groups are inviting friends and family during the period of Ramadan to iftar dinners. I have had the pleasure in the past of attending dinners at Bass High School and Bass Hill Primary School. Birrong Boys High School also has a regular iftar dinner, as do many local community organisations in my electorate throughout this significant month. Today there was a call for prayer and throughout my electorate there were festivals in many parks, including Paul Keating Park. A whole range of communities will be coming together to celebrate Eid.

I acknowledge that this is also a significant month for a number of other religions. Last week I had the pleasure of attending the Vesak Day celebration—the bathing of Buddha—in Cabramatta. Vesak Day celebrates the birth, death and enlightenment of Buddha and is a very significant occasion for the Buddhist community. Orthodox Easter is very significant for me, as I am Russian Orthodox, as it is for many in my community. Last week Greeks, Macedonians and other Orthodox communities came together to celebrate Easter. I acknowledge St Euphemia, which had a very large gathering for Good Friday—it always does—and many members of the community are invited to come and celebrate Easter with them. This is on the back of Catholic Easter. I remember going along to St Charbel's back in April where there was also a terrific gathering on Good Friday. As always, they invited many dignitaries and members of the community to attend.

That is what is so wonderful about the faiths in our community: They always invite dignitaries and want the wider community to attend their festivals and be part of their very special occasions. That is why it is so important that we acknowledge and respect multi-faith communities. I acknowledge members in the Chamber who are part of our Parliamentary Friends of Religious Freedom. It is wonderful that in the New South Wales Parliament we have a large group of members who respect our faith community and ensure they do their best to advocate on their behalf.

It is a trying time for the Bankstown community at the moment. Many members of my community are highly distressed by what is occurring overseas. I have a message for the Islamic community in Bankstown and indeed for everybody who is impacted by the events that are occurring in Jerusalem. It is so important that international efforts are made to de-escalate the violence. I pass on my thoughts and prayers to the communities that are being impacted and I hope, as does every member in this House, that there will be peace in the Middle East as soon as possible. It is important for the communities, both Jewish and Muslim, that there is a resolution to this situation.

VAUCLUSE ELECTORATE FUNDING GRANTS

Ms GABRIELLE UPTON (Vaucluse) (15:38): Every year I have the opportunity to support the community organisations in my electorate of Vaucluse with Community Building Partnership grants. I congratulate the organisations that were successful in the 2020 round. I will briefly tell the House about the

importance of this funding to supporting my local community. For the first time I was able to help St Mark's Church in Darling Point, which received \$19,000 for the installation of a stair lift in the memorial hall. The lift will improve access to other parts of the church property. I congratulate and send my strong support to Reverend Dr Michael Jensen and the parishioners of St Mark's, which my son attends regularly. The church does a wonderful job of reaching out to youth, the elderly and all those in between in our local community.

Kehillat Kadimah of Rose Bay received \$20,000 to renovate and restore two community halls with improved facilities and access for elderly and disabled members of the community. When I visited the shule not long ago I was told about their bigger, more ambitious plans for renovating the facility. I thank general manager Mervyn Katz, chairman Barry Meskin, president Joshua Boloy and the board. Central Synagogue is one of the largest and busiest synagogues in my electorate. Through the Community Building Partnership program, I was able to assist with a \$20,000 grant to renovate and refurbish their children's creche area. Recently there has been a major renovation of the shule and the grant will add to their community facilities. Having been there for the opening, I must say the facilities are quite exemplary. I congratulate Rabbi Minister Levi Wolff, president Daniel Taibel and chief financial officer Phil Ginges.

Waverley Action for Youth Services [WAYS], despite Russell King's death, does incredible work in my community for at-risk youth. WAYS received \$10,000 to re-carpet its first floor and counselling rooms and to upgrade the music room. I am always happy to support WAYS, its CEO Dr Terri Said and president Leo Wassercug. I was able to help the Eastern Suburbs Cricket Club with a small grant for new wicket covers at its training grounds at Woollahra Oval No. 2. It is one of our most active local sporting organisations and is a testament to the leadership of the great Jim Maxwell, AM, vice-presidents Peter Lovitt, Matt Lawrance and their committee.

Rabbi Dr Dovid Slavin and his wife, Laya, are the power and the force behind Bondi's Our Big Kitchen, which is a wonderful facility. They needed support for a new communal pergola and sukkah. I am always happy to help them because they reach out to so many people in our community who cannot help themselves. For the first time I was able to help The Scots College, which received money for new shade cloths at its preparatory school campus to provide sun protection. I send my support to principal Ian Lambert and the school's foundation board, who made the application. Emanuel Synagogue in Woollahra received money to upgrade its beautiful heritage sanctuary with new audio equipment. I visited the synagogue earlier this year to meet with Head Rabbi Jeffrey Kamins and CEO Suzanna Helia, who showed me their plans for the future. I congratulate president Alex Lehrer and the board. McAuley Catholic Primary School received \$30,000 for the refurbishment of its playground toilet block so that it is situated more appropriately. Well done to principal Nicole Jones and P&C president Emma Harcourt.

Jewish House in Bondi received \$16,700 for new videoconferencing equipment and outdoor heaters. I thank the wonderful CEO Rabbi Mendal Kastel and co-presidents Roger Clifford and Gary Cohen. The North Bondi Surf Life Saving Club received \$12,000 to support a project to install solar power modules at its wonderful and iconic clubhouse. Congratulations to the president and the board. The Jewish Folk Centre in Woollahra received \$11,000 to improve security for its main entrance doors and to install a new security gate. Well done to the executive there, including co-presidents Miri Orden and David Nathan. St Michael's Anglican Church in Vacluse received \$20,000 to replace its female toilet facility with a new unisex toilet. St Peter's Anglican Church got some help with its columbarium. I commend all the organisations I have mentioned, as well as COA Sydney in Woollahra, Diamond Bay Bowling, Double Bay Sailing Club, Nefesh Synagogue and Inala Miroma. Together we have built friendships and skills. I commend my private member's statement to the House.

ROAD TOLLS

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER (Rockdale) (15:43): I bring to the attention of the House the many ways the transport and roads Minister is failing the people of my electorate of Rockdale. The introduction of the outrageously unfair toll on the M5 East Motorway last July has had a terrible impact on the back pockets of motorists and on the smaller local roads in the Rockdale area. Thousands of extra vehicles have flooded onto local roads to avoid the new toll. Now residents on those streets are bearing the brunt of trucks pounding past their homes at all hours of the day and night. Members opposite knew the impact their decision would have on people—how much stress and financial strain it would cause in the middle of a pandemic and recession—and they simply did not care. They went ahead, slapping a new toll on a road that was built and paid for by the people of New South Wales two decades ago, breaking a promise that it would remain toll free.

The Opposition welcomes the Government's review, which will consider the pressure that exorbitant tolls place on Sydney's drivers, but it does little to ease the devastation felt in the past 10 months by people living along Stoney Creek and Forest roads, and other surrounding streets in my electorate. The damage and disturbance inflicted on Rockdale residents by this Government through the M5 East toll is immeasurable. They deserve so much more than a review. The Government must listen to their concerns and implement urgent changes to help

them. My community will not stop fighting until this injustice is reversed. Another failing of the people of Rockdale by the transport Minister is evident in the inundation of my office by residents who are fed up with car hooning and antisocial behaviour, particularly along the foreshore areas around Brighton-le-Sands. That behaviour is also the product of people using our local roads because of the M5 debacle, which has compounded the problem.

In recent months hundreds of my constituents have contacted the transport Minister and he refuses to respond to my representations. He has passed the buck yet again. I have been working closely with Bayside Council to find a lasting solution. Although Transport for NSW has declined our requests for more speed cameras and to close Bay Street between Moate Avenue and The Grand Parade on weekends, it has failed to provide any real solutions. The suggestion from Transport for NSW that it will investigate the possibility of installing extra speed limit signs is laughable. It is a joke. Transport for NSW is simply providing concerned residents with the phone number for Crime Stoppers or the Environment Protection Authority hotline. Such a lousy response is an insult to my community, especially when we have put forward a clear and workable solution—close Bay Street on weekends—to shut down the real source of the problem.

It is easy for the bureaucrats in the transport department to palm this off and refuse to do anything. Andrew Constance allowing himself to be pushed around and overruled by his department is a sign of incredible incompetence and proof that he has checked out of his ministerial role. The transport Minister must do better by coming to the table prepared and willing to help my frustrated and fed-up residents instead of passing off his responsibilities to someone else and letting bureaucrats run the show. The response to date is simply not good enough. It is a real slap in the face for residents who deal with this issue every week. The people of Rockdale have been abandoned by this Government when it comes to roads and transport. They deserve to be heard, and they are demanding action and real solutions to fix the problems on our roads.

MYALL LAKES ELECTORATE SPORTS FUNDING

Mr STEPHEN BROMHEAD (Myall Lakes) (15:48): I update the House on sport in Myall Lakes. Sport plays an integral part in regional communities. It is part of the core of community groups in regional towns, and it is no different in Myall Lakes. Sport plays an important role in many aspects of a person's life, whether it is exercise and good health, simply getting outside in the fresh air or event-led tourism. All those things are important. Event-led tourism brings dollars into the local economy, which creates more jobs, which is so important in Myall Lakes. Over the past couple of years, many towns in the Myall Lakes have received grants, including Forster, Taree, Wingham, Burrell Creek, Wootton, Nabiac, Old Bar, Pacific Palms and Little Plains. Many areas have received funding recently. No matter how big the grant—whether it is \$500 or millions of dollars—it is important to the small group or club that receives it as well as its community.

Recent grants include just over \$8.25 million for the multipurpose Iron Arena in Taree, allowing it to expand from two courts to five courts, with change rooms and amenities, and to increase its capacity to over 2,000 people. It will be the biggest indoor arena in the Manning-Great Lakes area and will entertain people with indoor sports and arts events. The venue will also showcase the area's produce. This important project is the result of The Nationals in government at both State and Federal levels. Federal member David Gillespie and I have worked together to secure that funding. Forster Surf Club in the iconic location of Main Beach received \$3 million. The club does a fantastic job. On the weekend I attended its presentation night. Club volunteers put in thousands of hours. It was a great club when it was built but it is well past its use-by date. Due to concrete cancer and other issues, it is no longer fit for purpose. It is great to be able to help that club.

Manning Valley Racing Club received \$1.2 million for new race day tie-up, which brings people into town. The racing industry employs many people in regional New South Wales and in my area in particular. Coomba Park sailing club is the headquarters for northern New South Wales disability sailing. It received over \$1.5 million to improve its facilities, including providing better access to the water by having a jetty and pontoon to ensure that it is compatible with Sailability boats, making sailing easier for people with disabilities. Smaller grants included \$2,549 to Taree Leagues Bowling Club; \$5,000 to Taree Amateur Swimming Club to assist with running the country championships, which attracts hundreds of people over several days and brings money into town; and \$5,000 to Forster Bowling Club to host the Grade 1 State Pennants Finals, which also brings hundreds of people to town who spend on accommodation, meals, petrol and the like, which is great for the economy and for local jobs.

Great Lakes Pearl Dragons received \$3,100 to install a 3,000-litre water tank and security system, which are important to them; Manning Valley Dressage and Hacking Club received \$15,000; and the Manning Valley Hockey Association received \$2,000 to hold the 2021 Half State Women's Masters Championship. This funding is important and is helping local communities in the Myall Lakes electorate. It is only since The Nationals came to government that monies like this have been going to local communities to help them host events and improve facilities in the Myall Lakes electorate.

TAMWORTH ELECTORATE SPORTS VOLUNTEERS

Mr KEVIN ANDERSON (Tamworth—Minister for Better Regulation and Innovation) (15:53): I pay tribute to the volunteers of sporting organisations and clubs across the Tamworth electorate, from Nundle to Werris Creek, Manilla, Attunga, Somerton, Gunnedah, Tambar Springs and Mullaley. The sporting organisations and the volunteers who run them are the backbone of our community. They help to run the training nights and organise events. They turn up day in, day out to run the canteen on the sideline, to wash the uniforms and to make sure that the stables are clean for the competitors who compete in equine sporting events. This weekend the Kootingal and District Pony Club will host the 2021 Pony Club NSW State Jumping Equitation Championships thanks to a \$5,000 grant from the Government after it was successful in its application in the 2021 Local Sport Grant Program. That funding will be used to host the event as well as to upgrade the ground's showjumping wings and poles. It is great to see a State championship competition making its way to Kootingal.

Showjumping has a rich history in our region, particularly in Kootingal. In 2016 the Kootingal & District Pony Club celebrated its fiftieth anniversary. The club continues to progress its young competitors all the way to top-level competitions at a regional, State and national level. Events such as State championships bring rural communities together. After long periods of drought and a year in isolation, I congratulate the Kootingal & District Pony Club on its latest achievement. The event will see competitors judged on jumping equitation, which means the correct way to ride a showjumping course. The perfect jumping equitation round should be of good and even rhythm, with fluency and precision. One cannot forget the Gunnedah region's very own Olympic champion horse, Kibah Tic Toc, who won championships in Australia and around the world and shot rider Ron Easey to international fame.

The club secretary of Kootingal & District Pony Club, Justine George, said that it would be great to host a number of riders from across the State. Approximately 70 riders will be in attendance, ranging in ages from under 11 through to under 26 and travelling from as far away as zone two, which includes the districts of Cowra, Coffs Harbour, Tenterfield, Moree, Moss Vale, Cessnock, Cooranbong and Dural. Due to the pandemic, this year notice heights have been introduced to the championships to entice more riders to compete at the pony club level. The 2021 Pony Club NSW State Jumping Equitation Championships will take place on 15 and 16 May. I congratulate the organisers at the club and the competitors who will travel from across New South Wales. I firmly believe that a rising tide floats all boats, and that if you build it they will come. The Kootingal & District Pony Club is setting the benchmark for the future Ron Easeys and other champion equestrian riders who will do our region proud.

Business interrupted.

Petitions

FIREARMS AND WEAPONS LEGISLATION

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER: For the benefit of those in the public gallery I will explain the process and rationale behind the unique petition debate. The debate is unique because it enables the public to bring their concerns directly to the attention of the House. It will proceed as follows: The petition debate starts with a speech from a member, which will in most cases be the member who lodged the petition, followed by up to four other members, followed by a Minister in response. To conclude the debate, the first speaker, which in this case is the member for Orange, will speak in reply. After all members have spoken, the House will vote on the question that the House take note of the petition. In most cases the question will be determined on the voices of members and will be passed. However, if it is challenged by a member the question may proceed to a division and members will vote on the motion to take note of the petition.

The question is that the House take note of the petition.

Mr PHILIP DONATO (Orange) (15:59): It is an honour to speak on behalf of the 28,456 signatories to the petition in response to the negative consequences of the Firearms and Weapons Legislation Amendment (Criminal Use) Bill 2020. I welcome to the gallery representatives from the New South Wales branch of the Sporting Shooters Association of Australia (NSW) [SSAA], who initiated and drove this important ePetition. Representatives include CEO and former member of this place, Mr Jai Rowell; president Lance Miller; operations manager George Greiss; and communications manager Emma Taviani. I also welcome the thousands of SSAA members and shooters from across the State who are watching online. The ePetition is record breaking; it is the largest and fastest growing in the history of the Parliament's ePetitions.

In just under two weeks the ePetition garnered more than 25,000 signatures. Within the first week the monumental traffic from signatures crashed the Parliament website twice. By the end of March the ePetition had grown to become the largest in New South Wales history. If ever there was a poorly drafted bill introduced into the New South Wales Parliament, this is it. It is clumsy and vague, and without extensive amendment it could

have severe consequences for the hundreds of thousands of licensed firearms owners in this State, including farmers, sporting shooters and hunters. The bill introduces new offences aimed at preventing the illegal manufacture of firearms and firearms parts by, in the Minister's own words, "serious criminals".

However, the bill presents substantial risk of negative consequences for licensed shooters. It was rightly referred to a Legislative Council inquiry, chaired by the Hon. Robert Borsak, for further scrutiny. The inquiry received 267 submissions, which raised many concerns. The first concern was that there is a lack of safeguards and no statutory defence against prosecution for licensed firearms holders who make legitimate repairs, maintenance and adjustments to registered firearms. Many submissions pointed out that, like all sporting enthusiasts, firearms owners need to repair, maintain and in some cases modify their equipment. Those entirely lawful actions are supported and promoted in the NSW Firearms Registry 2006 booklet entitled *Firearms (Longarms) Users Guide: Rights, Wrongs and Responsibilities*.

During the inquiry the Acting Deputy Commissioner of the NSW Police Force, Mark Walton, acknowledged that licensed firearms owners undertaking maintenance of their registered firearms would remain within the law. However, unless explicit safeguard provisions are included in the bill there is a risk that licensed firearms owners undertaking repairs and maintenance to their registered firearms could be captured by the bill and could become unwitting victims of overzealous enforcement. The second concern is that the bill erodes a citizen's privilege against self-incrimination and the common-law right to silence and the presumption of innocence. The bill is written as if those basic legal rights should not extend to licensed and lawful firearms owners, and it violates basic principles of common law.

The third concern that was raised in many submissions to the inquiry is the lack of consultation with stakeholders. Regrettably, the Government did not circulate the bill for public consultation. It is easy to understand why: The Government has made clear that it has little interest in recognising the basic legal rights and interests of lawful licensed firearms owners. Thankfully, the Legal Affairs Committee held its inquiry and gave stakeholders the opportunity to voice their concerns. The final concern that I will raise in debate is the use of the drug manufacturing term "precursor" in the bill. If the bill is not amended that term could apply to common household and hardware tools and products, and it could render almost every licensed firearms owner a criminal. What farm shed or suburban garage in Australia does not have tools or equipment such as drills, hacksaws, oil, metal and timber? Those are all deemed to be precursors under the bill.

I conclude by stating that the bill has major problems, and I have only had time to touch on a few of them. The Legislative Council inquiry made nine recommendations, which go a long way to improving that poorly drafted bill and helping to meet its intended aim of preventing the unauthorised manufacture of firearms and firearms parts by serious criminals. Most importantly, the committee's recommendations include protecting licensed firearms owners against unintended consequences. The Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party and shooters throughout New South Wales look forward to the Government supporting those recommendations.

Mr GURMESH SINGH (Coffs Harbour) (16:03): I recognise the members of the Sporting Shooters Association of Australia (NSW) who are watching online, and also Coffs Harbour resident Lance Miller, who is the president of the association, CEO Jai Rowell and the staff members with them in the Chamber today. The Firearms and Weapons Legislation Amendment (Criminal Use) Bill 2020 will not have a disproportionate effect on the people of regional New South Wales. Legitimate firearms licence holders on farms or rural properties will not be treated like criminals because they have a shed full of tools; police will not have the power to search property on that basis alone. Before police can use their powers, there needs to be a reasonable suspicion that the items are being used, or are intended to be used, for taking part in the unauthorised manufacture of firearms or firearm parts. To be clear about firearm precursors, the mere possession of household items or hardware found in anyone's machinery shed or storage area is not an offence. An offence would occur only if these items were possessed for the purpose of taking part in unauthorised manufacture.

There is not and never has been any intention for the new offence to capture the cleaning, maintenance and servicing of a registered firearm held by a licence holder. Primary producers, pest controllers, hunters and shooting club members can continue to undertake those activities without meeting the threshold of the offence. The suggestion that overzealous police would target legitimate licence holders does not give the NSW Police Force enough credit to understand the law they must enforce. Sadly, organised crime is infiltrating into regional areas of New South Wales. This year the State Crime Command's Criminal Groups Squad's Strike Force Hathern charged a fifth man with the shooting and robbery of a truck driver last year near Lithgow. Rural communities are not immune from gun violence perpetrated by serious and organised criminals; the bill is attempting to protect them, not make legitimate firearms possession and use more complicated.

Operation Athena, for example, is a national law enforcement group comprising police from jurisdictions across Australia, with assistance from the Australian Federal Police and the Australian Border Force. A national week of action across Australia targeting the trafficking and use of illicit firearms ran from 15 to 21 March 2021.

The operation has included detectives from the NSW Police Force and the Australian Federal Police arresting and charging a 33-year-old man in Coolamon, near Wagga Wagga, with firearm- and drug-related offences. It will be alleged in court that this senior member of the Rebels Motorcycle Club attempted to import parts for prohibited firearms. The national chair of Operation Athena is Detective Superintendent John Watson from the NSW Police Force Drug and Firearms Squad. The week of action sends a timely message to those who deal with illicit firearms.

Operation Athena not only focuses on disrupting illegal activity but also encourages licensed firearms holders to store guns safely and securely, to help police reduce the risk of guns being stolen and diverted into the illegal market. The operation highlights that this is a national law enforcement priority. New South Wales is working closely with other agencies in Australia and overseas to build a global web of information about those buying and selling illicit firearms and firearm parts. The bill is another step in ensuring that our laws are as responsive and agile as they can be to deal with these threats. The element relating to knowledge is an important one; it is important to ensure that persons who are under a genuine belief that they are participating in a lawful manufacturing process are not inadvertently committing a criminal offence.

Ultimately, the offence is not intended to target the distant and unrelated persons who genuinely have no knowledge that they are involved in the illegal manufacture of firearms. When seizing or detaining items related to the offence, police need the power to direct a person to provide assistance or information to enable the officer to access information. Those proposed access powers recognise that encryption or security features are used by criminals to hide evidence relating to illicit activities. The fear that has been engendered that these provisions expose ordinary residents of New South Wales who have done nothing wrong to invasive and intrusive actions is misleading and scurrilous. The bill is not targeting law-abiding citizens or firearms licence holders who do the right thing in looking after their firearms and complying with the Act. The bill is making it harder for criminals to operate in the State, but we will also support legislation that supports the rights of farmers and sporting shooters.

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER: Before I call the member for Barwon, I welcome to the public gallery Lance Miller, Rob Austin, George Greiss, Emma Taviani and my good friend and former member of this place, Jai Rowell.

Mr ROY BUTLER (Barwon) (16:08): No-one wants to see criminal use of firearms. Criminal use of firearms tarnishes the good reputation of law-abiding firearms owners and increases fear of crime in the community. All legislation and regulation around firearms should put public safety first. The Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party has no problem with New South Wales police having increased resources to deal with the criminal use of firearms. Illegal manufacture of firearms needs to be stamped out, but the bill is off target and over 28,000 New South Wales citizens agree. The ePetition reached the threshold in record time, with a record number of signatures. With almost 250,000 licence holders in New South Wales, this is something the Minister and the New South Wales Government should pay attention to. If trusted peak groups like the Sporting Shooters Association of Australia (NSW) and NSW Farmers are formally raising concerns again, then the New South Wales Government should be paying attention.

As a young fellow in the late 1980s I worked on a chook farm. In between collecting eggs I used to knock off pest birds on and around the sheds. We mostly used an old Gamo .22 air rifle. The poor old thing had been so well used that the trigger sear had worn; it could fire if you knocked or bumped it. We disassembled it, built up the metal on the sear with a MIG welder and then ground and filed it so that the trigger sear would catch properly again and be safe. Think about that: We made the air rifle safe to use again. We also shortened and re-cut a grub screw that had been lost. Under the bill, we could be charged for those repairs—for fixing an old air rifle. Is that acceptable to this Parliament? What do those actions have to do with public safety?

In meetings with the Minister and senior police, we have repeatedly raised concerns that people with no criminal intent would be caught up in this. Just about every property, especially farms in New South Wales, would have items that could be defined as precursors: scrap metal, old galvanised water pipes, drills, mills and lathes. It is telling that the NSW Police Force deputy commissioner agreed with what we were saying. People with no criminal intent could be charged. Farmers and country people generally are a cluey bunch. Big distances and isolation from supplies means they tend to be able to fix most things on their property or home with a bit of ingenuity and creative problem-solving. They can make parts to keep machines and equipment working.

The bill as it stands could see farmers charged for repairing a legally held firearm that poses no risk to public safety—none whatsoever. Whatever happened to the view in 2007 that part of responsible firearms ownership was maintaining a firearm? By definition, maintenance includes repairs. The 2007 *Firearms (Longarms) Users Guide – Rights, Wrongs and Responsibilities* makes several references to home firearm repairs. It actually refers to a duty of care for firearm owners to maintain their firearms. It contains the following line:

If you are not adept at firearms repair ...

It then proceeds to list other people to seek assistance from. It also talks about the obligation to keep the firearm in good repair. The legislation has not changed in that regard. The document, with multiple references to owners repairing their firearms, is still accessible on the New South Wales police website today.

Where is the proof that law-abiding people repairing legally held firearms impacts public safety? There are already rules around overall length, barrel length, modifications to change the action type et cetera. There has been a great surge in people participating in shooting sports: target pistol shooting, clay target shooting, recreational hunting and a plethora of target rifle shooting events that individuals and families participate in. People of different sizes and builds mean that grips, stocks, sights and even triggers need to be adjusted or changed. The way the bill is written, it can be interpreted that they are parts. If a shotgun stock needs to be shortened, lengthened or have the comb raised or lowered, people could fall foul of the bill as written. What does that have to do with public safety?

What about collectors who service and maintain firearms that are often 200-plus years old and need to replace or repair a part, or install a failed spring? For those who have never lived outside of Parliament, spring steel does fail over time. It happens all the time; all metal fatigues. Would this Parliament want to see a collector with firearms from the 1700s caught up in laws designed to target criminal syndicates? Again, it has nothing to do with public safety. My colleague the member for Orange spoke of the incursion into basic common-law rights. It is a dangerous step and a slippery slope to start diminishing the basic rights that citizens of New South Wales have to procedural fairness and natural justice.

The problem with all of this is that even if those people are never convicted, their licence would be suspended and their firearms seized until the matter could be thrown out of court. They would have the cost and embarrassment of being charged and dragged through the court system. It is preferable that those needless actions never occur; our criminal courts should be dealing with actual criminals. The way that can be done is by changing the bill to exclude legally held firearms. By all means, throw the book at criminals, but let us not create perverse outcomes we have the opportunity to avoid.

Mr STEPHEN BROMHEAD (Myall Lakes) (16:13): I acknowledge the petition on the Firearms and Weapons Legislation Amendment (Criminal Use) Bill 2020, which is the subject of a recently completed parliamentary inquiry. The Government is considering the recommendations of the inquiry. I had the pleasure of talking with Jai Rowell about the bill and about his and the Sporting Shooters' Association of Australia's concerns about its unintended consequences. As a result of that meeting, we also raised the matter with the Minister. I will reiterate the intent of this legislation. The bill aims to strengthen the provisions relating to taking part in the unauthorised manufacture of firearms or prohibited weapons, and to clarify police power when conducting firearms prohibition order searches. It does not criminalise legitimate firearms licence holders. We will not target or victimise legal shooters. We will not target farmers. Legitimate firearms owners can fix and maintain their registered firearms if they are a licensed firearms holder.

Two distinct matters are addressed in the bill: the new offence for taking part in the unauthorised manufacture of firearms, and firearms prohibition orders [FPOs]. The amendments are consistent with agreements that have been made at a national level. Following the Martin Place Siege Joint Commonwealth-New South Wales Review, the then Ministerial Council on Police and Emergency Management supported a desktop review of existing firearms manufacturing offences, acknowledging that new technologies have greatly enhanced the capabilities of criminals to manufacture firearms, often without great technical skill. After an extensive cross-jurisdictional review, the working group proposed an approach by which the illegal manufacture of firearms offence would have a broader application and new technologies could be captured. That national process was supported by every jurisdiction and all relevant Ministers.

In 2016 the NSW Ombudsman completed a review of the use of FPO search powers and made a number of recommendations. The FPO amendments are a response to recommendations directed to the then police Minister and the Attorney General, which the Government supported. There are good reasons for the amendments relating to unauthorised manufacture. Currently, police are not able to take action for unauthorised manufacture unless they can prove that a functioning firearm was the end result. This new offence will close that major loophole. Under the new provisions, police may take action against a person who knowingly took part in manufacturing firearms or firearms parts and who either knew or reasonably should have known the manufacture was not permitted. So fixing a trigger is permitted and maintaining your firearm is permitted, providing, of course, you have a registered firearm and you are a licence holder.

It is an integral initiative to respond to serious criminals who have the means and ingenuity to seek alternatives by which to produce a firearm. It would also be an offence for a person to possess anything for the purpose of unauthorised manufacture, which includes things like moulds for parts such as handgun grips, milling equipment and computer software or plans. To be abundantly clear, mere possession is not an offence; it must be for the purpose of unauthorised manufacture. Let me repeat that, as this has been one of the main

misunderstandings promoted about this bill, creating a lot of unnecessary confusion and fear. There is no offence of possession of a firearm precursor without the accompanying elements of the offence.

The new offence broadly defines "takes part" to include providing finances, premises, equipment and materials of illegal manufacturing. The offence also has precedents in at least one other State and jurisdiction. No-one can be prosecuted for merely possessing a household item or tool. There are also good reasons for the amendments relating to FPOs, over and above those recommended by the Ombudsman. It is a great tool for fighting organised crime and outlaw motorcycle gangs and one that police have in their prosecutions. In fact, the police are the ones pushing for the legislation to be extended to include a similar sort of order for drug suppliers. This is a great tool targeting criminals—not ordinary citizens, not legitimate firearms owners, but crooks. The new provisions seek to strengthen and clarify the firearms prohibition order search powers, following a 2016 review into those powers by the Ombudsman.

Mrs HELEN DALTON (Murray) (16:19): I speak in support of this petition, which highlights the many problems with the Government's Firearms and Weapons Legislation Amendment (Criminal Use) Bill. This is yet another bill that shows that this Government has absolutely no idea about what happens in rural communities. National Party members, who are supposed to represent regional New South Wales, are too busy living in their mansions in Drummoyne and Rushcutters Bay to pay attention to how their bills impact on those out west. I do not begrudge the Deputy Premier and the water Minister for living in mansions in the heart of Sydney. Sydney is a nice city and they love living here. They have probably worked hard to afford their multimillion-dollar inner-city properties. The problem is that they have lost touch with what happens in rural communities. They do not understand farmers and they do not understand why we need firearms.

My party takes a sensible approach when it comes to firearms, consulting constituents and addressing the needs of rural communities. When I campaigned for the electorate of Murray, the Liberals and Nationals launched a vicious scare campaign that attacked every farmer and law-abiding firearms owner in the country. Polling booths across Murray were plastered with big AK-47 posters and pictures of little children holding guns. It was gross and disgusting. They implied that gun massacres would become commonplace if people voted for me. Well, spoiler alert: None of that has happened. Murray continues to remain safe, and gun-related violence continues to decline. Our party does not want an increase in gun violence or a decline in community safety. We want basic fairness and for people to be consulted when government changes laws that impact on them.

The Firearms and Weapons Legislation Amendment (Criminal Use) Bill is a bad bill for rural New South Wales. It has the potential to turn ordinary farmers into criminals. As farmers we should have the ability to repair and modify our own equipment. We are often remote and isolated, living hundreds of kilometres from major regional towns. I grew up in that situation, so I know that we do this all the time. We have always been able to repair our equipment, and guns are no exception. We have done this for centuries. Turning this sort of activity into a criminal offence is a scary sign of government overreach. What really annoys me about this bill is that the Government did not bother to speak to those impacted. Most Government MPs have never been to a farm; they would not know what a farm was—only Harris Farm, but that is about it. I am sure there is a Harris Farm in Rushcutters Bay or Drummoyne or wherever else National Party MPs might live, but there are no Harris Farms out west.

Government members really need to be speaking to those in the know before they change our lives. We see this lack of consultation all the time—on water, hospitals, school mergers, and the list goes on. The rural community most affected is the last to find out. It is no wonder we see a growing gap in life expectancy between rural New South Wales and Sydney. This bill is sloppy. It does not make anyone more safe, but it puts people in my electorate at great risk. An inquiry into the bill found all sorts of problems with it. I echo the calls of my fellow party members in urging the Government to adopt those recommendations and fix the bill.

Mr MARK TAYLOR (Seven Hills) (16:22): I likewise acknowledge those in the gallery today and also those people who are watching this online. I am pleased to contribute to this petition debate as the Parliamentary Secretary for Police and Justice and on behalf of the Minister for Police and Emergency Services. I was pleased to make a contribution to the second reading debate on the Firearms and Weapons Legislation Amendment (Criminal Use) Bill 2020 on 4 March last year. In that debate I spoke in favour of the Government's proposed amendments contained in the bill introduced in this place by the Minister on 26 February 2020.

As indicated by many of the contributors to this petition debate, this bill is about disrupting serious organised crime and keeping our community safe from criminal gun violence. Without those initiatives, criminals would continue to avoid prosecution. I know that those who signed the petition did so in good faith and I thank them for the interest they have in the workings of this Parliament. This bill does not threaten their lifestyle or their choices, unless they are criminals. Petitions are an important interaction between the people of New South Wales and this Parliament and I can assure the public and those who signed the petition that this Government is aware of their views and will no doubt take them into consideration.

The Firearms and Weapons Legislation Amendment (Criminal Use) Bill will strengthen the provisions relating to illegal firearms and clarify police powers. The amendments contained in the bill are making the work of the Police Force easier and will allow them to focus on keeping our communities safe. It does not criminalise legitimate firearms licence holders. The Government is considering the recommendations from the parliamentary inquiry and will return the bill to the House in due course. We should be very clear about firearms precursors. Mere possession is not an offence. It must be for the purpose of taking part in unauthorised manufacture. There is no offence of possession of a firearms precursor without the accompanying elements of the offence.

This bill is about disrupting serious organised crime and keeping our communities safe. The new offence of taking part in unauthorised manufacture must be sufficiently broad to capture the facilitation of unauthorised manufacture of firearms, through things like financing, providing premises or possessing firearms precursors for the purpose of unauthorised manufacture. Without this breadth, criminals will continue to avoid prosecution. As reinforced by the number of speakers today, this Government has a proven record, over a number of years, of constructive amendments to the firearms regime. We know that firearms licence holders and sporting enthusiasts undertake their activities in a responsible and safe way. There are thousands of legitimate shooters—licensed firearms holders—who possess firearms for employment and for their livelihoods, as well as for sport and recreation. We also know that criminals, especially organised crime groups, are innovative and bold about where they find loopholes in the law and can evade prosecution for their crimes. This bill is about closing those loopholes.

Mr PHILIP DONATO (Orange) (16:26): In reply: I thank the members representing the electorates of Barwon, Murray, Coffs Harbour and Myall Lakes, and the member for Seven Hills in his capacity as Parliamentary Secretary for Police and Justice, for their contributions to this debate. I also thank the Sporting Shooters' Association of Australia for its hard work, notably that of State president Lance Miller and CEO Jai Rowell, and their board and staff. I also thank my colleagues in the Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party who fought hard to oppose the ill-considered harm this bill will inflict on the law-abiding firearms owners of this State. Thank you also to the shooting fraternity, including shooting and hunting clubs, firearms dealers and the farming sector, who are all united to send their message to this Government. Our combined message is clear. The bill is targeted not only at criminals but also at lawful licensed firearms owners quietly going about their sport.

I heard what the various speakers on behalf of the Government said. It may be well and good to come into this place and wax lyrical, saying it is not intended to capture law-abiding people. If that is the case, put it in the legislation. Insert it in the bill. Insert a statutory defence so that it is clear to any court in this State what the exact intention of the legislation is. Legal firearms owners will be turned into criminals if the bill is not amended. This is not an attempt to wind back the National Firearms Agreement, but rather to ensure that what is currently legal remains that way. Other jurisdictions have included a clause recognising legal firearms owners as being exempt unless they break the law. As the bill stands, it is draconian and punitive of lawful firearms owners. The Government needs to instead target criminals and their legislation needs to clearly and unambiguously define that.

Petition noted.

Bills

PAYROLL TAX AMENDMENT (JOBS PLUS) BILL 2021

Returned

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER: I report a message from the Legislative Council returning the bill with amendments. I set down consideration of the Legislative Council amendments as an order of the day for a later hour.

Private Members' Statements

ST JOHN'S ANGLICAN CATHEDRAL COVID-19 PRAYER SERVICE

Dr GEOFF LEE (Parramatta—Minister for Skills and Tertiary Education, and Minister for Sport, Multiculturalism, Seniors and Veterans) (16:28): Last week I had the privilege of joining some of the church family at St John's Anglican Cathedral in Parramatta for a special service to pray for the devastating situation which India is currently experiencing as COVID-19 rages in the nation. I was there with a number of guests, including representatives of Indian community groups and various public services, Bishop of Western Sydney Gary Koo and most especially the Consul General of India, Mr Manish Gupta, who spoke eloquently at the service. Wonderfully, almost all the prayers and Bible readings were led by committed members of the church who come from India. Some have relatives, even close family members, who have contracted COVID-19. All members know of people who have been affected.

The short homily encouraged both those who were there and the many who were watching online to demonstrate that particular love and service to those in need that Christians have often been known for. They also

promoted the Archbishop of Sydney's Anglican Aid India COVID-19 Emergency Appeal and I commend that charitable work and many others like it. Members of the House may be aware that St John's, Parramatta is one of the very first churches in the colony, the parish being formed in 1802 alongside St Philip's, York Street. It is the longest continual site of Christian worship in the whole of Australia. The church family predates even the formation of the parish, with the first services held in December 1788 under a tree on the river by the first chaplain of the colony, Richard Johnson.

Today St John's is a shining example of the sort of multicultural society that modern New South Wales, and especially Parramatta, has become. As well as those from India, the church family has hundreds of members from all around the world who meet together in eight different congregations. Services are held in English as well as Mandarin, Cantonese and Farsi. Last week's service was a moving showcase of that international family as church members from various backgrounds came together to show support and love for their Indian brothers and sisters and the wider Indian community. Not content with looking after their own, they reached out further to their diverse local community to build more ties of care and understanding. The Reverend David Ould, who organised and led the service, tells me that since the evening he has received many expressions of gratitude and friendship from organisations who have been greatly encouraged by their actions.

As multiculturalism Minister I am convinced that New South Wales is stronger because of our cultural diversity and I am proud that we are one of the most culturally diverse States in the world. Nevertheless, for such a wonderful mix of people to live well together we need community harmony and social cohesion and this is, of course, what Multicultural NSW is constantly working hard towards. The prayer service last week was exactly the sort of harmony and cohesion that we need. In fact, I think it might be hard to think of a place where it has been better expressed and I send my good wishes to the entire St John's congregation and parish family, and especially their Indian members, as they continue to work towards this goal of harmony and cohesion that I know we all support.

Mr MARK TAYLOR (Seven Hills) (16:32): I commend the member for Parramatta for his private member's statement, in which he discussed so eloquently the role of multicultural community—and what a fantastic role it is playing—and particularly the issues facing certain sectors of that community at this present time. I note his mention of St John's, Parramatta. I also send a shout-out to the great work being done there, being one of the churches that I attended as a young person in the Parramatta area. I also take the opportunity to mention the Anglican churches of Parramatta and particularly note the great work of Reverend Raj Gupta of Toongabbie Anglican Church, who has now moved on to the Carlingford St Paul's Anglican Church. I am sure the member for Parramatta will have a great time catching up with Minister Raj and the fantastic work that he brings to our communities.

CENTRAL COAST COUNCIL FINANCIAL AUDIT

Mr DAVID HARRIS (Wyang) (16:33): Once again months late, Central Coast Council has finally presented its audited financial statements for 2019-20. Local journalist and intrepid council watcher Marilyn Vale provided a very detailed analysis. The auditor's report was tabled along with the financial statements at the 11 May meeting. The auditor reported a number of red flags. He found a "material deficiency in the council's accounting records". These included the lack of daily reconciliation of key accounts and sub-ledgers. Some reconciliations that should have been performed every day between the general ledger and sub-ledger systems to ensure all transactions were reflected correctly in the general ledger did not happen.

Then there was no audit trail when manual intervention was performed. This meant that there was no record of who did what and when, which means there was no evidence to review of changes made to these transfers. The auditor said that some monthly account reconciliations were not prepared or reviewed on a timely basis and supporting documentation was not consistently attached. The criticisms come on top of the extreme risk, already identified, that council spent restricted funds for unrestricted purposes. The auditor said that this indicated the council's oversight of its current and forecasted cash flow situation was not always effective. He labelled it an "extreme risk", meaning that matters are most certain to occur and have a very high consequence. He labelled council's documentation of legislative and operational requirements for restricted funds "high risk". He said:

Council did not have a policy or framework setting out legislative and operational requirements for each category of externally restricted funds. Council was unable to provide the basis for some externally restricted funds. The absence of this documentation increases the risk of restricted funds being used for inappropriate purposes in breach of legislation, especially in an environment of high staff turnover.

The auditor listed other matters of extreme and high risk, stating:

Council submitted the financial statements for the audit on 13 November 2020, one month after the agreed date. The financial statements included significant presentation issues, material misstatements and disclosure deficiencies. There was no documented evidence of timely quality review of the financial statements and associated supporting workpapers.

General computer controls were labelled "high risk". He said:

Council did not perform privileged user access reviews for one of the key financial systems, and did not review privileged user accounts' activity logs. This means there is increased risk of users circumventing normal control processes without detection.

Council did not value its roads, bridges and footpaths assets in the financial year, as it was meant to. The last full evaluation occurred in 2014-15, before the former Gosford and Wyong councils merged in 2016. The auditor stated:

The Council was initially planning to perform a full evaluation of these assets in 2019-20 (given the five-year gap in valuations) but after June 30 2020 determined to defer the revaluation to 2020-2021.

It goes on. Council's net operating result for the financial year ending 30 June 2020 was a deficit of \$88.7 million excluding grants and contributions for capital purposes. After adjusting for capital grants and contributions, the net operating deficit was \$21.8 million. The only non-cash component of the income statement showed depreciation and amortisation expenses of \$157.1 million. Central Coast Council Water Supply Authority's net operating result for the financial year to 30 June 2020 was a deficit of \$48.3 million, excluding grants and contributions for capital purposes. After adjusting for capital grants and contributions, the net operating deficit is \$31.5 million.

These facts vindicate New South Wales Labor representatives and the community calling for an inquiry. The assessment that councillors should shoulder the blame alone is clearly incorrect and staff should be held to account for bad financial mismanagement which has led to the issues at Central Coast Council. As we have always said, extreme structural problems from before the merger and through the merger process then continued on into the new council. We are pleased that the Minister has committed the inquiry to look at all of these issues. As I said in the debate, we thank her for that. But let us make sure that the blame is shared right across the board. It is not owned by one particular group but all of them.

Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal) (16:38): I thank the member for Wyong for his private member's statement and the commentary that he has just given supporting the public inquiry into Central Coast Council. As was explained last week, a public inquiry has the same reach as a royal commission. It will ensure that people can be compelled to give evidence. Paragraph (3) of the terms of reference of the public inquiry is also broad and wideranging, which means that any issue that has occurred at any time relating to Central Coast Council can be brought forward to the commissioner. I am pleased that, quite appropriately, the Minister has suspended the council; that in addition the public inquiry will allow any evidence to be given about any issue with regard to the council; and that people can be compelled to give evidence if the commissioner sees fit to do so.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE MIDWIFE

INTERNATIONAL NURSES DAY

Mrs LESLIE WILLIAMS (Port Macquarie) (16:39): Today I acknowledge International Day of the Midwife and International Nurses Day, both of which are celebrated in May each year to recognise the vital work our midwives and nurses do to strengthen and improve our healthcare system. Anyone who has ever required medical treatment in their lifetime knows the phenomenal care and attention provided by our dedicated nursing staff and midwives. They are often on call 24/7, devoting their time and energy to ensure each patient receives the highest level of support to aid in their recovery.

The International Day of the Midwife is celebrated each year on 5 May to reflect on the progress made by the profession and to acknowledge the incredible work undertaken by staff to support maternal and newborn health outcomes and quality of care. Ending preventable deaths in maternal and newborns is a key objective of the International Confederation of Midwives. It is aiming for less than 70 deaths per 100,000 live births by 2030, through investments in education and training, management and regulation and leadership and service delivery. New South Wales employs approximately 3,900 registered midwives, supporting nearly 100,000 babies each year. If you know a midwife, you can show your support by wearing a purple-and-blue heart to signify your appreciation of the valuable role they contribute to women and their families. International Nurses Day was celebrated this week on 12 May, providing an opportunity to commend our extraordinary nurses and recognise the tremendous work they undertake year on year providing care to others. The 2021 theme for International Nurses Day was "A Voice to Lead - A vision for future healthcare". It is hoped that 2021 will show how nursing will look into the future and how the profession will transform the next stage of health care.

In the electorate of Port Macquarie our midwives and nurses celebrated International Day of the Midwife and International Nurses Day on 12 May, which, of course, is the anniversary of Florence Nightingale's birth. Over the past 18 months in particular our nurses have gone above and beyond, demonstrating their commitment, resilience and dedication in providing care for the mid North Coast community during an extremely challenging time. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, our nurses and midwives have been there for the community. They

cared for the very first cases in our region, established and continued to manage COVID-19 testing clinics, and are now again front and centre as part of the national vaccination program. The most recent floods that devastated the Port Macquarie electorate are a true example of their strength and dedication, when the community is most vulnerable. Throughout this flood event and the emergency response that followed, local nurses—many whose homes had been affected by the floodwaters—returned to the front line to provide around-the-clock medical and mental health support at evacuation centres.

In acknowledging the diversity, skills and expertise of our nurses and midwives, Port Macquarie Base Hospital recognised some of its outstanding role models with an awards presentation. The worthy recipients were Midwife of the Year, Kathryn Riley; Community Nurse of the Year, Jenny Ford; and Role Model Nurses of the Year, Natalie McDonald and Ashleigh McHugh. It would be remiss of me not to mention our trainees, who will become the next generation of nurses and midwives, continuing the legacy of expert care and professional medical services advocated by those serving now and those who have previously left a lasting imprint on our healthcare system. This February the Mid North Coast Local Health District welcomed new students, who commenced the two-year Elsa Dixon Aboriginal School Based Traineeship. Delivered by Elsa Dixon, the two-year traineeship will focus on working in nursing and allied health across all health sites of the Mid North Coast Local Health District. I congratulate Kimberly Duncan, Erin Tarplee, Oshae Coe, Mary Schubert, Bree Croft, Ruby Griffen, William Delaforce, Mekeisha Donnelly and Kissane Walker.

I applaud all those who have embarked on a career in health. I especially acknowledge the trainees, who will focus their efforts in rural and regional New South Wales locations, where their expertise is in high demand. I am so proud to have undertaken studies in nursing and then to have had the privilege to work alongside some incredible colleagues during my time at the Port Macquarie Base Hospital and in aged-care facilities locally. Like all nurses and midwives, I considered it an honour to have had the opportunity in those various settings to support the healthcare needs of the community—the mums, dads, sons, daughters, uncle, aunties, grandparents and friends—along the way. I extend my heartfelt thanks and commendations to our wonderful nurses and midwives.

Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal) (16:44): I acknowledge the private member's statement from the member for Port Macquarie and note that she is a former nurse. I declare that I am the very proud husband of a registered nurse who works at Gosford Hospital. I note the member's comments that frontline workers, nurses and midwives worked diligently to keep our regions safe during the COVID-19 pandemic and how they have been assisting ever since. We saw the same activity at Gosford and Wyong hospitals and right across the Central Coast. Being the proud husband of a nurse, I know firsthand the sacrifices they make. Nurses do not see it as a job; they see it as a vocation. They are passionate, caring, wonderful people and we see them do that every day across the Central Coast—as the member for Port Macquarie does as well. I again acknowledge her contribution to the practice as a former nurse.

PENRITH ELECTORATE HEALTH WORKERS

Mr STUART AYRES (Penrith—Minister for Jobs, Investment, Tourism and Western Sydney) (16:45): I speak about the members of the Nepean Blue Mountains Local Health District, recognising the nurses and midwives that many other members of Parliament are recognising this week—when internationally and around the globe they are recognised for their wonderful contributions. As the local member for Penrith I take this opportunity on behalf of my entire community across the Nepean Blue Mountains area to send a clear message of thanks for the fantastic work that the employees of that local health district have done over the past 12 months to 18 months. There is no doubt that they have been significantly tested by the presence of COVID-19 across our community, but they have risen to the task and that is something that they should be incredibly proud of. Fundamentally, we are all amazed at their work and incredibly proud of the things they do and have done.

In Penrith there is no doubt that in the early days of the pandemic we were met with some serious challenges, particularly in aged-care facilities. The loss of life in the Newmarch aged-care facility was unbelievably tragic. But we should recognise the heroic works of many of the employees from the Nepean Blue Mountains Local Health District under the leadership of Dr James Branley, an infectious diseases expert. I have absolutely no doubt his intervention in that particular facility saved more lives. James and his team have had a profound impact not only on that facility but right across the State of New South Wales. The lessons learned around infection control have been rolled out in many other locations. I remember seeing Dr Nhi Nguyen, a long-term doctor at Nepean, on numerous occasions at the emergency crisis centre that we set up to respond to the pandemic. She was working closely with doctors around the rest of the State to make sure that the intensive care unit, her specialisation, was set up to respond to the COVID pandemic. We saw that play out incredibly well at Nepean Hospital and in the other facilities that exist across the Nepean Blue Mountains Local Health District.

I also recognise Kim Maddock, a nurse who has done an amazing job of tirelessly and consistently working to establish and manage the operation of the COVID testing clinics across the Nepean Blue Mountains Local Health District area—and now also the vaccination clinic that is operating there. They are just three members of

the medical professional staff who work at the local health district who have led an amazing response to the pandemic. On the administrative side and bringing the whole thing together is Kay Hyman, an understated woman by her own admission but still an incredibly strong and dedicated leader. Kay would not want to hear this but she has done an outstanding job. She would be the first person to say that she is leading a team. We all acknowledge that she has led an amazing team and they have done an amazing job, but leadership is fundamental to making sure that teams are able to execute what they need to. We really find out the quality of people when we put them into a stressful situation, and nothing has been as stressful as what we have seen in the past 18 months. They have all been tested and they have all risen to the task.

At the same time Nepean Blue Mountains is going through a significant reconstruction and rebuild of Nepean Hospital with a \$1 billion redevelopment. That stage one project is coming to its conclusion. They have managed a pandemic and managed a construction site. They have continued to provide high-quality service and high-quality care to residents and community members who need it. They have stepped up in the most testing of situations, as was presented at Newmarch House. They have set the standard for the rest of the State to follow. Families and local residents can attack their communities with confidence because of the first response that comes from the amazing group of people at the Nepean Blue Mountains Local Health District. I take the opportunity in this Chamber on behalf of all of the residents of the Penrith community to say, from the bottom of my heart, a very deep and heartfelt thankyou. What they have done over the past 12 months has saved lives and made our community safer. We are all better for it.

Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal) (16:50): I acknowledge the private member's statement by the member for Penrith and Minister. He outlined it perfectly. People like Kay who are working in the Nepean Blue Mountains Local Health District do not seek an acknowledgement but go to their jobs day in, day out to keep the community safe. As a good leader of a great team, she delivers wonderful outcomes for her community. They should all be applauded. As the Minister highlighted, they have also had to work through stage one of the \$1 billion reconstruction of that hospital. We have a similar situation on the Central Coast with our wonderful staff working through the rebuild of Wyong Public Hospital while dealing with COVID-19 and prior to that the rebuild of Gosford Hospital, which is an investment of more than half a billion dollars by this State Government into those two local hospitals. The member should be commended for fighting so hard for his community to get a \$1 billion investment in upgrading health. That is what this Government is delivering for the community of the Central Coast and the community of Penrith. I acknowledge the member's statement.

TAMIL GENOCIDE REMEMBRANCE DAY

Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect) (16:51): The eighteenth of May marks the annual Tamil Genocide Remembrance Day, an important day of remembrance for the Tamil community in the Prospect electorate and throughout the world. Recognition of the Tamil genocide is increasingly becoming a key issue in many parliaments throughout the Commonwealth and Europe. On 7 May 2021 the Ontario Government passed bill 104, the Tamil Genocide Education Week Act, which recognises that the Sri Lankan Government incited and committed acts of genocide against the Tamil population during the final period of the civil war. Bill 104 establishes 11 May to 18 May as Tamil Genocide Education Week, which encourages Ontarians to educate themselves and maintain awareness of the alleged war crimes and atrocities that led to the Tamil genocide.

I congratulate the Ontario Government for leading the charge towards providing restorative justice. Ontario has set an example to the rest of the international community that we must recognise acts of genocide. I hope that we in Australia will look to our Northern Hemisphere counterparts and work towards recognising the Tamil genocide. It is not a matter of if we will recognise the genocide, but when. It is simply the right thing to do. Additionally, the Parliament and Government of the United Kingdom has played a leading role in providing reconciliation and justice for the Tamil community. This year, whilst driving home the need to bring about accountability in Sri Lanka, the United Kingdom has led a number of UN Human Rights Council [UNHRC] resolutions.

The UK-led UNHRC resolutions, supported by some 22 other nations, aim to refer the perpetrators of the Tamil genocide to the International Criminal Court. As Sri Lanka is not party to the Rome Statute, the referral must receive unanimous support from all UN Security Council members and have the UN Security Council refer Sri Lanka to the International Criminal Court. Twenty-one parliamentarians from across France have called on President Macron to use France's influence as a member of the United Nations Security Council to make that referral happen. The UNHCR published a panel of experts' report in 2013. The report reveals that in the last stages of the Sri Lankan civil war during May 2009, Tamil civilians were ordered by the Sri Lankan Government to assemble in no-fire zones to guarantee their safety from the fighting. These zones included internationally recognised safe spaces during war, such as hospitals and schools. These no-fire zones were then repeatedly and systematically targeted by aerial bombings and artillery fire. These inhumane attacks on civilians were performed deliberately by the military, under the order of the Sri Lankan Government. An estimated 40,000 non-combatant

men, women and children were murdered. Further, Tamil civilians were repeatedly subjected to acts of torture, rape and kidnapping, all of which were systematically performed by the Sri Lankan military.

In 2011 the United Nations stated that allegations of war crimes and crimes against humanity inflicted on the Tamil population were credible. Despite the Sri Lankan Government's denial of these crimes, there is unrefuted evidence of a genocide having been perpetuated against the Tamil population. It is time for Australia to follow the lead of other Parliaments around the world and recognise these appalling acts as genocide. New South Wales is a wonderfully ethnically diverse State, which celebrates our multiculturalism and tolerance. I am proud to represent western Sydney and the tapestry of multiculturalism the region champions. Furthermore, we have a very significant and vibrant Tamil community in the electorate of Prospect. My family and I have been incredibly fortunate to make many Tamil friends within the Tamil community. I am inspired by their resilience, their kindness and their hardworking nature.

As members of Parliament, we must fight for justice, champion human rights and support our multicultural community. The Tamil community deserves justice. We need a State and Federal approach to this path of reconciliation. As such, I call on the Premier of New South Wales and the New South Wales Opposition leader to lead the campaign and move a bipartisan motion in the House to recognise the Tamil genocide. I also call on the Commonwealth Government to set an example to the international community by leading the push to recognise the Tamil genocide and supporting the movement to refer the perpetrators of the genocide identified by the United Nations Human Rights Council to the International Criminal Court.

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL THOMAS WILSON

Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS (Dubbo) (16:56): One of the true giants of Dubbo was remembered and celebrated last Friday, when a massive crowd attended St Brigid's Catholic Church for the funeral of Michael Thomas Wilson—Mick, as he was best known. Mick passed away suddenly on 30 April at the age of 77, leaving behind his beloved wife, Penny, along with seven children—Luke, Bernard, Odette, Gabrielle, Fleur, Dominic and Nicholas—and 34 grandchildren. He also left behind a circle of friends that stretched far and wide, and that is certainly a sign of the life Mick lived.

I could stand here and talk on and on about his many achievements, but I thought I would give you a snippet of what made Mick a bit of a hidden gem in the Dubbo community. In Dubbo the Wilson family is synonymous with rugby league and, in particular, Dubbo Catholic Young Men's Society [CYMS] and St John's football clubs. Mick was there when Dubbo CYMS won its first silverware in the juniors in 1960 and again when they went back-to-back in 1961. Work took him to Forbes in 1962, and he helped the Magpies to the first grade title that year. In 1966 he represented West Division against a touring Great Britain side, and it was there that he caught the eye of Ken Kearney, who signed up to coach the Cronulla Sharks in their inaugural season. After two years with the Sharks, Mick returned to Dubbo CYMS and helped the Fishies claim their first Group 11 title in first grade, beating Parkes in the grand final.

As well as enjoying a stellar playing career of his own, Mick was instrumental in the creation of St John's Junior Rugby League Club. Helping to start a new club is one thing but ensuring its success is another, and there was no job that needed doing that Mick would not put his hand up to do to ensure St John's not only survived but absolutely thrived. In *The Sydney Morning Herald* on the weekend Peter FitzSimons wrote a nice tribute, where he described Mick as the denizen of Dubbo. He said:

Australian sport, and so much of our sense of community, is truly built on heroes like Mick.

In *The Daily Telegraph* Phil Rothfield wrote:

Bush footy lost an absolute legend ...

He said that Mick's 52 years of service to Country Rugby League resulted in him being a life member of Country Rugby League, the CYMS and St John's club. They were wonderful and fitting words, but Mick's contribution to rugby league and other sports that his children and grandkids found themselves involved in was just one part of the man. Mick was also a master of major projects and built a wonderful career within the public service through Public Works Advisory. He had involvement in many pieces of major infrastructure, both in Dubbo and further afield. Locally he was a big part of the development of Riverdale's shopping centre and some of the buildings at Taronga Western Plains Zoo. Later in life he consulted Dubbo's city council on the refurbishment and additions to the civic administration building, the addition and renovation of the terminal at Dubbo City Airport and construction of the Western Plains Cultural Centre, Dubbo West Preschool, Dubbo Regional Theatre and Convention Centre, the Rural Fire Service Training Facility and the wider emergency services hub, along with the Old Dubbo Gaol refurbishment.

Across the State there are many pieces of infrastructure that have the Mick Wilson polish on them. It might surprise many to know that a humble builder from Dubbo was behind some of the major buildings across the

State. Among these are the special-purpose prison at the Long Bay jail, Lithgow Correctional Centre, the Silverwater prison, the Parramatta prison, Marrickville TAFE, North Sydney Girls High School, Bradfield College, the Silverwater remand prison, Newcastle TAFE, the Darling Harbour link project, the Traffic Management Centre, the South Sydney ambulance station, the upgrade of the Circular Quay wharves, the Silverwater prison visitors' block, the Ultimo TAFE science block, the St George TAFE upgrade, the Gympie TAFE upgrade, the Nirimba TAFE upgrade, Cobham Juvenile Justice Centre, the Oatley college of education, the Chullora TAFE upgrade, the Ryde institute of TAFE and North Sydney TAFE. I probably have not listed every single one, but you can see the indelible mark Mick quietly left on not only Dubbo but the entire State of New South Wales.

In recent times, since being elected to this role, I spoke to him on many occasions to get a greater understanding of what goes into certain types of development and the construction of major infrastructure. He was always happy to have a chat and always gave me a few ideas and a greater understanding of the processes involved. Despite being in charge of billions of dollars of infrastructure over a long and successful career, Mick was never above anyone or anything. He would still stand behind the barbie and cook snags and steaks at the footy on the weekend. He loved being involved in coaching and part of kids' and grandkids' lives. I think that is what most people will remember Mick Wilson for. He was just a wonderful bloke who loved his family and lived life to the fullest. To Penny, Luke, Bernard, Odette, Gabrielle, Fleur, Dominic and Nicholas, along with the wider family, I offer my thoughts and sincere condolences. While the city of Dubbo was lucky to have Mick as one of its own, you were even luckier to have had him as your husband, father and papa. Vale, Mick Wilson.

TERRIGAL ELECTORATE COMMUNITY BUILDING PARTNERSHIP GRANTS

Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal) (17:01): It gives me great pleasure to speak tonight about the Community Building Partnership grants program being rolled out across the Terrigal electorate. This fantastic initiative by the New South Wales Government provides support funding to so many organisations right across my electorate. Most recently I was absolutely delighted to announce \$55,263 worth of funding support to 11 local sports clubs in the Terrigal electorate. It is a great opportunity to acknowledge the great work our sports clubs do across the Central Coast. One of the first of those grants was \$5,000 to help the Terrigal Wamberal Sharks Junior Rugby club purchase new training equipment. It is a fantastic club with a growing junior membership. I want to acknowledge the great work being done by the volunteer board of the Terrigal Wamberal Sharks Junior Rugby club, who do a truly outstanding job encouraging these young athletes.

In addition, there was \$3,000 for the Deepwater Dragon Boat Club to acquire a new boat trolley and modify two existing boat trolleys. I have to admit that I was also once a dragon boater. In my previous job I took part in a dragon boat team in Victoria. It was an incredibly worthwhile activity. I was the sweep and, quite ironically, the team was made up of all of my clients, so I had the opportunity to yell at all of my clients every week while sweeping the dragon boat. Again I want to congratulate Deepwater Dragon Boat Club for the fantastic work it is doing. A lot of the participants in that club are survivors of breast cancer, but they do not differentiate between a survivor and an average member of the club. They all participate jointly.

Further, \$4,500 went towards pop-up goals and uniforms for female players at Kincumber Roos Football Club. It is wonderful to see the adoption by young women of sports, no matter what the code, right across the Central Coast. I was delighted to be able to supply that additional \$4,500 to the Kincumber Roos. In addition, most recently I was at the Copacabana tennis club, which is located in a beautiful spot. I know that the member for Pittwater knows Copacabana very well. I was delighted to be able to provide \$700 to the Copacabana tennis club for a much-needed online booking system. Let me be clear, Copacabana tennis club is made up of all volunteers. For it to be able to upgrade to an online booking system means that it can streamline the process for people to use those fantastic courts. The club also received additional funding from the State Government for recent upgrades to the courts. Ros and the team do a fantastic job getting all the volunteers organised for the Kincumber Tennis Club.

I confirm \$2,000 was allocated to the Terrigal Rugby Union Club so it could host a development training program for junior players. It is a fantastic initiative. That funding allowed the club to open the development training program to all rugby union players and teams across the Central Coast. In addition, \$5,000 was allocated to cover the cost of a training camp for the Central Coast Figure Skating Club. Erina has its own ice rink and it was great to provide \$5,000 to a worthy club with its membership on the rise—as we are seeing with many other clubs across the Central Coast. The Erina tennis club, which is around the corner from my office in Fountain Plaza, received \$8,000 to upgrade its male and female toilets. I congratulate the club's board on doing a fantastic job in actively going after State Government sporting grants and Community Building Partnership grants. I am delighted that we were able to secure funding for that project.

In addition, the Breakers Indoor Sports Stadium received \$13,000 to resurface its basketball court. The stadium is the home of the Central Coast Crusaders. It is an exciting time for the club. It has had some great

growth in its junior male and female teams; it continues to go from strength to strength. Terrigal Wamberal Little Athletics received \$5,000 so it could purchase a new ride-on mower because it is responsible for upgrading at Duffy's Road where the little athletics take place. It is great it now has that asset. Finally, the Terrigal Bowling Club received \$4,063 to purchase new lawn bowls, coaching aids and uniforms. I acknowledge the great work being done by the club's volunteer board. The Government also supplied funding for it to upgrade an artificial bowling turf. Bowlers have turf they like to play on but the feedback is that artificial turf is almost as good as the real stuff. I congratulate all clubs for taking part in the Community Building Partnerships program. I am delighted we could secure funding to help them upgrade their facilities and services on the Central Coast.

CANTERBURY HOSPITAL

Ms SOPHIE COTSIS (Canterbury) (17:06): I speak again on the desperate need to redevelop Canterbury Hospital. I acknowledge the media, led by *The Daily Telegraph*, which revealed last week that 60 senior doctors at Canterbury Hospital sent a scathing letter to the health Minister highlighting the deplorable conditions at Canterbury Hospital. Doctors described the conditions as "grossly inadequate" and "Third World". The Canterbury population has increased and the area is overdeveloped, which was signed off by the Government, but the level of care is phenomenal. I put on record again my appreciation for the 900 staff, including doctors, cleaners, security staff, pathologists, nurses and midwives—everyone who works at Canterbury Hospital. On behalf of my community I thank them for their amazing work, considering that 80 per cent of our community is made up of people from different faiths and nationalities. We speak 150 languages. Canterbury Hospital staff did a phenomenal job during the height of COVID and continue to do so. However, the conditions that the doctors described are by no means an exaggeration. The hospital can no longer fully cater to the needs of our community.

It should come as no surprise that those conditions exist because Canterbury Hospital is the only hospital that has not had a redevelopment since 1998. Since then, the area served by the hospital has undergone a massive population growth. The conditions at the hospital are only going to get worse as the population grows, particularly as the projections indicate a 39 per cent increase by 2031. The hospital is already overwhelmed and ill-equipped, and only a complete redevelopment can cater to the current and future healthcare demands. My community is one of the most multicultural, fastest growing and low socio-economic communities in the State. When will the Minister listen to the cries of my community and those senior doctors who put their names to that letter not only inviting him but also urging him for funding. Why do those 60 specialists have to sign a letter, begging the health Minister for help and to provide funding?

We have seen the rampant overdevelopment of Canterbury Road. A former member of this place who lived 400 kilometres from my electorate interfered with Canterbury council's planning processes. We have seen the ICAC report on Canterbury council with its 23 recommendations. It stated that the planning department does not have the adequate probity checks. I hope the Minister will provide a public statement about that. The current ICAC Keppel investigation also mentions the former member for Wagga Wagga. He was responsible for a lot of interference in my community. Thousands of units have gone up in my electorate and not one single dollar was spent on the hospital. Now the Government wants to build 6,000 units in Campsie. We are still waiting for funding for Canterbury Hospital on the back of the illegal development that was ticked off by the planning department.

I am urging the Minister and the Treasurer for funding. This is a serious matter concerning proper public health and processes. The good people and great staff of Canterbury Hospital put together a clinical services plan. The Minister visited a couple of years ago and saw the conditions. I know at his press conference last week he accepted that he knows what the conditions are like. That is why today, on behalf of my community, I am urging the Minister for Health and Medical Research to prioritise Canterbury Hospital in the upcoming budget. Treasurer Perrottet has visited my area and delivered good news to Canterbury Boys' High School; both ministers have to understand that we have rampant overdevelopment and our social infrastructure has not kept pace.

Health workers are working 24/7 and are doing a phenomenal job. At the same time, we have had no funding for Canterbury Hospital. How many people have to die? We do not have renal dialysis. We have one of the highest rates of gestational diabetes in New South Wales. Women who are attending antenatal classes are having to sit in a room where they cannot even disclose some of the most private issues causing them concern. I will continue to raise the lack of funding for Canterbury Hospital.

AFFORDABLE QUALITY HOUSING

Mr ROB STOKES (Pittwater—Minister for Planning and Public Spaces) (17:12): Housing is a topic that draws strong opinions from Pittwater residents. As a peninsula with challenging topography, constrained infrastructure, limited land supply, and environmental fragility, it is not surprising that locals resist any increase in housing volumes. Such concerns are valid, which is why the Northern Beaches Council's housing strategy focuses on developing only areas that benefit from significant new infrastructure to support growth—places like Ingleside and Frenchs Forest. With restricted housing volume comes rising housing values. Over time, this is

inexorably altering the social fabric of the district, as young people are priced out, adding to the demographic divide that threatens to segregate our city.

That is why the real debate about housing in Pittwater, and large swathes of Sydney, should not be about quantity of supply. It should be about the pressing need to ensure decent homes for all—to enable young people, or people on moderate and lower incomes, homeless people, and people escaping domestic violence, to have access to safe, convenient, decent and attractive housing right across the city. Simply building more houses will not solve the problem. With structurally low interest rates and high employment rates, as well as a tax system that encourages existing home owners to buy more properties, housing demand is inelastic. As part of a wider phenomenon across global cities, housing has become more an investment class and less a place for people to live.

Some developers and economists respond by arguing that the solution is to reduce standards for housing design, which will reduce development costs. The problem is, in an environment where demand for housing is inelastic, that approach would be a recipe for an explosion in the number of low quality, substandard and unhealthy houses which, in an exquisite public policy failure, would still be unaffordable. That is why an expanded role for community housing providers is so important. It will help to ensure that not just social housing but also failed housing markets for key workers, for under-superannuated retirees—many of whom are single women—are appropriately addressed.

One of my constituents Richard Gay points to the established housing sub-markets in the UK as one initiative that could provide a sustainable stock of affordable housing to ensure that our communities do not become segregated by income and power. It is also why lowering design standards is never the right response to alleviate affordability pressures. From a global perspective, we are blessed with housing stock of extraordinary quality in New South Wales. We do have notorious exceptions, but in the main we have safe, well-ventilated, dry and accessible homes. That has not always been the case. As recently as last century, only a few streets away from this Parliament cholera, dysentery and even bubonic plague raged through poorly built, unsewered tenements. We know that poor-quality housing has direct physical and mental health consequences. It causes accidents, perpetuates social inequality and increases hospital admissions.

Research shows that where people live shapes how easy it is to make social connections, keep physically active, enjoy green spaces and buy healthy food. It also affects how long people live. A Torrens University study found that the suburb of Narrabeen in my community has one of the highest life expectancies in Australia. But how do we create places that help promote good health and wellbeing for all? It requires looking at both the quality of the housing we build as well as the streets and public spaces in-between. The continuing experience of COVID-19 reinforces the importance of good design in the built environment. Globally and here in Australia we have learnt that those living in overcrowded conditions have been worst affected; those in damp properties are most susceptible to respiratory and other conditions; lack of space to work from home affects students and workers alike; lack of balcony or garden space increases the risk of mental health problems; and poorly designed neighbourhoods generate acute loneliness for those isolated due to health orders or fear of public transport.

We are responding with a new Design and Place State Environmental Planning Policy that will contribute to a better quality of housing, neighbourhoods, towns and cities across New South Wales. By promoting better planning at the precinct scale we can ensure future residents can walk or cycle safely to a park or to the shops along shaded tree-lined streetscapes. Changes to apartment design can ensure there is natural ventilation and more flexible layouts for families, including the provision of storage and desk space, useable balconies and adequate levels of sunlight. Those changes have incredibly positive impacts on our health and wellbeing, and also work to contribute to greater levels of social equity across our city and State.

We are also trialling positive changes to our streets and public spaces that support our health, including world-leading programs like Streets as Shared Spaces, Your High Street and the Summer Fund. For example, funding events like this Saturday's Food Truck Party at Winnererremy Bay in Mona Vale encourages the community to come together to enjoy and celebrate their public spaces with food, live music, friends and family. Any conversation about housing must focus on all of those things. It is not simply quantity that matters. Housing quality and equity, and the quality of the neighbourhoods in which housing is located are what turn houses into homes.

DINE & DISCOVER NSW

Mr VICTOR DOMINELLO (Ryde—Minister for Customer Service) (17:17): I speak about the Dine & Discover NSW vouchers and the role played by the community in response to them. We all know what a tough year 2020 was for businesses, particularly for hospitality venues, restaurants and cafes that were forced to shut down during the height of the pandemic. As a Government, we tried to provide flexibility for restaurants and cafes to transition to take-away business, which posed less risk. The primary risk occurred in venues that served alcohol indoors because with alcohol comes the propensity for people to let down their guard and to put social

distancing precautions to one side. The Government reduced red tape to allow a number of businesses to operate take-away facilities. However, many restaurants and tourist facilities were hit hard because they had no patronage. We looked around the world to see what other governments were doing, particularly in the UK, northern Europe and America. They were giving out cash.

The Victorian Government was saying, "Go and spend the money up front, keep your receipt, send the receipt in and we will then refund you." Given we had already morphed into a new social norm around QR codes, we wondered if we could use that to design an initiative that would provide stimulus. That is how the Dine & Discover vouchers came into being, using a QR platform. The initiative is the first of its kind in the world. I am proud that, as a result of the vouchers, we are seeing a co-contribution from the community in the order of \$16 to \$17 for every \$25 voucher. That represents a significant uplift in spend, which is fantastic. In my local community I have seen how successful and popular the Dine & Discover vouchers have been. For example, Terry Boyd, the owner of Cafe Dakota in Macquarie Park, whose business is a great example of a cafe that has pivoted during the pandemic, is now using the Dine & Discover vouchers to great effect.

Another example is Caffè Incontro, a seriously popular place—almost an institution—on Coxs Road. Owners Seb and Annette Lentini are in the process of registering for the program with the assistance of Service NSW. They understand the benefits of Dine & Discover, which will be very popular there. The State's RSLs are coming on board. Patrick Callachor from North Ryde RSL assured me that "the registration process was a simple process" and that the club has already accepted a number of vouchers from customers at the Riverviews Bar & Dining bistro and the downstairs Marble Café. The club is supporting the program by actively assisting patrons to register for the Service NSW app. I am grateful to the North Ryde RSL and to the many businesses that form the second line of defence not only by doing the right thing and insisting on the use of QR codes but also by helping patrons to get onto the app and answering their questions. We are finding that businesses are helping people on their digital journeys.

I visited Event Cinemas and spoke to the cinema duty manager, Luke Stapley, and Danijella Davey-Ware, who told us how successful the Dine & Discover vouchers are, particularly after months of COVID-induced customer shortages. As I go from electorate to electorate in my capacity as Minister, I see the great work that MPs are doing in supporting businesses with the vouchers. I encourage all members to hurry up and use them. They can be used up until 30 June. They have a high approval rating—95 per cent thumbs up—so they are easy to use and are a great way to help our businesses that have been struggling for so long.

SEVEN HILLS ELECTORATE SCHOOLS

Mr MARK TAYLOR (Seven Hills) (17:22): I provide the House with an update on local teachers and on my recent engagements with many of the local students in my electorate of Seven Hills. In March I was fortunate to be invited to Northmead Creative and Performing Arts High School to promote the excellent new education resources that have been developed by the Parliament's Communications, Education and Engagement team. Resources for year 11 legal studies are now available on the Parliament's website. Those resources contain information on the separation of powers, the role and structure of parliament, the role of a member in dispute resolution, rights and responsibilities, legislative process, law reform and the division of powers. I thoroughly enjoyed discussing the content of the new materials and fielding questions from the two year 11 legal studies classes at Northmead. I commend the students for their engagement with contemporary legal issues and for their insightful questions about the content that we covered.

We discussed the great breadth of legal issues surrounding contemporary matters of public policy, including the rights to protest and to freedom of political speech and environmental protection. We also discussed the current conversation around sexual consent laws. The Parliament also has a number of learning resources that are specifically tailored for year 10 students who are studying the broad-ranging civics subject of commerce. Those resources include information on the levels of government, on the Parliament and government, on how laws are made and changed, and on elections and voting. For primary school students in stage three, which includes year 5 and year 6, the Parliament offers excellent learning resources covering topics including Federation, heads of State, the role of Parliament and government, the three levels of government and a time line on the development of democracy in our country.

Those topics informed my visits to the Meadows Public School in Seven Hills and Mother Teresa Primary School in Westmead. Students at both schools enjoyed participating in passing a hypothetical bill on the abolition of school uniforms throughout New South Wales. I was thoroughly impressed by the students' level of understanding of the concepts of government and, perhaps more importantly, their engagement with the contemporary issues that are being addressed by both the State and Federal parliaments. Students asked me a number of detailed and difficult questions about the Parliament's response to issues around animal welfare, road and rail transport infrastructure, Australia's future energy mix, tertiary education funding, crime and anti-terror laws.

Students at Mother Teresa Primary School were engaged in a class project that involved writing a letter to their local Federal member of Parliament. That enabled a discussion to take place on the political process and on how to engage with public policy through local members of Parliament. In the coming weeks I will cover those same topics at Kings Langley Public School ahead of their stage three excursion to Canberra, where students will visit the old and new Houses of the Australian Parliament as well as other sites that form the core of our national democracy. It was great to meet with and discuss those issues with students across my electorate and I look forward to continuing that work in future. Recently I was visited by teachers from the Blacktown and Hills area for an informative discussion on issues pertaining to their workplace and our local schools. I look forward to continuing that work in the electorate of Seven Hills.

EID AL-FITR

ISRAEL-PALESTINE CONFLICT

Ms JULIA FINN (Granville) (17:27): Today is Eid. The Muslim community has finally broken its fast after a month of personal reflection, fasting and good deeds, such as giving to the poor. Eid, or Eid ul-Fitr, is an important day. It is the first of a few days of feasting after a month of fasting, prayer and self-reflection. I thank all of the organisations and families that invited me to break the fast with them during the holy month of Ramadan. I put on record my appreciation for their hospitality and for ensuring that the wider community had the opportunity to share with them the breaking of the fast. I also thank those organisations for sharing Islam's principles of peace with the wider community.

I attended iftar dinners at the Islamic Charity Projects Association, the Dawoodi Bohra mosque and the Islamic Community Milli Gorus mosque, which is in my electorate. I attended an iftar dinner at the Auburn Gallipoli Mosque along with the member for Auburn and Federal counterpart Jason Clare. Together we prepared iftar dinner packs for people in the community who are struggling at the moment. I attended iftar dinners at the El Dunnieh Sons Charity Association, the Rahma Association, Affinity and MUSIAD Sydney, as well as the iftar dinner with the Turkish community at Parliament. I attended the iftar dinner that was held by the Grand Mufti as well as the small iftar dinners that were held in the homes of the Alzoubi and Chalhoub families.

I could not make it to a few other dinners because Parliament was sitting, but I thank the following organisations for their invitations to celebrate with them: the Australian Arab Business Council, the Nabi Akram Islamic Centre, the Step Up Profession and the Australian Notional Imams Council. I was also delighted to host my own iftar dinner to break the fast with people from Granville who contribute a lot to our community. Many of them have shared their hospitality with me over a number of years. The dinner was held in partnership with Resilience to Recovery, which is an NDIS provider in the local area. It was a beautiful event. It was nice to host about 120 people from the school community as well as faith leaders, friends and community leaders to break the fast together, which I have done for five years.

I have been a member of Parliament for six years. Unfortunately, last year we could not hold the event due to COVID. It was great that people could come together again this year because it is a very important celebration. This year's event showed me what we missed out on last year. Orthodox Easter fell during the holy month, and Easter was a few weeks before that. During that time a huge number of people returned to their houses of worship. In fact, people have returned in greater numbers than prior to the pandemic. They have really missed that sense of community and personal faith.

I will touch on the distressing events that have occurred to the Palestinian community in the past few weeks. Worshippers have been attacked at the Al-Aqsa Mosque. It is very distressing to see the escalation of conflict between Israel and Hamas, which has already caused deaths on both sides. Every death is a tragedy. There have also been Israeli and Palestinian casualties. About five times more Palestinians have been killed than Israelis, and children have died on both sides, which is absolutely distressing. The conflict began because of the eviction of Palestinian residents from Jerusalem by Israeli settlers. They were not just tenants being evicted; they were property owners. People have had their homes stolen from under them at gunpoint, as has occurred for decades. Every time that happens, and every time a gun is pointed in the face of a child, peace becomes less attainable.

LES GONYE, LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEPUTY CLERK

KOALA POPULATIONS AND HABITAT

Mr ALEX GREENWICH (Sydney) (17:32): At the outset I thank Les Gonye for his amazing service to the Parliament. The former member for Sydney, Lord Mayor Clover Moore, and I are both privileged to have been able to work with Les. Les, you will be sadly missed. It is an honour to make a private member's statement with you in the Chamber this evening.

The future of the koala in this State is a great concern to my constituents. They regularly ask me to work to protect koalas in the wild for future generations. The New South Wales koala is at risk of extinction. Between 1990 and 2010 their numbers dropped by one-third. The following decade saw rapid habitat destruction and the erosion of koala protections. Their numbers were further decimated by the devastating Black Summer bushfires that killed at least 5,000. Those fires burned 28 per cent of koala habitat in northern New South Wales and 21 per cent in southern New South Wales. Last year a parliamentary inquiry found that without serious intervention koalas could become extinct in this State by 2050. All experts agree that the key intervention that is needed is habitat protection, yet threats to koala habitat have intensified.

The logging of koala habitat is proceeding on plans and approvals that were made before the fires and despite the profound changes to the landscape. Protections against deforestation are being eroded, including through the watering down of the koala State environmental planning policy and with the introduction of integrated forestry operations approvals. Alarming, the logging of 140,000 hectares of forest along the North Coast, which comprises 33 per cent of koala hubs, is now subject to large-scale clear-felling under an intensive harvesting zone. Almost all of the trees in the region will be cut down. I have repeatedly called for a pause on native forest logging to allow for an independent and comprehensive scientific assessment across the entire network of native forests so that science can drive all future native forest decisions.

Work to map koala hubs does not appear to be informing the State's approach to koala conservation. Few koalas live in protected reserves. On the North Coast only 14 per cent live in national parks, with the majority—66 per cent—on private land where there are few and diminishing protections. Some 20 per cent of North Coast koalas live in State forest and 76 per cent of identified koala hubs in the State are in the north-east of New South Wales. Koala habitat in the State's north is especially important because it is resilient to climate change, giving koalas a great chance of survival. State forests in the north must be the focus of any strategy to save the koala. I strongly support the Great Koala National Park, first conceived of in 2015 to address declining numbers.

It would add 175,000 hectares of State forest to existing protected areas to form a 315,000-hectare reserve in the Coffs Harbour hinterland. The proposed park contains 44 per cent of all koala hubs in State forests and would link fragmented forests with high biodiversity hotspots, including World Heritage-listed rainforests. That would have flow-on benefits for other species, including platypuses and aquatic organisms. The Great Koala National Park would bring significant economic benefit to the region. Forestry jobs are declining due to mechanisation and market forces, and forestry workers could be transferred into park worker roles. The wider community would benefit from increased tourism from campers, bushwalkers, bird watchers, mountain bikers and nature enthusiasts; I know that many of my constituents would be keen to visit and proud to have such a reserve in their State.

A University of Newcastle economic analysis from February identified that the economic output in the region from the park would be worth over \$1.2 billion, with an additional 9,800 jobs. With proper planning, the transition would gain strong local support. Native forestry is neither environmentally nor economically sustainable. Felling our biodiverse, rich forests erodes soil and water, produces greenhouse gas emissions and puts our native flora and fauna at risk from extinction. The State logs its forests at a loss, with the activity heavily subsidised by government. The Great Koala National Park would provide immense opportunity to transfer unsustainable logging practices into a sustainable biodiversity hub and carbon sink, which would contribute to the wider community and ensure the survival of the koala and other vulnerable and threatened species into the future.

The New South Wales Government has a target to double the number of koalas in the state by 2050. That will not be possible without protecting their habitat; the Great Koala National Park would ensure that occurs. National parks are the cornerstone of biodiversity conservation, and creating new parks is one of the most important actions we can take to save our rapidly eroding biodiversity. National park and wilderness declarations have stalled under the Government and we are far from achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets of protecting 17 per cent of land. The time for a bold new national park is overdue.

Mr GEOFF PROVEST (Tweed) (17:37): I applaud the member for Sydney's stance on koalas. I, too, support koalas, particularly the research into chlamydia and so on. I also believe we should temper that with support for our logging industry because a lot of places in Sydney have natural wooden floors. I say to the member for Sydney and to the Lord Mayor: A great initiative would be to start planting eucalyptus trees in Hyde Park and Centennial Park, and perhaps start some biodiversity there. It is a bit unfortunate that we look to other areas for support when people in the Sydney area have decimated their natural environment. Once again, I strongly believe that members on both sides of the House support the preservation of koalas.

LES GONYE, LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEPUTY CLERK

CENTRAL COAST ASSET PRIVATISATION

Ms LIESL TESCH (Gosford) (17:38): I thank Mr Les Gönye for his incredible dedication to the Parliament of New South Wales and for following in the footsteps of a fabulous local constituent of mine, Mr Russell Grove, who was the Clerk for 21 years. I also send salutations to Russell's partner, Frances, who is not well at the moment. Tonight I add my voice to the growing number of residents across our community who are concerned about the loss of important community assets under the Central Coast Council's asset fire sale. Many of those resources have a fast buck monetary value if they are sold or privatised; yet, more importantly, to Central Coast residents they have community value, environmental value, health value, heritage value and sporting value.

They provide homes for important Central Coast institutions such as our "inner city" bowling club, our homeless youth refuge, the Rumbalara Environmental Education Centre, our Red Cross and our community early childhood education centre. They even provide homes for the many people who live in the diminishing number of affordable housing spaces on the coast. Once those resources are gone from our community, they are gone forever. In late April the New South Wales Liberal Government-appointed administrator announced that another 40 community assets would be listed for sale across the coast, with only four weeks for submissions. The Umina mall car park, the Gosford Bowling Club and important green space on Brisbane Avenue and Memorial Avenue are some of the assets that the administrator sees as unnecessary and disposable for money.

I stand firmly with my community in saying: "Stop the sell-off of our public assets without the discretion and the voice of our community." My Labor colleagues in this place asked for an extension of the consultation time, which I think is completely fair. Four weeks is not long enough for people who have possibly never before put a submission in to council and stand to lose something very important in the neighbourhood. A lot of them are older Australians who do not have the same access to the internet or, especially since the library has closed, do not have access to the internet at all. I thank the administrator, who unfortunately did not extend it by three months, as we asked, but by one extra week. I still say that is too short. I encourage everyone across the coast to go online and make a submission. It is really important to take the time to dive in there; they can search "asset sales tranche three" on the internet. Coasties en masse, we need your voices to be loud and clear.

As much as we appreciate the oversight of Mr Rik Hart, now our third administrator—I thank Mr Dick Persson and wish him a lovely retirement—he needs to proceed with caution and heed the voice of our local community. The three administrators are here and then gone, and they have listed these items for sale. Once the administrators are gone, our community stays with those assets. They are important things that belong to all of us. Last night it was interesting to hear about the poor financial management within the council, including key financial procedure failures, five-year gaps in valuations, the absence of appropriate documentation, high staff turnover, clear deficiencies, the lack of an audit trail and dubious moving of accounting targets. Budget deficits will be here this year but we have a surplus next year, yet still we have so many assets on the chopping block.

We need to encourage the commissioner to look long, deep and hard into what has gone on in that council. We are starting to hear about the legacy issues quite clearly. It is not just our 15 councillors who must be held to account for bad financial management; we know there have been extreme structural problems in Central Coast Council before, during and since the merger. We are now facing the Liberal harmonisation merger tax in our community, which is a special rate variation to pay for what is going on. I encourage all coasties to have their say and to make sure that we fight the best fight we possibly can to hold onto those community assets. They were donated by our community, are on the lot next door and are hugely important community resources. They are our resources and must stay in the hands of the community.

HOUSING STRATEGY

Ms JENNY LEONG (Newtown) (17:43): The New South Wales Liberal-Nationals Government Housing Strategy claims to set a strategic vision for housing over the next 20 years and to identify action for the New South Wales Government to achieve that. What is that strategic vision? It seems it is all about relinquishing responsibility and opening up public lands and property for bidding so the private sector can jump in with its vision for maximizing its profits. If the housing and homelessness stress faced by so many was not so outrageous, it would be laughable and funny that the top-line strategy in the plan is to establish a register of New South Wales Government land, assessing its suitability for housing outcomes. That would allow stakeholders to identify opportunities and submit proposals for the use of New South Wales Government-owned land for housing in both metropolitan and regional New South Wales areas.

That is right, at the heart of the Liberal-Nationals Government's strategic vision for housing is a database to make the large-scale privatisation of public land and property easier. It is a developer's dream. The red carpet has been laid out as a database to identify buildings or land that are up for grabs now where the public almost

certainly will be the biggest loser. This is happening already in a targeted way through Land and Housing Corporation's [LAHC] euphemistically titled Communities Plus program, which operates to generate funding for social housing by selling off nearly three-quarters of every redevelopment of public housing that LAHC enters into. As we all know, because there is no budget line item for developing public housing in New South Wales any project has to be cost neutral. What a disgraceful state of affairs!

Residents in public housing, whether it be in Waterloo or Eveleigh in the electorate of Newtown, are facing years and years of disruption, uncertainty and a massive privatisation if the Government is allowed to get away with this. There will be negligible increases in public or affordable housing with LAHC's grand redevelopment vision for the hugely significant sites. The sites the Government is going to privatise we say must be 100 per cent maintained as public and affordable housing, with at least 10 per cent Aboriginal housing. New South Wales lags behind every State in providing livable and affordable social housing. Look at the Victorian Government's recent all-time record investment of \$5.4 billion over four years, delivering 12,000 additional social and affordable housing dwellings. But here in New South Wales, with this Government of private marketeers who are locked into a vision of no government or, should I say, government for the wealthy and corporate interests, the State has been well and truly captured by vested interests.

There is an almost palpable contempt for anything that is considered public by this Government—whether that be public space, public education, public health care or public housing. Minister Pavey is failing in her duties as a Minister. She will not stand up for this—or maybe she does not have the power within Cabinet to call for the funding that she knows is urgently needed to solve this crisis. The Minister is so far removed from the reality faced by people doing it tough as a result of the housing crisis that we face that she is literally outsourcing her own responsibility by just proposing the private sector buy up land and take it over. Establishing a housing evidence centre is another part of the strategy, to make it easier for users inside and outside of government to access key housing data. When one reads the plan it sounds like something out of the television series *Utopia*. Surely the Government spruiking for some "user" outside of government to come and make decisions for it, as well as make a mint, is not part of the strategy.

We have all the evidence we need to take action now. We do not need a housing evidence centre to do it. The evidence is that successive governments have failed to invest in the delivery of public, social and affordable housing, and that is why we have seen record numbers of people who are homeless, a massive public housing waiting list and so many living under rental stress or facing housing insecurity. This strategic policy is a slim document with a veneer of feel-good, generic fluff but very few real targets, commitments or key performance indicators. Surely an action plan must have concrete outcomes with figures and measurabilities in it? It mentions the words "public housing" only twice and that is in relation to leasing properties when there is insufficient or inadequate stock available. We need to see real investment in the delivery of social and affordable housing. We need reforms for renters that introduce fair protections for renters in this State. And we need to recognise that this Government has shamefully engaged in a process where it is trying to put forward a 20-year housing plan but that it has failed to listen to the detailed 300 submissions from peak and other bodies who have the solutions to reduce homelessness and take the action needed to ensure housing affordability and security in this State.

YOUNG POLICE STATION

Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra) (17:48): Young is one of the largest communities in the Cootamundra electorate. With over 7,000 people, it is an important regional centre and the main service provider for many small surrounding communities. It is a hub for many sectors, including agriculture, horticulture, education, health services and law enforcement, and it deserves a modern police station that is fit for purpose. Unfortunately, the Young police station building, as an operational hub for law enforcement in the region, no longer meets the standards the local community expects of a modern police station. That is because, as charming as the building may be, it is simply not big enough and officers are crammed together in cramped conditions. Detectives operate from a building across the street because there is simply not the space.

It is an important issue I have been fighting hard for since I was elected to this place 3½ years ago. Backed by the local community, I will not rest until we have a police station in Young that meets the future needs of the fine police officers working there and the increasing demands of modern law enforcement. I have met with local police of all ranks in Young on multiple occasions since the end of 2017, to celebrate their achievements, to recognise their hard work, dedication and efforts, and to tour their station and offices, situated in two separate buildings. I particularly acknowledge Inspector Jacob Reeves, officer in charge of the Young sector. The sector encompasses a large geographic area, including the towns of Young, Boorowa, Harden, Grenfell, Koorawatha, Greenethorpe, Bribbaree, Milvale, Wombat and everywhere in between. He and his team do a fantastic job.

I take this opportunity to thank our local police officers right across the Cootamundra electorate for all they do each and every day to keep us safe. We owe them a debt of gratitude for their selfless service and willingness to put everything on the line. I also express my thanks to superintendents Schilt, Klepczerck and Condon for their

leadership of the Hume police district and for their assistance in my visits and meetings as I continue to advocate for a new police station for Young. It was an honour to welcome to the Cootamundra electorate the New South Wales Minister for Police and Emergency Services, the Hon. David Elliott, to visit our hardworking police officers in Young and speak with local police on many topics, including their working conditions. I commend the Minister for his commitment to the people in our police and emergency services organisations.

The NSW Police Force is seeing record investment delivering more boots on the ground, with 1,500 extra police rolling out across the State over four years. The Cootamundra electorate has benefited overwhelmingly from re-engineering, with additional general duties police, highway patrol and rural crime officers in our communities, to name but a few. We have seen the repair of police properties at Barellan and Koorawatha, and officers being stationed in these small villages. Narrandera has been brought up to strength for the first time in years. I am proud we are equipping our officers with the latest technology to help them do their jobs—body cameras, tasers and highway patrol vehicles. However, the need for a major redevelopment of the police station in Young remains a top priority.

While I am pleased the New South Wales Government has successfully delivered a number of minor upgrades to the Young police station in recent years, it is not a building that can continue to be patched up and added to. I have conveyed this message to the office of the police commissioner through numerous meetings with deputy commissioners Worboys and Lanyon. I thank them for their time and willingness to listen. I am confident they know that I will continue to advocate for a new facility that will set up the local police appropriately for decades to come—that is, a police station where police are not squeezing past one another in the corridors, where officers are not crossing a busy public street to meet with detectives, or where detectives are not running the same gauntlet of traffic to visit the main station. Our police do a fantastic job and deserve to be in facilities that are purpose-built. I will continue to raise this issue and work with the Minister and the police commissioner until our police in Young have a station that we can all be proud of.

Mr GEOFF PROVEST (Tweed) (17:53): I compliment the member for Cootamundra on her support for our fine, hardworking men and women in blue who, unfortunately, at times work under really difficult situations. Often in the regions the nearest backup can be many hours away. The member for Cootamundra is unwavering in her support. I know the deputy commissioners know her quite well for her advocacy and I know that she is deeply respected by the police in her electorate. It is a tribute to her that she supports our hardworking men and women in blue.

PORT STEPHENS ELECTORATE PUBLIC LAND

Ms KATE WASHINGTON (Port Stephens) (17:54): I take this opportunity to inform my community and members of this House about the shocking impact of the Coalition Government's latest privatisation plan. Under this Government, Port Stephens is for sale. The entire State is for sale. If you have enough money, and if you have the right connections, the Government wants to hear from you. Of course, in Port Stephens we are well aware of this Government's terrible track record and its ongoing obsession with selling public land. In 2016 the Government flogged off a six-hectare parcel of land known as the Mambo Wetlands. There was no warning whatsoever. The Government just whacked up a great big "For Sale" sign and then sold it in an online auction for \$250,000. To put that into perspective, small house blocks next door to that area sell for in excess of \$1 million—currently they are probably worth about \$2 million. But this invaluable six-hectare parcel of land, an important koala breeding area, was sold off by the Government to a property developer for just \$250,000 in an online auction.

The community was sickened. Mambo Wetlands is home to not only the local koala population but also a number of other endangered species, including powerful owls, squirrel gliders and migratory birds. The community and I spent three years campaigning to force the Government to buy back Mambo Wetlands. When the Government finally accepted that it had made a terrible mistake, it bought the land back for nearly twice the original sale price. It was a disgraceful waste of the community's time and of taxpayer money. Fast forward a little and over the past year or two the Liberal-Nationals Government has compiled a database of all public land in the State. That in and of itself is perfectly reasonable, but what happened next is shocking and will permanently change our communities for the worse. The Government is using the database to flog off public land and it is not even trying to hide it. In a press release announcing the website launch, the Minister for Water, Property and Housing said:

The Government Property Index provides a free one-stop shop for information on NSW government-owned property and will allow industry to put forward innovative proposals for that land ...

We do not even have to take the Minister's word for it. It is stated on the website that the database will "allow proposals on how government-owned land might be used to deliver an economic stimulus." The website also includes links to the Government's unsolicited proposals process, where private companies try to obtain public land for development. It is very clear what the purpose of the database is: The Government wants to flog off public

land so that developers can make truckloads of money. Of course, the Treasurer will get a slice to pay for all his Sydney projects that are billions of dollars over budget because of the Government's incompetence. Meanwhile, the people of New South Wales will lose their precious public land.

There are 615 parcels of public land in Port Stephens that have been put on this register. There are school grounds on the register. Why would the Government place school grounds on a register seeking privatisation proposals? Why not make it clear that these areas are off limits? There are parts of local cemeteries on the register. Why would the Government place cemeteries on a register seeking privatisation proposals? There is precious foreshore land and environmentally sensitive land all across Port Stephens on the register. You can bet your bottom dollar that developers are trawling through the list right now and their eyes are turning green with dollars.

When the Government launched the website, the Opposition was appalled. The Minister's press release begged for privatisation proposals and so does the website itself. I am furious that the 615 pieces of land in Port Stephens listed on the Government Property Index have been included in the Government's quest for privatisation proposals. Over the past few days the Government has desperately tried to muddy the waters and it now claims that only some pieces of land might be sold off. Why not make it clear which pieces of land are for sale and which are not? They are all on the website and, according to the Government, everything is for sale—as long as the price is right. The Government should dump this disgraceful plan. It should update the website to make it clear which parcels of land it wants to flog off if it actually does not want to flog all of them off. The people of the Port Stephens electorate have been there before and do not want to be there again. They do not trust the Government. On their behalf, I say to the Government that New South Wales is not for sale.

EASTERN SUBURBS BUS SERVICES

Mr MICHAEL DALEY (Maroubra) (17:59): Too often in this job over the past 10 years I have had residents come to see me who want help from a government that has them under attack. Whether they are nurses who have a lack of security, government workers who have not had a pay rise for 10 years or people complaining about overdevelopment or the cruise ship terminal that the Government wants to force on Yarra Bay—you name it, the people of New South Wales are coping it. But the latest doozy from this Government—an unacceptable outrage—was announced this week by the Minister for Transport and Roads with the blessing of the Premier, Saint Gladys. After this announcement, I could say to the people of the eastern suburbs, "If I were to say to you that transport options for you were better 20 years ago—that is, they were better for you in the twentieth century than they are in the twenty-first century—you would laugh. Except, when you examine it, it is absolutely true."

The latest outrage from this Government has been to announce the complete abolition of 25 bus routes in the eastern suburbs. The following routes will be withdrawn, cut and gone forever: 300, 301, 302, 309X, 310X, 314, 316, 317, 338, 353, 357, 372, 373, 376, 377, 391, 393, 394, 395, 400, 400N, L94, X40, X93 and X99. This is on top of the M10, M20 and M50 bus routes that have already been removed. All of them are gone forever. Why? Firstly, to force people onto a light rail that they do not want and did not ask for—a light rail that has been and continues to be a disaster for our local area—and, secondly, to cut costs because the Government is about to privatise the bus services. In the past few months, because of COVID-19, the Government has left the light rail services and the bus services running concurrently in full. What do we see? Carriage after carriage of the light rail goes past completely empty. That is not an exaggeration. At the same time, buses run past that are packed full. People have had a good look at the two options and they have voted with their feet. They do not want the light rail; they want the buses. But the Government is determined to cut the buses and force people onto the light rail.

The Government is supposed to be about making people's lives better but it is making our lives much, much worse. Buses are absolutely loved. Older people rely on buses day-to-day to go to the shops, to go to medical services and to go to all manner of places—north, south, east and west—and they have been cut comprehensively across the city. Before the light rail we had great bus services in the eastern suburbs. They were fast and direct. They went straight to Central. They went directly to Circular Quay. There were express buses and limited stop buses, and they were frequent. There were dedicated red bus lanes on Anzac Parade. We had the M10, M20 and M50 Metrobuses. They are all gone. Metrobuses are gone, the red bus lanes are gone and the light rail has chewed up four lanes of the eight lanes on Anzac Parade. Things are worse now than they were when I first started catching buses to work in the city in 1984. Commuters will now be forced to get off at Kingsford or at the hospital and then get onto the light rail. The light rail is slower than a bus—that is if it is not broken down—and it does not go directly to the city. It does not go to Taylor Square, Oxford Street or Paddington.

The member for Coogee, who has been fighting against this Government taking cardiac services away from the Sydney Children's Hospital, has recently shared with me some discussions she has had with nurses who work at St Vincent's Hospital. They used to get off the bus in Taylor Square and walk to work, but they cannot do that anymore. They have to now catch an Uber, a cab or drive to work. How is that a better option for some of the most important workers that this Government bleats about all the time? Nurses are getting a raw deal and so is everybody else in the Maroubra electorate. The people of the eastern suburbs love our buses, but they have been

taken away in totality now. I have a really simple message to deliver to the Government on behalf of the people of Maroubra and on behalf of my friend the member for Coogee. You have not heard from us yet, but you are about to. Leave our buses alone. We do not want to catch your light rail.

Community Recognition Statements

LADIES OF LOVE

Mr JUSTIN CLANCY (Albury) (18:05): I thank Maggie Corbett, Dale Pegg, Amber Murphy and Reverend David Sloane, the founding members of Corowa's volunteer group Ladies of Love. I recognise the valuable work performed by this community organisation over the past five years, which will now come to an end with the closing of the organisation. Their willingness to give their time freely is greatly appreciated, particularly their efforts supporting people who are facing homelessness or are otherwise in need. With the support of the local people and businesses such as IGA, Vinnies and Painter's Cafe, they were able to combine community work with a sense of fun and companionship in Corowa. The volunteers have performed great community service preparing care packages and food vouchers. More recently they have provided sleeping bags for the homeless, which were distributed by Vinnies. I thank them for their time, hard work and patience. Ladies of Love will be remembered in Corowa for making a difference in the community.

COAST OPERA AUSTRALIA

Mr DAVID HARRIS (Wyang) (18:05): On 25 April 2021 I was honoured to see Coast Opera Australia perform a unique musical tribute to the Anzacs at Central Coast Stadium. The evening included the last post, performances by notable opera singers and a minute of silence as the sun went down. The event was inspired by the success of Coast Opera Australia's dawn and dusk tributes that were held through the lockdown in 2020. Coast Opera Australia Founder and Artistic Director Angela Brewer will be looking to keep the true spirit of this event alive. It was created with the intention that it be reflective, powerful and joyous. Angela is an international opera singer and vocal teacher for Coast Opera Australia's Emerging Artists Program who has called the Central Coast home for the past 10 years. She is also a conductor, concert producer and mother. To see the performers in an open space at the stadium was very powerful and it was a special opportunity to mark this day of remembrance.

R&R CARE

Mr GURMESH SINGH (Coffs Harbour) (18:06): R&R Care in Coffs Harbour has celebrated the grand opening of its new office and day program centre at Park Beach Road. The new facilities are helping the enthusiastic team as they deliver their vital services on the Coffs coast, and I enjoyed spending time with the R&R Care family to mark this special occasion. R&R Care provides recreational and social activities to assist participants to engage with their community, strengthen their ability to participate independently and live the life they want to live through group based activities or one-on-one support. Activities are supported by the trained and friendly staff, who are there every step of the way. I applaud the vision of the board comprising chair Rod de Martin, vice-chair Ebony-Lea Rahman, Rod Macpherson, Bernard Town, James Davis, Sue Kleidon and Zehrina Hajdic. I also applaud the leadership of interim CEO Daniela Shaw, client services manager Jenni Gardiner and chief financial officer Catherine Watson.

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC COLLEGE FUNDRAISER

Ms LIESL TESCH (Gosford) (18:07): There is less than 24 hours to go to donate to the St Joey's World's Greatest Shave fundraiser. St Joey's students are on a mission to "shave" the world from blood cancer! Eighteen students have put their hands up—or should I say put their heads up—to give families facing blood cancer the emotional and practical support they need and fund vital research to help more people survive blood cancers. Every day, 47 Australians are diagnosed with a blood cancer and an Aussie life is lost to blood cancer every two hours. I give a special shout-out to Joey's captain Sophie Holliday, who initiated the great shave and is planning on shaving all of her long hair, as well as Principal McCudden, who is shaving his head and waxing his legs. Many of the girls are going for a major chop, with anything over 22 centimetres being donated for wigs. I wish good luck to Isabel, Sophie, Lucy, Gabrielle, Charlotte, Jess, Emma, Phoebe, Ebony, Lucy, Anita, Ricky-Lee, Louise, Ella, Isobel, Rose, Emma and school groundsman Stephen. I thank all the teachers, students, families and community members supporting the shavers.

GEORGIA ZANNINO

Mr PETER SIDGREAVES (Camden) (18:09): I commend Georgia Zannino of year 9 at Camden High School, who attended the NSW Combined High Schools Sports Association Swimming Championships in Homebush last month. I congratulate Georgia on winning the gold medal in the 100 metres freestyle and also placing strongly in her other swims over the three days. I congratulate her on being awarded the girls 14 years age

champion for Sydney South West. I commend Georgia for her efforts in representing her school and State. I wish Georgia good luck at the NSW All Schools Swimming Championships.

INNER SYDNEY HIGH SCHOOL

Ms JENNY LEONG (Newtown) (18:09): I draw the attention of this Parliament to the new Inner Sydney High School. While the school actually welcomed its first students last year, the building was still being constructed and visitors were restricted due to the pandemic. Recently, I was lucky enough to be given a tour of this wonderful public school by students Alec Bond, Ella Poolman, Xavier Tennant-Pascoe and Principal Robyn Matthews. These passionate and confident students proudly showed me around their new basketball courts, design and technology workshops, science labs, kitchens, performance spaces, sports halls and flexible learning spaces, as well as the many power points that the students promised they would count for me. The new state-of-the-art facilities marry beautifully with the heritage buildings. As well as being the former home of the Cleveland Street Intensive English High School, these buildings once housed the old Cleveland Street High School and were first used as a public school in 1867. It is wonderful to see the evolution of public education continuing on the site. I look forward to working with the students in the future.

GRENFELL FOOD HALL

Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra) (18:10): I recognise the Grenfell Food Hall and the services its volunteers provide to the community. After a very different year in 2020, the food hall has now re-opened for face-to-face interaction on Friday 7 May 2021. This date is very special as it is the fifth anniversary of the opening of the food hall. There have been many changes since that first day and in 2020 the biggest changes were facilitated. Although the hall was not operating normally because of COVID restrictions, the people of the community were still being looked after. Volunteers were taking orders over the phone and delivering the orders to homes within 72 hours. This new innovative service will still be available to those who require it, although the volunteers do like to catch up with their customers who call in. I congratulate the Grenfell Food Hall and their volunteers who provide such a valuable and continuing service to their community.

SAINT NIKOLAI OF ZHICHA

Mr NICK LALICH (Cabramatta) (18:11): On Monday 3 May 2021 I was invited to break bread with Father Miodrag Peric, Father Goran Cecez and His Grace Bishop Siluan of the Serbian Orthodox Metropolitanate of Australia and New Zealand at the St George Serbian Orthodox Church, Cabramatta, in celebration of the patron saint, Saint Nikolai of Zhicha, and the Orthodox Easter. His Grace Bishop Siluan is the first Australian-born bishop of the Serbian Orthodox Church Diocese of Australia. He is a well-respected member of the church and has done a lot to increase patronage and support for the local community. Over the years, the St George Serbian Orthodox Church has provided ongoing support and assistance to our local area through a range of community-based initiatives and support programs, which have proved to be especially helpful throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. I take this opportunity to commend all of the volunteers from the St George Serbian Orthodox Church for their continued efforts towards supporting those in need and for giving their all to make our community a better place.

KEVIN AND RYAN JONES

Ms ROBYN PRESTON (Hawkesbury) (18:12): I thank and commend Kevin Jones and his son Ryan for their volunteer work with the State Emergency Service, including their extensive contribution in the Hawkesbury during the floods. They worked long hours, conducting rescues and delivering supplies to those who were stranded. Kevin is the superintendent at Hawkesbury SES and has volunteered for almost 50 years. The impact he has had on people's safety has been priceless. During flooding in 1978 he saved a woman and her unborn baby after their rescue boat capsized in the Colo River. As they were being swept into dangerous waters, Kevin kept the woman's head above water. The baby ended up being named Peta Kevin, after the names of the two men who saved their lives: Peter Minturn and Kevin Jones. Kevin's son Ryan Jones has been following in his father's footsteps and shares the same passion for assisting those in need. I thank Kevin and Ryan Jones for volunteering to protect our community, and I wish them the very best.

MEDOWIE 7 DAY MAKEOVER

Ms KATE WASHINGTON (Port Stephens) (18:13): This week my town of Medowie is getting a massive makeover in just seven days. Volunteers in hi-vis are working around the clock to transform the town centre into a place that we can be proud of. Residents and businesses have stepped up, donating their time, skills and money to make a difference. Students and young kids are out in force, contributing their creativity. I have lived in Medowie for 15 years, and it has changed a lot in that time. Many people have seen the light and made the move to the "place of tall trees". Our town has grown to almost 10,000 residents and services have not really kept up. Until recently, many of us were still uncertain as to where our town centre was. That changes this week.

With the help of the crew at Creative Communities, the incredible assets within our community have been harnessed and channelled in a wonderful way. Alongside so many other donors, Meryl Swanson and I are proud silver sponsors. I send a huge shout-out to everyone who has contributed in any way to the Medowie 7 Day Makeover so far. I cannot wait to get home to roll up my sleeves and help out too.

TRIBUTE TO PAUL SCHIEBAAN

Mr ALISTER HENSKENS (Ku-ring-gai) (18:14): I acknowledge the passing of Paul Schiebaan, former president of the Ku-ring-gai Community Workshop, which is commonly known as "The Shed". Paul was one of those special people who you meet in life. Born and raised in Rotterdam in the Netherlands, Paul studied engineering, was conscripted to the navy where he rose to be a lieutenant and, as part of a rich life experience after the navy, went to Tunisia as a factory construction project manager. In 1982 Paul and his wife, Josephine, migrated to Sydney with their two sons, Daan and Bart, and bought their first home in Turrumurra. Sadly, in 2011 Paul lost Josephine to cancer. As many men do, he found purpose in life through The Shed. Paul played a pivotal role in the planning and approval of The Shed's Block B and after many years was made a life member. After entering Parliament, I had the privilege of meeting Paul and kept in touch after he relocated to Newcastle in 2017. Vale, Paul Schiebaan, after a life well lived.

VICTORY DAY SEVENTY-SIXTH ANNIVERSARY

Ms LYNDA VOLTZ (Auburn) (18:15): On behalf of the Auburn community, I acknowledge the seventy-sixth anniversary of Victory Day, which marks the surrender of the Nazis to Russian forces during World War II. In Russia Victory Day is celebrated as a national holiday to mark the signing of the German instrument late in the evening on the 8 May 1945. Unfortunately, due to the COVID outbreak last year, our local community was unable to come together for the seventy-fifth anniversary. To mark the occasion, the Lidcombe and Strathfield Russian clubs had planned to hold a joint event for the first time. This year the community had a COVID-restricted event full of much joy and food to mark the important day. Significant among those who gathered in the Lidcombe Russian Social Club was Anatoli Gorelik, a pilot in the Soviet forces during World War II who later became part of the cosmonaut training team that saw the first person to journey into outer space, Yuri Gagarin, in the capsule Vostok 1 in April 1961. I thank Brian Mazur, Svetlana, Anatoly and the wonderful team of cooks led by Maria for such a memorable event.

BIANCA FULLER

Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS (Dubbo) (18:16): Australia has a proud swimming history, as does Dubbo. Dubbo's Bianca Fuller is making her name in the sport. The 16-year-old is a member of Dubbo City Swimtech. Recently Bianca competed at the Australian Age Swimming Championships on the Gold Coast before spending a week up north to compete in the open age championships in Brisbane. At the Gold Coast meet, the versatile breaststroke, butterfly and individual medley competitor swam in seven events. She made five finals and swam five personal bests. As a result of her rapid improvement and continued dedication, she will head to Adelaide next month to compete at the Australian Olympic Swimming Trials, which will be another great opportunity to learn from the best. I wish Bianca the best of luck.

DIMITRIS BASSIS

Ms SOPHIE COTSIS (Canterbury) (18:17): I welcome and thank the amazing international singer and musician Dimitris Basis, who is here from Greece and visiting the Parliament today. Dimitris will be the star attraction for the Greek Orthodox community of New South Wales' 200th commemoration festival program. Next week, on 22 May, some 5,000 Greek Australians will travel to the Hope Estate—taking the Greek festival to the Hunter Valley—to be entertained by a range of groups and dancers. I congratulate the organisers. I also thank Dimitris Bassis who has offered free concerts on a number of occasions while touring Australia to raise funds for the Greek community's St Basil's Homes aged care. Thousands of dollars has been raised through his concerts. This Sunday he is performing for free at a concert in Belmore. Over 200 people have raised funds for a bus for the Greek community.

3BRIDGES YOUTH ZONE

Mr MARK COURE (Oatley) (18:18): I congratulate the entire team at 3Bridges Youth Zone in Hurstville, which recently celebrated its 15-plus-one year anniversary. Due to social distancing requirements in 2020, the team was unable to come together and celebrate, so it was fitting to see the entire organisation join as one for its sixteenth anniversary. I thank the chief executive officer of 3Bridges, Raj Nair, and his entire team for putting together the outstanding event. It was an honour to speak about the importance of 3Bridges Youth Zone in the community. It was fantastic to hear from frequent Youth Zone attendees Bella and Zac about what the facilities mean to them and about the difference that a safe and inclusive space can make in the lives of young

people. I also thank the Federal member for Banks, David Coleman; the mayor of Georges River Council, Kevin Greene; and councillors Sam Elmir and Lou Konjarski for their wonderful support of 3Bridges Youth Zone.

LIONS CLUB OF GWANDALAN LIONESSE INC

Ms YASMIN CATLEY (Swansea) (18:19): I acknowledge the fantastic work of the Lions Club of Gwandalan Lioness Inc for its fantastic work in the community. The club holds an annual art and craft expo to raise funds to support the Lions Childhood Cancer Research Foundation. Unfortunately, the event was unable to proceed last year, so it was great to see it return in 2021. The expo shows off artwork provided by local school students and local artists. For many years I have had the privilege of opening the expo. It is always a well-attended community event that I look forward to. I thank the Gwandalan Lionesses for all the great work they do in our community. I also thank the community members who attended the expo to support the Lion's Childhood Cancer Research Foundation. The Gwandalan Lionesses are so committed that every Saturday they hold a stall in the park to raise funds for other local charities within the Gwandalan community.

NORTH SHORE BOMBERS AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL CLUB

Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore) (18:20): I recognise the sporting achievements of young local women of the North Shore Bombers Australian Football Club. I congratulate the players in the Women's Premier Division team, who were all smiles after knocking out the previously unbeaten UNSW Eastern Suburbs Bulldogs on their home ground at the Round Review match. In particular, I congratulate Alyce Keating on playing her fiftieth game for the club and on being a leading goal kicker. During the game Alyce was a pivotal player whose speed and agility could not be matched by her opponents. Alyce is an excellent role model for her age and is definitely one to watch in the future. Special mention also goes to Kate Reynolds for being named one of the best players of the tournament and also for taking out the position of top goal kicker. Kate's quick movements in the third and fourth quarter saw the Bombers secure the match against the UNSW Eastern Suburbs Bulldogs with a smashing score. Well done to all the players of the Bombers Women's Premier Division. I wish them good luck in maintaining their winning streak for the rest of the season.

EID AL-FITR

Mr GUY ZANGARI (Fairfield) (18:21): On behalf of the Fairfield electorate, I offer greetings and best wishes to the local Fairfield Islamic community during the festival of Eid al-Fitr. Eid ul-Fitr is an important day for the Muslim community as it marks the end of the holy month of Ramadan and signifies the breaking of the fast. Ramadan is a time of fasting, prayer and abstinence when Muslims are called upon to assist those less fortunate in the community through acts of charity and kindness. In particular, I thank the Circle of Hope in Yennora and the Rahma Association Australia from the Rahma Mosque in Guildford for their work in bringing about social cohesion and harmony throughout the community. I also thank them for their kind invitation to join them during Ramadan. I wish everyone a happy and safe Eid ul-Fitr. May this special time bring peace and happiness to all.

JOHN HODGE

Mr ADAM MARSHALL (Northern Tablelands—Minister for Agriculture and Western New South Wales) (18:22): I recognise John Hodge for being nominated for the North West Individual Landcarer Award for his commitment to Australian native fauna and flora, particularly koalas. In addition to his published books on native vegetation and research on brush turkeys, John has created a koala haven on his property by planting koala food trees and ensuring access to water with two koala drinkers in the park. John leads groups on native bushwalks to educate and inspire the public on native flora. As a founding member and chair of the north-west regional Koala ARKS group, John has shown his inclusive devotion to the preservation and appreciation of Australia's native flora and fauna. I congratulate John on his nomination for the North West Individual Landcarer Award. I commend him for being a role model for children and adults alike in teaching the importance of being stewards of our native wildlife and vegetation.

CENTRAL COAST CRICKET ASSOCIATION

Mr DAVID MEHAN (The Entrance) (18:23): I acknowledge and congratulate all participating teams in the 2020-21 Central Coast Cricket Association season. Nine clubs competed in the first grade competition and 10 clubs competed in the second grade competition. The Entrance, the oldest continually operating cricket club on the Central Coast, defeated Terrigal Matcham in the first grade match by eight wickets and claimed the premiership. We always love to see The Entrance beat Terrigal on the Central Coast. In an impressive battle Lisarow Ourimbah beat The Entrance, claiming the premiership in the second grade competition. Lisarow Ourimbah also took out the Male Youth League title and Narara Wyoming won the Female Youth League title. It has been a great season for teams in The Entrance electorate. I thank club workers and supporters for their contribution to the great game of cricket.

TUNSTEAD OYSTERS

Mrs LESLIE WILLIAMS (Port Macquarie) (18:24): I applaud the overwhelming display of generosity in the Port Macquarie and Hastings communities for their support in the rebuild of Tunstead Oysters following the devastating floods in March. It was hailed one of the major community fundraisers of the year. People literally poured into the Settlers Inn at Port Macquarie to show their undeniable support for a hero of those floods, David Tunstead, affectionately known as "Tunny". At the height of the floods on the mid North Coast, selfless people like David braved the floodwaters to rescue people who had become trapped in the unfolding natural disaster. David saved a young couple stranded on the top of their caravan at Hacks Ferry as well as residents on two properties further up the road. Sadly, the destructive force of the floods was realised by oyster farmers like David, who lost infrastructure and product. That will ultimately set them back years. Digging deep in support of David and to say thank you for his heroism, which was instrumental in saving lives, the community raised close to \$40,000 during the evening fundraiser. I thank the community for their generous contribution and I give my heartfelt thanks to Tunny.

VESAK DAY CELEBRATIONS

Mr NICK LALICH (Cabramatta) (18:25): On Saturday 8 May 2021 I was pleased to join the local community in celebrating Vesak Day, which was hosted by the Australian Chinese Buddhist Society and the Prajna Monastery at Freedom Plaza in Cabramatta. Vesak Day marks the three important states of the Lord Buddha: His birth, enlightenment and passing. Those in attendance offered flowers and bathed the Lord Buddha while chanting and prayers were performed by Venerable Thich Phouc Hy, Venerable Shi Bao Yan and Venerable Shi Ming Shang. The celebrations were attended by local residents and community leaders; parliamentary colleagues including NSW Labor leader Jodi McKay, Guy Zangari and Tania Mihailuk; and Federal members of Parliament Chris Hayes and Anne Stanley. I commend the Australian Chinese Buddhist Society president, Mr Vincent Kong, OAM; chairman Mr James Chan, OAM; and the organising committee and its volunteers for making this year's Vesak celebrations a tremendous success.

FESTIVAL OF FUN FOR SENIORS

Mr JUSTIN CLANCY (Albury) (18:26): I congratulate the Federation Council, Club Mulwala and the Ageing Well Advisory Committee for their successful 2021 Festival of Fun for Seniors event, which was held in April. The event was presented on five stages across the local government area and focused on health and physical movement as well as arts, culture and social activities. Nearly 500 senior residents from Morundah to Mulwala were in attendance. Two of the activities included learning the steps involved in CPR as well as instruction in the use of a defibrillator. Each guest received a first aid CPR wallet card. The event included a fashion parade, which was delivered by Councillor Bronwyn Thomas, as well as a disco at Club Mulwala. Mayor Pat Bourke was praised for reciting an original poem at the event. He is such a talented man—I am surprised he did not sing that poem. Creative activities helped to create a great program for our seniors, who play a major role in our community. The event helped them to work together, make friends and engage socially, while also improving their health, mobility, strength and coordination.

JOHN GODDARD

Ms LIESL TESCH (Gosford) (18:27): I join with Woy Woy Peninsula Netball Association and former member for Peats, Marie Andrews, in celebrating John Goddard, who was presented with a life membership award last weekend. Mr Goddard exemplifies the most important traits that make the Central Coast community so brilliant through his lifetime of community service. He is a selfless, passionate and caring coach and has volunteered at countless events through the years. He always provides an encouraging word to young sports stars in his capacity as a mentor. Thanks to the work of volunteers like Mr Goddard, young people have the opportunity to experience the camaraderie and joy of community sports. I send my most heartfelt thanks to those local coasties who give up their time to make community sport possible on the Central Coast. I thank Mr Goddard and all of our volunteers for the dedication and passion that they bring to our community.

MAKE WAY MUSIC EVENT

Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal) (18:28): In April the Kincumber Neighbourhood Centre hosted a Make Way Music Event as part of the Central Coast Council's Youth Week. The event forms part of a series of drug- and alcohol-free music events run in collaboration with Fixx Events. It is an opportunity for youth on the coast to have fun in a safe space. Four local youth bands performed at the event. They were the Allo Rays, Turtle Custard, Shacked and Wurm. I thank Brad Cardis, the founder of Fixx Events, for putting on a great show and for helping to nurture the great range of musical talent on the Central Coast. Local kids could watch their peers perform at a cost of only \$10. The event also included food and a DJ. The other events that were held as part of Youth Week included the grand final of the Discovered Vocal Competition; the outdoor music event, MetroFest, which was

held at the Bateau Bay PCYC; the Oasis Youth Fest in Wyong, which showcased dance, bands and spoken word poetry; and the Eco Arts Trail Leadership Workshop, which was run with local artist Judith Price. For anyone who missed out, another MAKE WAY event is planned for July. I say a big thankyou to Brad for running such a successful event.

EID AL-FITR

Ms LYNDA VOLTZ (Auburn) (18:29): On the occasion of Eid I am delighted to thank the Auburn Islamic Community Centre for its fantastic iftar function last weekend. The Auburn Islamic Community Centre is a family-run organisation that does great work throughout the Auburn area, particularly in teaching youth the Islamic faith and in celebrating Australia's diversity. I joined with my colleagues the Leader of the Opposition, the member for Granville and the member for Lakemba, along with leaders from the community centre and other local community leaders for a delicious iftar meal that included everyone's favourite: mansaf. I thank the Auburn Islamic Community Centre president Mohammed Alzoubi and manager Sarah Alzoubi for their invitation and hospitality. I wish them Eid Mubarak.

ELIZABETH MACARTHUR HIGH SCHOOL AGRICULTURE TEAM

Mr PETER SIDGREAVES (Camden) (18:30): I commend the agriculture team at Elizabeth Macarthur High School on competing at the Sydney Royal Easter Show in April. The majority of agricultural regional shows were cancelled last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic but the team was very successful at the show, placing second in the school section, highly commended in the lamb class and second and fourth in the two-teeth ewe class. In the open section, members of the team placed first and second in two-teeth ewe class. In the State cattle handlers class, Jade placed second. I congratulate all the students who were involved. I recognise their hard work and dedication and wish them all the best of luck in their future endeavours.

SAVE OUR KIDS FROM SUICIDE PROGRAM

Ms LIESL TESCH (Gosford) (18:30): All members know how important mental health is for young people across New South Wales. Providing support in that area is an enormous task that requires the efforts of many. I am incredibly proud that many individuals and groups in my community feel so strongly about that cause, particularly the Rotary club of Gosford North. Its fabulous Save our Kids from Suicide program has just reached its tenth anniversary. Over 680 suicide interventions have occurred in that time. Thanks to the extraordinary efforts of chairman Lester Pearson and those who have been involved in the program over the past decade, more than 4,000 young coasties have participated in suicide prevention workshops. I sincerely thank and celebrate the work of Lester and the rest of the Save our Kids from Suicide team for their hard work. They have made an incredibly important contribution to our community.

RILEY WHATMAN

Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra) (18:31): I congratulate Gooloogong local Riley Whatman who ran over 40 kilometres to raise funds for the Chris O'Brien Lifehouse, which is a cancer treatment hospital. With the support of family and friends, Riley ran from Gooloogong to Cowra and raised over \$2,800 for the not-for-profit organisation. Riley's late grandfather received treatment at that hospital, which prompted him to fundraise. Riley received donations and support of many local businesses in Cowra and Gooloogong, including Cowra Bowling Club, Woolworths Cowra and Label Everything Gooloogong. Riley is a true inspiration to many other citizens in the Cootamundra electorate who are thinking about raising funds or awareness for people who are vulnerable or in need of support. Congratulations once again to Riley. I cannot wait to see him fit and ready to do it all again next year.

INTERNATIONAL WORKERS' MEMORIAL DAY

Mr DAVID MEHAN (The Entrance) (18:32): I acknowledge International Workers' Memorial Day and thank those who participated in or helped to organise the celebration that was held on the Central Coast on 28 April. Since 2016 the Wall of Remembrance at Ourimbah has been the site of International Workers' Memorial Day commemorations on the Central Coast. It is a day to commemorate those who have lost their lives as a result of work and to redouble our efforts to ensure that work is as safe as possible. I acknowledge my staff, who gave up their own time prepare for the event and to help tidy up the memorial afterwards. I thank Catherine Wall and her husband, as well as Danielle Atherton and her husband. I finish by acknowledging the efforts of all those who participated in the commemoration and by recalling the motto of the day: "Remember the dead and fight for the living."

ROTARY CLUB OF MOSMAN

Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore) (18:33): I congratulate the Rotary Club of Mosman for its innovative production of Mosman's very own jigsaw puzzle. The 1,000-piece puzzle is double-sided and features

timeless images of Mosman's unique landscape and landmarks from the 1890s up until the current day. The puzzles have been on sale at the local Mosman Market, which I visited last month, and I understand they have been a resounding success in our community. The money that is raised by the sale of the puzzle will help to fund important community projects in my local area, such as a newly opened women's refuge as well as other projects that support youth development, disaster relief and literacy programs. The production of the puzzle follows the outstanding success of Mosman Rotary's version of Monopoly, which it created in 2016 and adds to the historical record of our community. I thank Rotary members for committing their time and passion to those and other projects for over 45 years. I also thank the Mosman Council, the Mosman Local Studies Collection and the Mosman Camera Club for helping to put together that unique memento for local families to enjoy.

Community Recognition Notices

AUSTRALIAN CHINESE BUDDHIST SOCIETY CELEBRATION OF BUDDHA

Ms TANIA MIHAILUK (Bankstown)—I was delighted to attend the Australian Chinese Buddhist Society [ACBS] Celebration of the Birth of the Buddha and the Bathing the Buddha Festival on May 8th, 2021, which was co-organised by Prajna Monastery. This day celebrated the birth of Prince Siddhartha Gautama, the founder of Buddhism. This is a highly significant day for the Buddhist community and one that is celebrated throughout the world. I was honoured to partake in the Bathing The Buddha Ceremony alongside members of the ACBS and the other guests in attendance. This ceremony symbolises the cleansing of our bodies and our thoughts to remove evil thoughts and purify our minds. I would like to thank James Chan OAM, Chairman of the ACBS; Vincent Kong OAM, President of the ACBS; Leong Tho, President of Prajna Monastery; Senior Monk Venerable Shi Mang Shan; and the entirety of the ACBS executive for their exceptional work in organising this event. I would also like to extend my thanks to the ACBS for their continual efforts to provide cultural opportunities for Chinese Buddhists in Australia.

BANKSTOWN BULLS A GRADE SENIOR PRESENTATION NIGHT

Ms TANIA MIHAILUK (Bankstown)—I had the pleasure of attending the Bankstown Bulls Junior Rugby League Football Club [JRLFC] A Grade Senior Launch on April 21 2021 at the Bankstown RSL Club. The Bankstown Bulls JRLFC are one of our local community's most prominent rugby league clubs, being affiliated with the Canterbury-Bankstown Junior Rugby League and the Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs Rugby League Club. I commend the Bankstown Bulls JRLFC for the valuable contribution they make in promoting rugby league in the local community. I take this opportunity to acknowledge the efforts of Bankstown Bulls' President Ali Mehanna, Senior Vice President Stan Hetaraka, Secretary George Najjar, Treasurer Zahi El Zein, Assistant Secretary Anthony Samuel and the entire Executive on a wonderful event. I also recognise the coaches, managers and players who contribute to the club's success and thank them for hosting me on the day. As the Club Patron, I am proud to have supported the Bankstown Bulls in all their endeavours, and I wish them the best of luck for the upcoming season!

COMMUNITY BUILDING PARTNERSHIP

Mrs MELINDA PAVEY (Oxley—Minister for Water, Property and Housing)—What a delight to visit the busy and committed people at the Nambucca Valley Senior Citizens Hall recently. I saw the results of the State Government Community Building Partnership 2020 - \$17,950 to fund disability access ramps, a sound system, painting, lighting and floor coverings. The grant will also go towards new exterior wall coverings on the front of the building. Congratulations to grants officer Beverley Gibbs, president June Boag, vice-president Rachael Burns, secretary and treasurer Lorna Simpson, and all who made this happen. Thanks to local Lions Club president, Grahame Beaton, after the club installed the new deck on the access ramps. Grahame is also the president of the Nambucca Valley Orchid Society - and I was delighted to meet him at an orchid show.

FIXING LOCAL ROADS

Mrs MELINDA PAVEY (Oxley—Minister for Water, Property and Housing)—I am excited to announce Fixing Local Roads - funding to help councils repair, maintain and seal the roads that really mattered to our communities. Local councils received a total of \$8,445,777 to improve our road network – this will deliver safer, more reliable journeys for all local road users.

- Bellingen Shire Council received \$1,896,786
- Kempsey Shire Council received \$4,993,991
- Nambucca Shire Council received \$770,000
- Port Macquarie-Hastings Council received \$785,000

CAROL AND RAYMOND HARDING

Ms SONIA HORNER (Wallsend)—Carol and Raymond Harding have been running garage sales from their home for the last seven years. They started while living in Elmore Vale and continued once they moved to Wallsend, and sell all kinds of useful items as well as toys, homewares and clothing. Along with purchasing toys from second hand shops, taking them home and giving them a fresh look, Raymond and Carol accept donations of old and broken toys and fix them up. Carol will wash, dry and re style dolls hair, and Raymond repairs and repaints old toys and homewares. Carol and Raymond do not keep the money made at the garage sales for themselves, instead they pass it on to those in need. Carol and Raymond have donated to many people over the years who need a bit of extra help, including the parents of patients at the children's hospital; people battling cancer; and locals who are just doing it a bit tough. Thank you Carol and Raymond for helping those in our community in their time of need. Your generosity knows no bounds.

UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE

Ms SONIA HORNER (Wallsend)—The University of Newcastle was recently named number one in the world for partnering for a more sustainable future in the 2021 Times Higher Education Impact Rankings. The Times Higher Education Impact Rankings assess universities against the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, which act as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity. The overall ranking is determined by each university's performance against SDG 17 plus their three best scoring goals. Assessed against the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals impact, the University of Newcastle was ranked twelfth in the world overall. The ranked first in the world in Sustainable Development Goal 17 – Partnerships for the Goals and ranked third in the world for Affordable and Clean Energy in recognition of their energy research, energy use and policies, and commitment to promoting energy efficiency in the wider community. Congratulations to Vice Chancellor Alex Zelinsky, Pro Vice-Chancellor Academic Excellence Professor Jennifer Milam and all the staff and students on this outstanding achievement.

BLAKE PARDEY

Mr PETER SIDGREAVES (Camden)—I recognise Blake Pardey Year 10 student at St Gregory's College, who has been selected to represent NSW at the 2021 Australian Gymnastic Championships this week. Blake will be competing in the Gold Coast for Trampoline and Double Mini Trampoline. Being selected into the NSW State Team is an outstanding achievement that has required many months of training and preparation. The Australian Championships presents the highest level of Australian competition, where representations itself is already an accomplishment. Congratulations Blake on your significant milestone in your career in gymnastics and I wish you the best of luck in the Championships this week.

BRENNAN'S 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Mr PETER SIDGREAVES (Camden)—I congratulate Mr Garry and Mrs Marilyn Brennan in celebration of their 50th Wedding Anniversary. Married on 24th April, 1971, the Brennan's moved to a developing Old Mt Druitt where they lived for over 30 years. Marilyn worked at Mt Druitt hospital and community health and Garry was a sheet metal worker, working on job sites throughout Sydney and all over NSW. The Brennan's did this all in-between raising three children. Eventually they moved to Curran's Hill where they became Grandparents to a grown family of now 15. The Brennan's have always been well driven and family orientated, which has led to their 50 years. I wish you both continued success in your marriage and congratulate you both again on this milestone.

WAVERLEY SENIOR WEEK

Dr MARJORIE O'NEILL (Coogee)—It was a pleasure to drop into Waverley Seniors Week and join them for their Seniors Week Festival Luncheon. The NSW senior's festival is the largest festival for seniors in the Southern Hemisphere, reaching up to 500,000 seniors each year. Waverley Community and Seniors Association do a wonderful job of bringing the NSW Seniors Festival to local people and giving it a local flair. The Waverley Seniors Festival 2021 ran from the 13th to the 24th of April, with activities, workshops, music, lunch and much more. Local seniors joined in on walking basketball, livestreaming of classic music hits from the golden era of song and had plenty of meet ups, just like the luncheon. The theme of the luncheon was 'Being Healthy and Together', placing more of the focus on health in later life on exercise and conversation with friends and neighbours. Thank you to the Waverley Community and Seniors Association for inviting me to your wonderful luncheon and to the Mill Hill Hotel for providing a wonderful friendly environment for this event.

ANZAC DAY

Dr MARJORIE O'NEILL (Coogee)—ANZAC Day is incredibly important to all Australians, a statement made clear as tens of thousands attended ANZAC Day services across the Coogee electorate this year. The dawn service at Coogee beach returned this year with over 3,000 guests attending the COVID Safe ceremony and thousands many more watching on from the outskirts. The ANZAC address was given by Adrian Sutter, a decorated return serviceman and the founder of SWISS 8, who spoke truly of the terror of war and the bravery of our digger across generations. The Waverley ceremony was equally poignant, commemorating 200 years since Greek Independence, with the occasional address being given by Christos Karras, the Greek Consul General in Sydney. This year also saw the beginning of an ANZAC Day March from Coogee Diggers down to Coogee Beach, a tradition which I hope continues to grow year on year. Finally, it was an honour to attend my final service of the day at Bronte SLSC, which remembered the sacrifice of surf lifesavers during Australia's conflicts. I wish to thank the Randwick Clovelly Coogee RSL Sub Branch, SWISS 8, Randwick City Council, Waverley Council, Coogee Surf Club, and the Bronte RSL Sub Branch.

LIVERPOOL PIONEER MEMORIAL PARK

Mr PAUL LYNCH (Liverpool)—On 27 April this year Liverpool Council held an event to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the establishment of what is now known as Liverpool Pioneer Memorial Park. There were of course people living in Liverpool for many thousands of years before pioneers arrived so it was entirely appropriate that the event commenced with an Acknowledgement of Country. It was given by Uncle Tony Scholes current chairperson of Gandangara Local Aboriginal Land Council. This was the second cemetery in Liverpool and it was closed for funerals in 1958. It contains the remains of more than 13 000 people. Those 13 000 include an extraordinarily broad range of people including several First Fleeters. There are colonial and military officials, convicts and free settlers. There are also the bodies of residents of local institutions such as the Male Orphan School, and a significant number of the Sydney poor who lived in the Liverpool Asylum. For some time it held the bodies of German and Austrian internees from the World War I Holsworthy internment camp although they were disinterred in 1961-2. The cemetery is a fascinating part of Liverpool's history.

RUSSELL THORNTON

Mr STEPHEN BROMHEAD (Myall Lakes)—I congratulate Russell Thornton who recently completed his 250th Parkrun in Taree. Russell is the first Taree parkrunner to reach this impressive milestone. He's a dedicated participant and was also the first to reach to 50, 100, 150 and 200 run milestones. Russell has no plans of stopping anytime soon, his sights now set on being the first to make it 300. Reaching the 250 parkruns in Taree is particularly impressive given there have only been 272 Taree parkruns so far. It's clear Russell has been a dedicated member of Taree parkrun from the beginning missing only 22 runs so far.

WARREN COCKSEGE

Mr STEPHEN BROMHEAD (Myall Lakes)—I recognise Warren Cocksedge who was last week named the zone 11 bowls open singles champion. The championship was hard fought, the final game of the five week tournament neck and neck, the entire game. Warren took the victory by only one shot the final score 31 to 30. Following his most recent victory Warren now boasts Zone titles in all four categories Singles, Pairs, Triples and Fours. I again congratulate Warren on his victory and wish him luck as he progresses to the State finals which will be played at Ettalong in August- September.

SKY MASON

Mrs HELEN DALTON (Murray)—Today I would like to recognise and congratulate Sky Mason of Finley on her nomination for the NSW Women of the Year Award's 'One to Watch' category. Sky, a Year 4 student at Finley Primary School, was nominated by her principal, Ms Jocelyn Robinson. Ms Robinson described Sky's contribution to the school as one that could not be measured and was certain that the school is a better place for having Sky in its community. Sky's positive attitude, empathy, courage and strength are all factors contributing to her nomination. I congratulate Sky on her nomination and wish her all the best with her education and future endeavours.

ST BRENDAN'S DEBUTANTES

Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra)—I am very pleased to congratulate Erin Lennon, Piper Linsell, Casey Foster and Grace Biggs of St Brendan's Ganmain who recently made their debut. Debutante balls remain a strong tradition in rural areas and have over the years become something really unique. It was an honour for me to be invited to attend the evening and be part of the formalities and celebrations. It was wonderful to see the strong community support at this auspicious occasion and to see this tradition continue over many years in

Ganmain is a credit to St Brendan's and all those involved in the organising of the event. I would once again like to congratulate those that made their debut and wish them every success.

GRENFELL HOSPITAL AUXILIARY AWARDS

Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra)—I would like to recognise the Grenfell Hospital Auxiliary and some of their members who were acknowledged recently for their service. Peter Moffitt, Chairman of the Weddin Health Council was recently on hand to present well deserved awards of bars and certificates to members of the Auxiliary. Outstanding service by Meryl Hunter who was presented with a 50 year bar, Mavis Drogemuller who received a 30 year bar and Marie Cotter presented with a 10 year bar. Further to this list is Pat Verney and Glenice Clarke who were both presented with a 15 year certificate. Grenfell Hospital Auxiliary volunteers continue their fundraising endeavours to provide staff with the medical equipment for the Hospital and ensuring the continued comfort of patients. My congratulations to the ladies who received their awards and to all the volunteers of Grenfell Hospital Auxiliary who dedicate their time to their community.

ALINA WAKELING

Mrs TANYA DAVIES (Mulgoa)—Local resident, Alina Wakeling has had a passion for music all her life. She first performed at the age of four and has grown into a hard working local performer who has participated in many musical shows and performances. Alina studied piano for 12 years, danced for 15 years and has also completed further studies in musical theatre singing and composing music. Her first musical exposure was at her church in Cranebrook where she witnessed her father and her singing teacher regularly sing. She has performed at a range of local events including Penrith Rotary Carols, Penrith Festival, Penrith Show, World Voice Day and Penrith Relay for Life. She is even regularly invited to perform at weddings and funerals around Sydney. Alina has great experience in musical theatre with some highlights including being a member of the Blue Mountains Musical Society, where she was cast in The Phantom of the Opera, West Side Story and Jesus Christ Superstar. Outside of performing, Alina teaches both piano and singing as well as fulfilling the role of choir and movement teacher with the Nepean Valley Voices Children's Choir. Well done Alina!

500 YEARS OF CHRISTIANITY IN THE PHILIPPINES

Mrs TANYA DAVIES (Mulgoa)—I wish to congratulate the Filipino members of my community who recently celebrated the special occasion of 500 years of Christianity in the Philippines. This is a joyous time for the many Filipino Australian community members in the Mulgoa electorate as it is a time to reflect on their relationship with God and how it has brought their community closer together here in Australia.

I would like to acknowledge my ongoing friendship with the Australian Devotees of Our Lady of Penafrancia [ADOLP] and in particular Jun Relunia who has continued to represent the Filipino community and with whom I have had the pleasure of working with on many occasion. Congratulations to all the Filipino Australian members of my community on this momentous occasion, I look forward to continuing to work together to support you in all the great work that you do. Congratulations!

MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES WELCOMES NEW FRNSW GRADUATES

Mr LEE EVANS (Heathcote)—On Friday 7th May I attended Menai Fire Station with the Hon David Elliott Minister for Emergency Services, the FRNSW Commissioner Paul Baxter and Superintendent Trent Lawrence to welcome two new graduates to the Menai team. I wish to thank Minister Elliott for the record investment of \$900 million this financial year for Fire and Rescue NSW to support frontline firefighters in protecting lives, property and to continue being prepared for anything. I congratulate the two new graduates to Menai Fire Station and also one other graduate to Bundeena Fire Station. FRNSW attracts up to 8000 applications every year so becoming a firefighter is no easy feat- only an elite few are chosen.

ROSA ITALIAN PENSIONERS GROUP

Mr GUY ZANGARI (Fairfield)—I recently met up with Mrs Rosa Cuciniello and Mrs Adelaide Robibaro of the Rosa Italian Pensioners Group. This group has been a part of the Fairfield community for over thirty years and have now moved to the Fairfield Community Centre in Barbara Street. The group will meet on Thursdays from 9am until 12:30 pm and I am assured by Rosa that all seniors in the Fairfield area are welcome. The group initially began to provide a social outlet for the Italian senior citizens in the Fairfield area. It gave them a chance to come together and share activities as well as go on outings together at minimal cost. Socialisation as a senior citizen is so important and I encourage our senior citizens to join in some form of social activity for the benefit of their mental health. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Rosa and Adelaide for the valuable service they provide for the senior citizens of Fairfield.

BARBARA DAWSON CRAFT GROUP

Mr GUY ZANGARI (Fairfield)—Recently I paid a visit to the Villawood Senior Citizens Centre and visited Barbara Dawson and Stella Howatt at Barbara's craft group. Meeting every Wednesday, the ladies take part in a different project each term of the school year, be it in knitting, crochet, sewing and general craft. It is a chance for the ladies to gather together and socialise, learn new things and keep their minds active. Barbara's group provides members with a safe, relaxed environment to talk, craft and get to know other members of the community. I commend Barbara and Stella for offering the community the chance to get involved with various groups like this one and learn something new at the Villawood Senior Citizens Centre.

MARRICKVILLE HIGH SCHOOL SHAKESPEARE CARNIVAL

Ms JO HAYLEN (Summer Hill)—The Bard has come to Marrickville with another successful Shakespeare Carnival at Marrickville High School on Friday 7 May. The Carnival is a landmark event for the school, engaging students across in a cross faculty-program that teaches students about the legacy of Shakespeare's works. This year, actors from Bell Shakespeare Company visited the school to perform and provide Shakespearean acting workshops. Year 9 students took part in fencing lessons, learning about the history of blade and the sport of fencing. Year 10 students learned about the science behind special effects, learning how to create common stage and lighting tricks used in theatre productions. Students also took part in Shakespeare cooking classes, a "Who Killed Hamlet" science murder mystery, a Shakespeare-inspired mural workshop, and even Shakespeare escape rooms. Teachers even got in on the act, with Mr Sutton, Mr Dazos and Ms Garcia performing a scene from the Scottish Play before leading students on a Shakespeare Quest. Congratulations to all the students and staff at Marrickville High for this exciting and immersive experience. I particularly acknowledge drama teacher, Zan Cross, who masterminded the carnival and done so much to promote drama at Marrickville High School.

130 YEARS: CHRISTIAN BROTHERS' HIGH SCHOOL LEWISHAM

Ms JO HAYLEN (Summer Hill)—Recently, I had the pleasure of attending Mass at St Mary's Cathedral to celebrate the 130 year anniversary of Christian Brothers' High School, Lewisham. Established in 1891, the school has gone from strength to strength, educating generations of boys in the tradition of Edmund Rice. The 2021 liturgical theme, "I make all things new", is a sentiment we all benefit from reflecting on after a tough year in 2020. The Mass was the highlight of a very special Founders Week, which also included a presentation at the school by Uncle Bruce Pascoe, author of *Dead Emu*, who spoke about the critical need to care for country. I acknowledge and thank Dr Michael Blowes, School Principal, for his outstanding leadership of the school, and thank the many dedicated staff, parents and students who have made Christian Brothers' Lewisham such a wonderful school community for 13 decades. I would also like to give a special acknowledgement to the primary and senior school captains, John Elias and David El-Hashem, for leading Christian Brothers' Lewisham with pride, and wish everyone at the school all the very best as they continue to mark this very important milestone.

ST ANTHONY'S AND ST PAUL'S COPTIC ORTHODOX CHURCH EASTER 2021

Ms JULIA FINN (Granville)—I was delighted to join parishioners at St Anthony's and St Paul's Coptic Orthodox Church at Guildford for their Orthodox Easter Mass on Saturday 1 May 2021. There was a lot of people who attended the beautiful mass and I was pleased to see so many families come along especially post COVID-19 restrictions. The Easter Saturday mass was led by Fr Shenouda Mansour and Fr Suriel Hanna. St Anthony's and St Paul's Coptic Orthodox Church's Good Friday mass was also well attended with the youth parish joining in the prayer processions. Easter is a very significant date within Christianity and is the foundation of the Christian faith. There is a number of church services celebrating these important occasions and include Palm Sunday and Good Friday masses to mark the death and resurrection of Jesus. Their Easter liturgy was webcast live on social media for those who could not attend the mass. I am sure that parish members continued their Easter celebrations afterwards with family members and friends eating traditional Lebanese foods. Thank you to Father Shenouda Mansour and Fr Suriel Hanna for their lovely welcome at the Church.

ANN-MARIA MARTIN

Mr GREG PIPER (Lake Macquarie)—Domestic violence is a scourge on our society and unfortunately in Lake Macquarie the rate of domestic violence is higher than the State average. I'd like to acknowledge the extraordinary efforts of one woman who not only lived through domestic violence and found the strength to leave her abuser, but also used her experience to help others. Ann-Maria Martin from Cardiff is the founder of Survivor's R Us Incorporated. A Cardiff-based charity which has helped more than 12,000 people since opening its doors in 2017. Survivor's R Us offers a range of services for those escaping domestic violence such as counselling services, training services, clothing, as well as access to discounted groceries and furniture. In a truly innovative move, Ann-Maria is also in the process of turning part of the charity's headquarters into a training space where people can gain trade and employment certificates to help them gain employment. The charity has also partnered with

Orange Sky to provide homeless people with laundry and shower facilities, and provides those in need with a free breakfast twice a week. I applaud Ann-Maria's efforts and those of the volunteers at Survivor's R Us.

GWEN JOHNSTON

Mr GREG PIPER (Lake Macquarie)—Along with many others in the Toronto area, I was saddened by the recent passing of Gwen Johnston of Blackalls Park. Gwen was an extraordinary woman who stood up for what she knew to be right. She was a devoted mother of six children, and despite all of the hard work that would have entailed, she still found the time to retrain as an accountant and work as a volunteer. Gwen was a tireless worker and a community-spirited person who has been described by her friends as intelligent, determined, independent and community minded. It's a description that resonates with me, having seen her determination to get justice and a new home for the Toronto Pensioners and Citizens Association. That battle lasted more than 10 years but eventuated in a new Seniors Centre in Toronto. Gwen well and truly earned the respect of those who knew her. Her efforts were, and remain, very much appreciated. Gwen was 96 years old when she passed. I pay my respects to her, and send my condolences to her children Christine, Glenys, Graham, Alan, Peter and Neil and their families. Vale, Gwen Johnston.

CELEBRATING OUR LOCAL ENTREPRENEURS

Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore)—I would like to congratulate a number of inspiring entrepreneurs from my local area. Mosman resident Palisa Anderson is serving up success by running two of Sydney's most sought-after restaurants. She is the second-generation restaurateur at the Chat Thai restaurants in Neutral Bay and Randwick, while running Boon Café and Jarern Chai Asian Grocer in the CBD. The mother-of-two also manages Boon Luck organic farm in Byron Bay and hosts her own cooking series called Water Heart Food on SBS Food. Mosman local, Anneke Van Den Broek has set up a premier pet grooming business called Rufus and Coco. The boutique salon has become one of Australia's most awarded pet care brands, offering blueberry facials and therapy mud baths for a proper pampering of our furry friends. Wollstonecraft couple Kyle Ford and Georgia Cann gave up their careers to become proud co-owners of Finders Distillery, producing top-shelf Australian dry gin and vodka and adapting to manufacture hand sanitiser during the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic. Congratulations to these multi-talented individuals who set a great example for budding entrepreneurs.

SYDNEY WRITERS' FESTIVAL WELCOMES CERIDWEN DOVEY

Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore)—Today I would like to congratulate Wollstonecraft resident Ceridwen Dovey for the release of her fourth novel titled Life After Truth, which has received global praise. Ceridwen appeared at the Sydney Writers' Festival last month to talk about her book and celebrate the work of other authors. The book, which is about modern manners and murder at her alma mater Harvard University, is yet another addition to her large collection of published works that have received national and international recognition. The South-African born author draws inspiration from her childhood, as well as her studies in social anthropology and creative writing, to write her stories. The Sydney Writers' Festival plays a pivotal part in bringing the arts industry back to life after the COVID-19 pandemic brought it to a halt last year. It is important that the hard work of local authors such as Ceridwen can be recognised and showcased to the public in events like these. Well done to Ceridwen on her recent novel and for her involvement in the Sydney Writers' Festival.

PAM SAVAGE

Mr STUART AYRES (Penrith—Minister for Jobs, Investment, Tourism and Western Sydney)—I thank and commend Pam Savage of Leonay for her tireless efforts in raising vital funds for Tour de Cure. Pam was motivated to join Tour de Cure and support their fundraising efforts to find a cure for cancer following the sad loss of her husband in 2011. A mother and grandmother, she has now been involved with Tour de Cure for 11 years and has participated in an impressive 35 tours raising in excess of \$35,000. These funds mean more critical research can be undertaken in the overall mission to find a cure for this insidious disease. Thank you Pam and to all supporters of Tour de Cure.

MR SEAN O'BRIEN

Mr STUART AYRES (Penrith—Minister for Jobs, Investment, Tourism and Western Sydney)—I commend Emu Plains local Mr Sean O'Brien who, after a life-changing incident is making a real difference across our community. Following a stroke in 2013, Sean's life changed in many ways including severely affecting his ability communicate. He is unable to write and has difficulty speaking. Not allowing this to deter him, Sean joined two fellow survivors of stroke and began support group, The Aphasia Awareness Delegation [TAAD]. Aphasia is a language difficulty caused by damage to the brain that affects a person's ability to communicate. Sean and the TAAD team have visited Rotary Groups, rehabilitation conferences and various other community groups to raise awareness of aphasia and to let people know they are not alone. Sean was recently a well deserving finalist at the recent 2021 Stroke Awards in the category of Improving Life After Stroke Award.

MOOREBANK CRICKET CLUB

Ms MELANIE GIBBONS (Holsworthy)—Today I would like to acknowledge Moorebank Cricket Club for conducting and taking part in the Junior Blaster Program, which will run for 8 weeks. The program is designed by Woolworths Cricket Blast, and Junior Blasters encourages children aged 5 – 7 years to build their cricketing skills, whilst having fun and being active with friends. Moorebank Cricket Club is hosting the program on Monday nights at Hammondville Reserve, and encourages children from the local community who may be interested in cricket to give it a go. It's designed for small groups so that everyone can get a fair go and it's perfect for children to master the basics and learn some new skills! Once again I'd like to commend Moorebank Cricket Club for hosting the Junior Blasters program which will encourage children and families from the local community to try something new and be active! Thank you.

WATTLE GROVE SOCIAL CLUB

Ms MELANIE GIBBONS (Holsworthy)—I would like to acknowledge Wattle Grove Social Club – a local club that encourages residents to get together once a week and engage in activities. I recently attended one of the group's meetings where I had the opportunity to talk about issues in our local area and answer any questions that were asked. The group works hard to welcome anyone, of any age, to become part of the group and attend their meetings and activities. It's a great way to get involved in our community and be social with other residents. From the meeting, we were able to sort out some concerns around local footpaths in Wattle Grove, which have now been resurfaced by Liverpool City Council. I would like to thank Bethannie from Junction Works and Diana and Warren for organising and inviting me to the meeting. I'd also like to thank all the members for talking with me and I hope to be invited to another meeting soon! Thank you.

SECC SENIORS FESTIVAL

Mr RON HOENIG (Heffron)—I want to congratulate South Eastern Community Connect, a local community services NGO based in Eastlakes and Mascot, for their excellent Seniors Week Luncheon held at the Coronation Hall on the 22nd of April. One hundred local seniors were treated to lunch and live entertainment to recognise "Seniors Festival" in NSW. It was a carnival atmosphere at the Coronation Hall and a return to normality after so many Seniors Week events were cancelled in 2020 because of the pandemic. It was so wonderful to move about a packed house, spending quality time with our seniors, who have been denied these opportunities over the past year. Senior Australians have sacrificed so much over their lives to give us the freedom and standard of living that we enjoy. It's why Seniors Week is such an important time to recognise their contribution. I want to thank SECC for their hard work across so many different programs in our community.

BAYSIDE SENIORS FESTIVAL

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER (Rockdale)—The Bayside Seniors Festival held last month was a perfect opportunity to honour and celebrate the contribution older people have made and continue to make in our community. After the challenges and isolation of 2020, this event was especially important to encourage seniors to get moving, keep their brain active, and stay connected. Bayside Seniors Festival provided opportunities for seniors to make new friends, or get together with old ones, and was a fantastic social outlet to begin reconnecting with community. There were many free and fun activities available throughout the month of April, from educational seminars on internet and the NBN, cyber safety, and online university courses, to active classes at the aquatic centre or practicing yoga and meditation, and community groups like Rockdale Garden Club, Men's Shed and the Sing Your Heart Out Choir. Thank you to Bayside Council for organising such a great event.

FIX-IT-SISTERS

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER (Rockdale)—The Fix-It-Sisters are a wonderful local organisation in my electorate, providing the space and opportunity for women of all ages in our community to come together and develop and use skills in a workshop environment. This non-for-profit is run by volunteers who are dedicated to promoting independence and empowering women. I acknowledge Fix-It-Sisters co-founders Lynn Kristensen and Linda Prince. Their commitment and work, alongside the many volunteers who support them in growing this organisation, keep local women engaged and involved. They provide an avenue to give back to the community through projects that help improve our area like bird boxes and natural beehives for Bayside Council, and burrows for penguins and white-faced storm petrels for the National Parks and Wildlife Services. I am confident in their ability to continue to grow their organisation and reach more women in our community now they have a fantastic new facility in Kyeemagh. I can't thank this wonderful group of women for all they do for the Rockdale community.

ST GEORGE HOSPITAL VISIT

Mr MARK COURE (Oatley)—I thank Adam Hall from the Health Services Union and Tom Karagiannis from NSW Health Pathology who toured me around the pathology space at St George Hospital in 2020. Given the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the topical nature of an appropriate vaccine, it was both interesting and insightful to tour the premises. The tour allowed me to see the facilities first-hand and see how COVID-19 is tested, studied and analysed. I was also taught how the rapid test kits work and their role in containing the virus. This tour also took place shortly after International Pathology Day so I also had the opportunity to talk to staff at the hospital about their needs and concerns. It was great to discuss what Stage 3 of the St George Hospital upgrade will mean for them and what it will mean for our hospital and our community more broadly. This was a fantastic experience and I thank Adam and Tom for their time and for sharing their knowledge with me.

KOGARAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Mr MARK COURE (Oatley)—I acknowledge the Kogarah Historical Society who in 2020, celebrated their 50th Anniversary. This is an outstanding achievement and a very impressive milestone. The society was formed following the Bicentennial of Captain Cook's arrival at Botany Bay and it was created by Former Kogarah Mayor, Fred Kavanagh, and the Kogarah Bay Progress Association. For their 50th Anniversary, former President, Beverley Earnshaw OAM, prepared a book titled "The History of Kogarah Historical Society 50th Anniversary" designed to share the rich cultural history of the region. The organisation is made up of so many wonderful individuals who all have a rich passion for the area. I would like to make a special mention of Gill Whan and Cath Sullivan who have given so much to the Society and our community over a number of years. The team has also opened an exhibition at the Carss Cottage Museum called "Kogarah's Amazing Achievers" which features iconic pieces including the fully restored 1880's railway clock from Kogarah Railway Station. I wish everyone from the Kogarah Historical Society all the best for the year ahead.

LIONS CLUB OF GWANDALAN LIONESS INC

Ms YASMIN CATLEY (Swansea)—I acknowledge the fantastic work of the Lions Club of Gwandalan Lioness Inc for their fantastic work in the community. The Club holds an annual art and craft expo to raise fund to support the Lions Children's Cancer Research Foundation. Unfortunately the event was unable to proceed last year, so it was great to see it return in 2021. The expo shows off artwork provided by local school students and local artists. I have had the privilege to open the expo over many years and it is always a well-attended community event, along with one I always look forward to. I would like to thank the Lions Club of Gwandalan for all the great work they do within our community, along with all those community members who attended the expo and supported the Lion's Children Cancer research Foundation.

ELOUERA SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla—Attorney General, and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence)—I congratulate Elouera Surf Life Saving Club on its success at the 2021 Australian Surf Life Saving Championships, which saw members from 315 surf clubs compete in almost 500 beach and ocean events at the Sunshine Coast. Elouera picked up four gold medals, seven silver and three bronze, resulting in an overall eleventh placing. I congratulate all the competitors from Elouera Surf Life Saving Club who took part in the competition and acknowledge the club's 2021 Australian Champions – Peter Thoroughgood (U17 Male Beach Flags); Rachel Tougher, Brigitte Salib, Sabina Rogers and Jessica Wardrobe (U19 Female Beach Relay); Grant Wilkinson, David Frew, Nathan Ridge, Patrick Thompson and Luke McIntyre (Reserve Grade Male Surf Boat); and Michael Kember (30-34 yrs. Male Beach Sprint).

FAIR TREATMENT CAMPAIGN

Mr ALEX GREENWICH (Sydney)—On behalf of the Sydney electorate, I wish to congratulate the Uniting Church NSW/ACT on their Fair Treatment campaign and discussion paper 'Possession and Use of Drug, Options for Changing the Law'. In 2016, the Uniting Church Synod resolved to support the decriminalisation of personal possession of small amounts of prohibited drugs and greater investment in drug and alcohol treatment, prompting the creation of the Fair Treatment campaign. I proudly hosted the Parliamentary Launch of event on 24 March in Parliament's Jubilee room and was very pleased with the strong representation from Members of Parliament, with more than 25 members attending and engaging. Rev. Hansford, the Uniting Church NSW/ACT moderator of, was one of a group of dynamic speakers from a variety of fields including legal, health, academics and people with lived experience who contributed to the success of the event. The Fair Treatment campaign marks another step in an important conversation about drug law reform and I hope to see continued engagement about a more compassionate, health based approach to drug law in NSW. I am proud to support and celebrate this important campaign and encourage community conversations for reform.

WISH

Mr ALEX GREENWICH (Sydney)—On behalf of the Sydney electorate, I wish to recognise the WISH integrated services hub, which has been providing a range of direct help for people who are homeless or at risk. With a range of federal and state agencies as well as non-government organisations, WISH makes it easy for people to get identification documents or Medicare cards, sort out pensions and benefit and apply for social housing or find out about an existing application. You can also get medical assessments or referral for dental help, get legal advice and information, and even get a City of Sydney library or swimming pool membership. If specific help is not there, you will be able to find out where to go to get started. WISH began in Woolloomooloo as an outreach to people sleeping rough to make a practical difference in their lives. After a hiatus during pandemic restrictions it is great that WISH is again meeting monthly and is now based at The Wayside Chapel. I congratulate the City of Sydney for taking this coordinating initiative and all those agencies and organisations who collaborate to make it easier for people in need to get help.

BELFIELD METHODIST / UNITING CHURCH 100TH ANNIVERSARY

Ms JODI McKAY (Strathfield)—I bring to the attention of the House the centennial milestone of the Belfield Uniting Church. Work on the original Belfield Methodist Church commenced in August 1920, and was officially opened on Saturday 4 June 1921. Two 'Victory Trees' were planted to mark the opening, however only one survives near Linda St. A kindergarten section opened in the Church on 24 January 1924, a new Church building opened on 4 February 1968, and the Church Union occurred on 22 June 1977 when they became the Belfield Uniting Church. The 'Church at the Corner', as it is commonly known, is hosted by the Belfield Uniting Faith Community, which is part of the Sydney Presbytery of the Uniting Church in Australia. The Living Hope for The Nations International Christian Church, Ye-Eun Uniting Church Congregation, City Cook Islands Seventh Day Adventist Church, and Faith Alive Dream Centre also meet at the church. I acknowledge George Hooper, Convenor, and the Centenary Organising Committee for their work in arranging the centenary service, and welcome new Pastor Sunil Baek and his wife Jiwon to the Church. Happy 100th anniversary.

COMMUNITY RECOGNITION STATEMENT – HILLS-KELLYVILLE COMMUNITY GARDEN

Mr RAY WILLIAMS (Castle Hill)—I would like to take this opportunity to recognise the Rotary Club of Hills-Kellyville, who have recently finished construction of their new community garden. Community gardens are not only a great way to give residents access to fresh herbs, fruit and vegetables, but they also foster a sense of community, spawn a sense of wellbeing and give those in increasingly urban environments, especially those living in units, the chance to spend some time in nature. The Hills-Kellyville Rotary Club has always had a keen interest in local gardens, running the garden competition as a part of the Orange Blossom Festival each year, recognising those in the community with the greenest of thumbs. As a part of this competition, the club judges schools and retirement villages, so their place within the community is well known. I would like to thank all those involved in the club and the garden, including President John Van Der Burg, Secretary Wilf Van Emmerik, Membership Director John Collignon and Community Garden Chairman Keith Stapley.

COMMUNITY RECOGNITION STATEMENT – WILLIAM CLARKE COLLEGE

Mr RAY WILLIAMS (Castle Hill)—I recently had the pleasure to speak to the year 6 students at William Clarke College, within my electorate of Castle Hill. The students are currently learning about Government in Australia, and I was happy to give them a firsthand account of the intricacies of the NSW Parliamentary System, as well as what the day-to-day life of an MP looks like. I was impressed with the quality of the questions asked by the students, with questions about why I became an MP, the role of young people in Australian democracy and the function of social media in today's politics, among many others. These talks are also an opportunity for me to get feedback on how the NSW Government's policies are affecting young people, and I was particularly delighted to hear the North-West Rail Link Metro was being well-utilised by the students. I'd like to thank year 6 teacher Helena Smith for her work in organising the talk, and I wish the students the best with their studies.

PRINCE PHILIP

Mr VICTOR DOMINELLO (Ryde—Minister for Customer Service)—I welcome the opportunity to offer my sincerest condolences to the family of the late Duke of Edinburgh. While Great Britain and the Commonwealth has lost a statesman, a family has lost a husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather. Whether it was his wartime service with the Royal Navy during the Second World War; his support for countless philanthropic causes, his incredible more than seven-decade marriage to the Queen; or his sense of humour, the Prince endeared himself to Australians. I've had the privilege of serving in various portfolios in this Government, including as Minister for Veterans Affairs and Minister responsible for Volunteering. Being exposed to issues facing veterans and their families, and meeting the unsung heroes within our community, fostered in me a greater appreciation for our service men and women and volunteers. As Member for Ryde, I've seen the positive impact

the Duke of Edinburgh's Award has on young people. Generations of young people from local schools, including Marsden High School, Epping Boys High School and Marist College Eastwood, have achieved Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards – empowering them with important life skills. The Award will remain one of the Prince's enduring legacies. Vale Prince Philip.

TOONGABBIE CHRISTIAN COLLEGE 2021 SCHOOL LEADERS

Mr MARK TAYLOR (Seven Hills)—I recognise the outstanding community of Toongabbie Christian College for educating students from throughout the Seven Hills Electorate and beyond. I would like to acknowledge and congratulate the 2021 student leaders. Well done to the college captains Grace De Villa and Noah Vedamonickam, and vice captains Rachael Blair and Josiah Merchant. I also recognise the other prefects and elected school leaders for their service to the College. These pupils include Charlotte Barker, Thomas Brackenreg, Marcus Dry, Esthe Cass, Vernice Chang, Lesly Kim, Isaac Lee and Kai Wu. I also note the House leader representatives, including Aidan Bechara, Jacob Churchill, Levi Gallardo, Zephaniah Nakka, Esther Selevendran, Natania To'mah and Bailee Van Bentum. Toongabbie Christian College is a terrific school with a proud community. Again, I thank the student leaders for 2021 for their dedication and service in supporting their and our local area throughout year ahead.

THE HILLS SCHOOL 2021 SCHOOL LEADERS

Mr MARK TAYLOR (Seven Hills)—I recognise the terrific community at The Hills School for educating students with a diverse range of learning needs and intellectual disabilities. I would like to acknowledge and congratulate the 2021 student leaders for their service to the school community. Well done to the 2021 School Captains, Chelsea Morales-Gunning and Sergio Favaro. I also congratulate School Vice-Captains Ashvini Jayapragash and Connor Taylor. I would also like to take this time to thank the P&C Committee, including President John Scotting, Secretary Rebecca Mills and Treasurer Shaun Narayan. I acknowledge the work of Principal, Mark Gosbell for his leadership of the school community. The Hills School provides great opportunity for students in the local community who experience disabilities and language difficulties. Again, I congratulate the 2021 student leaders and thank the P&C Committee for their service to the school community. I wish The Hills School all the best for the rest of the 2021 academic year.

ST GERTRUDE'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect)—On Monday 11th May, I had the pleasure of attending St Gertrude's Catholic Primary School's Principal Medal Presentation. Medals were presented to deserving students and it was wonderful to see the students acknowledged for their hard work throughout the school year. Quite a number of students were awarded Principal Medals which was pleasing to see. During the presentation, I had the opportunity to present to the students a speech on leadership. The students were engaged and it was clear they were taking the advice on board. I am sure that St Gertrude's Primary School will produce a wonderful number of future leaders in many different fields. St Gertrude's Catholic Primary School is a wonderful school that works closely to the Parish. One of the school's greatest strengths is its diversity, with the staff and teachers working hard to ensure an inclusive environment for all. The school is committed to delivering the best possible education and encourages all students to strive for excellence. I am proud to represent St Gertrude's Catholic Primary School in the Electorate of Prospect. Thank you to the Principal, Linda Katsibras, teachers and staff for encouraging students to strive for the best.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF MOURNING

Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect)—On Wednesday 28th April 2021, the International Day of Mourning Event co-hosted by Blacktown City Council and the Australian Workers Union was held. The event commemorated workers who have sadly passed away or have been injured as a result of a workplace incident or occupational disease. The issue of workplace injuries and death is one of fundamental importance and one that needs to be looked at more thoroughly. Especially in my Electorate of Prospect, where we have many blue collar workers. Thank you to all workers who work manual intensive jobs, putting yourselves at risk to better our community. The Event included an unveiling of the 1907 Sunshine Harvester which was donated to Blacktown City Council in 2019 by Robert O'Neil and was restored by Quirindi men's Shed before being returned to Council in early April. I would like to thank Mayor Tony Bleasdale, Blacktown City Council, Daniel Walton, National Secretary, AWU, for their efforts in co-hosting this important event. I would also like to thank Kevin Poilly, Manager Events and Sister Cities, Blacktown City Council, for their hard work in ensuring the smooth running of the event.

HEROES WITHOUT CAPES

Mrs LESLIE WILLIAMS (Port Macquarie)—Today I acknowledge the 'Heroes Without Capes' fundraiser for the Donohoe family in my electorate who sadly lost most of their possessions during the

unprecedented March floods on the Mid North Coast. On Saturday 29 May the National Championship Pro-Wrestling team will host the charitable event to raise money for Shane and Amanda Donohoe and their five children who were inundated by flood waters at their Blackman's Point property. During the ordeal the Donohoe family were trapped for two days in their only upstairs bedroom, with sadly the majority of their contents unsalvageable and the devastating reality that some of their animals would not be found. Seizing the opportunity to help a family known for their kindness and compassion towards others, the Wrestling volunteers will tighten their belts and roll up their sleeves to shake the pockets of our citizens in a Pro-Wrestling extravaganza at the Port Macquarie Indoor Stadium. The clash of the titans features; Josh 'Kurtis James' Briggs, Peter 'Barry King' Flack, Shawn 'Chad Waugh' Briggs, Stacey 'Kristie Lea' Briggs, Tyran 'Tyler Savage' Binskin, Matthew 'Matthew Noah' Newman and Danyen 'Danny Rage' Saunders. I wish them all the best for this very worthwhile fundraiser.

ANGIE GALANTE & CLAUDIA GLYNTZOS

Mrs LESLIE WILLIAMS (Port Macquarie)—I congratulate Angie Galante and Claudia Glyntzos from the Harrington Public School P&C Association on the announcement of their retirement after many years of dedicated volunteer service. Described as irreplaceable members of the P&C, Angie and Claudia have recently decided to call it quits from what seems a generation of volunteering to improve student outcomes and learning resources to ensure each child feels supported and valued as they mature throughout their primary school years. Angie Galante is best described as a 'remarkable individual' who selflessly goes above and beyond to provide assistance where needed. Her attributes are hardworking, passionate, friendly, committed and approachable as Angie effortlessly supports the students where she can, helping out in the classroom, canteen and on the P&C. Claudia Glyntzos is known as a committed stalwart and warrior for education and a member of the P&C for many years. Claudia is recognised for her caring, kindness, compassionate and loyal attitude in everything she immerses her time into. Both women have made a lasting contribution to education and will be remembered in the hearts of each student and educator for years to come.

ST CATHERINE LABOURE GYMEA

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla—Attorney General, and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence)—St Catherine Labouré GyMEA Parish identifies itself as a welcoming community of believers inspired by the life and example of Jesus. Its mission is "to know Christ and to make him known; to be a community committed to discovering Christ present in each person through our ministry to each other, our service to the wider community, and in the joyful celebration of the Eucharist and other sacraments." Monsignor Brian Rayner OAM has been the Parish Priest since 2005, providing spiritual direction for hundreds of local Catholics. Some years ago Monsignor Rayner began an initiative to support vulnerable people in the Archdiocese of Suva in the Fiji Islands by donating items of clothing, furniture, wheelchairs, school supplies and various light goods. More than 250 containers have left GyMEA for Suva. The donated goods have supported different charities and generated income to pay for schools, two Boys Town homes and aged care homes. I acknowledge the efforts of Monsignor Rayner and the hardworking staff and volunteers at St Catherine Labouré and thank them for their generous charity.

VOTE FOR TYALGUM - NSW TOP TOURISM TOWN AWARDS 2021

Ms JANELLE SAFFIN (Lismore)—I urge all locals to vote for Tyalgum in the Business NSW 'A NSW Top Tourism Town' competition in the below 5000 population category. As member I have visited to catch up with locals and the wonderful small businesses in the town and can vouch that Tyalgum is truly a top town in NSW. In the backdrop of the special Wollumbin Mountain Tyalgum offers visitors and locals stunning scenery all year round. Tyalgum also is host to an eclectic and diverse range of small businesses that has something for everyone. You can enjoy a lovely high tea at Flutterbies which also is a gin bar with live music on Fridays, survey local produce at the Tyalgum General store, have a beer at the Tyalgum pub or stop in at one of the many small shops to find something truly unique. Tyalgum is also alive with events throughout the year with events like The Tyalgum Music Festival, celebrating 30 years in 2021, The annual Tour de Tweed road race and the monthly Tyalgum Village Markets. I encourage everyone to vote for Tyalgum in this competition and come visit this wonderful village.

RIVER TRACKS PROGRAM – SUPPORTING YOUNG PEOPLE IN MURWILLUMBAH

Ms JANELLE SAFFIN (Lismore)—I commend the RiverTracks program which is being established by Convenor Ahri Tallon in the Murwillumbah area within our Electorate of Lismore. Ahri, an impressive young man, and his team, who later this year plan to roll out a youth support program one or two days a week targeted at disengaged 13-16 year olds to keep them engaged in education and society. Through working with animals, getting outdoors and focussing on practical skills that can lead to employment, the program has great potential for meeting its aims and objectives. The program will partner with training providers and focus on collaborative relationship building with participants. RiverTracks will offer a lifeline to struggling young people by connecting

them to community, practical learning and life-changing opportunities that create hope and pathways for a better future. There is strong community support for RiverTracks and locals are seeing the benefits of getting local young people involved in this work particularly the partnerships created training providers. RiverTracks is a win-win program as the community benefits from the contribution young people are making and young people benefit from the experience they receive and potential employment opportunities down the track.

PROFESSOR DAVID LUBANS

Ms JODIE HARRISON (Charlestown)—I would like to acknowledge Professor David Lubans, a sports scientist and resident of the Charlestown Electorate, whose work has recently been published in the British Journal of Sports Medicine. As anyone who has helped a teenager through the HSC knows, the senior years of high school can have both student and parent pulling their hair out. Professor Lubans' work measuring the levels of the stress hormone cortisol in the hair of senior school students has proven that short, high-intensity exercise significantly reduces stress and improves memory, overall wellbeing and fitness in adolescents. The research indicates that changes to lifestyle actually reduces the amount of stress hormone being released in the body, and this was correlated with an improvement in memory and an ability to cope with internalising problems in a subsample of students. The study, called Burn 2 Learn, involved two to three ten-minute High-Intensity Interval Training sessions per week, led by a teacher trained in the program. Classes could choose from ten different styles of workout, with activities as wide-ranging as strength training, dance and martial arts. Study participants report that they have seen huge improvements in student wellbeing. Congratulations to Professor Lubans.

LOCAL COLOURING COMPETITION

Mr MATT KEAN (Hornsby—Minister for Energy and Environment)—I would like to acknowledge Kate Green and Maria Genford of Mt Colah who recently ran an Easter colouring in competition for the local community. This wasn't to promote a business or a group, just to build community spirit. The colouring competition entries were displayed along Maria's fence on the Pacific Highway Mt Colah for everyone to enjoy. Judged by local identity Mick Gallagher the winners were:

- 15-18 years - Alice Shapter
- 8-14 Years – Chloe Steptoe
- 4-7 Years - Amelia Vance
- 0-3 years – Lachlan O'Connor
- Adult division - Amie Vance

I would like to congratulate Kate and Maria for organising this competition and for making our Easter just a bit brighter.

BRENDA WILLIAMS

Mr MATT KEAN (Hornsby—Minister for Energy and Environment)—Today I would like to acknowledge an amazing volunteer from Berowra, Brenda Williams. When it comes to local netball there is no one who has given more time or dedication to a single sport. For more than 50 years Brenda has been giving her time to Ku-ring-gai Netball Association. She is life member, patron and a mentor for hundreds of umpires she has taught on the courts at Canoon Road. You can't get much better an advocate than Brenda. She loves netball and encourages many young players to join up or continue to participate in the sport. No task is too much or too hard and there isn't a Saturday you won't find her and her husband Kevin down at the courts. She has received the Anne Clark Service Award from Netball NSW which recognises significant service to the sport. She was also recently was awarded a spot in the KNA Hall of Fame, a well-deserved honour. Thank you Brenda you are one-of-a-kind! Thank you for your passion, commitment, hard work and infectious love of netball.

CONNIE POTTS - 2021 MOREE SENIOR CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

Mr ADAM MARSHALL (Northern Tablelands—Minister for Agriculture and Western New South Wales)—I recognise Connie Potts of Moree as the 2021 Senior Citizen of the Year for her unfailing contribution to the many services that rely on volunteers such as Meals on Wheels and Community Transport. Connie provides assistance to low income earners with their tax returns as well as helping learner drivers obtain their required hours. For many years Connie has been the secretary of Probus and the Country Women's Association. Her church commitment includes conducting baptisms and general assistance with the service. The book she wrote celebrating All Saints Anglican Church 125 year anniversary is an example of her interest in history and her active membership in the Moree and District Historical Society. Connie's life raising a family, her career, and her years of community contribution serves as an example of principled citizenship to be valued. I congratulate Connie on

being named the 2021 Moree Senior Citizen of Year for an honour well-deserved. I commend Connie for her life of service.

NATIONAL INDIGENOUS BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

Mr PHILIP DONATO (Orange)—the I wish to recognise Azariah Ah See, Justice Sharpe and Brayden Nean of Orange. Azariah, Justice and Brayden have each been selected in the NSW teams to compete at the National Indigenous Basketball Tournament, hosted at the Gold Coast in Queensland. Being selected to compete in this national event is recognition of their sporting talent and an opportunity for each of these young athletes to gain experience at high level representative level which will no doubt contribute to their development as athletes. Ten male and ten female basketball players will be selected from this national event to later travel to the United States of America for further opportunities. I wish to also recognise Jacob Young and Tanya Sharpe, who have been selected as managers for this national event. I congratulate each of them on their representative selection and wish them all the best in all their future sporting and life endeavours.

DR ROYDEN LAKE AND TARA LAKE-ULTRAMAC B-10

Mr ADAM MARSHALL (Northern Tablelands—Minister for Agriculture and Western New South Wales)—I recognise Physicist Dr Royden Lake and his daughter Tara for the development of a unique portable device to measure the fat depth of beef cattle, the UltrAmac B-10. Having begun the concept 30 years ago, the Armidale pair have modernised parts in keeping with updated technology while ensuring all revised parts will fit the older devices. The Lakes have put the same fat analysis from a big real time ultrasound machine into an electronic chip and placed that into a hand held device. One of its astounding features is the ability to display only the valid measurements it believes are correct. This is an important innovation which would determine a beast's feed throughout its life, correcting undesirable fat depth. I congratulate Dr Lake and Tara on the development of the UltrAmac B-10. I commend Dr Lake and Tara on revitalising this important device with all its potential for the cattle industry.

EDO KAHN & A SOUND LIFE

Ms TAMARA SMITH (Ballina)—I recognise the important contribution made by Edo Kahn and "A Sound Life", the organization he co-founded. Edo is a musician, social entrepreneur and yogi with a passion for transforming lives, empowering individuals and uniting communities. On Mother's Day this year, Edo led a "Chant for Mother India" event at the Mullumbimby Civic Hall and raised more than \$6000 to assist vulnerable communities in India that have been utterly devastated by the Covid-19 pandemic. A Sound Life is also holding an auction of valuable items from India and South Asia that have been donated to further help aid efforts. During this desperate humanitarian crisis, I applaud all of those people on the ground in the Ballina electorate and elsewhere like Edo who are doing what they can to assist some of the most vulnerable people in the world. Started in 2014 by Edo and the late Jo Mall Kahn, "A Sound Life" has brought renewed wellbeing, personal empowerment and joy to thousands of people facing hardships through interactive, therapeutic yoga and meditation programs. Since then 350 volunteers have delivered more than 2500 free sessions across 50 facilities in Sydney, Illawarra and the Northern Rivers.

ELIZABETH HANNS

Ms TAMARA SMITH (Ballina)—Today I recognise the dedication of Elizabeth Hanns to the Veteran community and to marking the memory of her son, the late Lance Corporal Shannon McAliney who joined the army in 1988 after attending Ballina High School. Elizabeth was a guest speaker at the April meeting of the Lennox head VIEW Club commemoration of ANZAC Day this year where she reflected on the service of young men and women like Shannon who died whilst serving on a peace keeping mission in Somalia. Shannon was on Operation Solace, a peacekeeping deployment mission where he was distributing humanitarian aid when he died in an accident. He served in the 1st Battalion, the Royal Australian Regiment, under the Governor-General of Australia, His Excellency General David Hurley who was in charge of the Somalian operation. Lance Corporal McAliney was awarded the prestigious award of Champion Soldier of Delta Company. Elizabeth donated Shannon's medals to the peacekeeping section of the Australian War Memorial in Canberra. A replica of the medals was also donated to the Ballina RSL Sub-Branch Museum.

BALMAIN ROZELLE RSL SUB-BRANCH

Mr JAMIE PARKER (Balmain)—Today I bring to the attention of the House the Balmain Rozelle RSL sub-branch for their ongoing support for returned service people and for hosting the ANZAC Dawn service. I was delighted to attend the 2021 ANZAC Day Dawn Service hosted by the Balmain Rozelle RSL sub-branch in Balmain. This year also marked the Centenary of the Royal Australian Air Force. I'm proud to acknowledge the President of the Balmain Rozelle sub-branch John Minehan. The organising committee: Brig (Retd) Graeme Finney OAM, James Park, Reverend Dominic Steele, Natalie Nardo and Michael Daly. And for their contributions

to the event, Deborah Lennis for the Welcome to Country, Flight Lieutenant, the Reverend Stephen Gibbins for the Dawn Service Address, Chaplains Rev Steele and Rev Mark Leach. For their musical contributions, Singer Dallas Watts, Guitarist Solomon Steele and Bugler Dennis Williams. I would also like to thank Catafalque Party, the cadets from Trinity Grammar, the Flag Party, 1st Balmain Scouts: Axel Tkatchew, Sofia Gardner and staff at the Inner West Council. On behalf of the Balmain Electorate, thank you.

COMO PUBLIC SCHOOL

Ms ELENi PETINOS (Miranda)—I congratulate the newly elected leadership team of Como Public School on their appointment. Established in 1921, Como Public School is celebrating its 100 year anniversary this year and shares a rich history of friendship and mischievous stories on the Woronora River. The school is currently home to 105 students who are keen green thumbs. In 1928, Principal Amos Bridge established Como Public School's flourishing gardens and was awarded the Garden Shield for the best school garden in the Shire. Today, the students tend to their veggie gardens fuelled by "worm tea" from their four worm farms and five compost bins alongside some happy hens. The 2021 leadership team are a group of wonderful students who embody the values of Como Public School. I congratulate School Captain Lacey Winnett and Vice-Captain Jet Fuz on their successful appointment. These students should be incredibly proud of this achievement, and I look forward to seeing them lead their peers through this exciting year filled with new opportunities including the centenary celebrations in October. I extend my best wishes to the student leaders of Como Public School and look forward to seeing them excel.

RAFAELA KOPELLOS

Ms ELENi PETINOS (Miranda)—I acknowledge up and coming champion swimmer Rafaela Kopellos of Sylvania, who recently took part in the National Age Swimming Championships. Following the Championships, Rafaela is now the second fastest 13 year old in Australia, holding the silver medal in the 200 metre butterfly. She also won bronze in the 1.5 kilometre freestyle and bronze in the 400-metre individual medley events. Two weeks prior, Miss Kopellos won the National Silver medal in the Open Water 5 kilometre race on the Sunshine Coast. Most exceptionally, Miss Kopellos has qualified for the Olympic Trials in Adelaide in June for the 200 metre butterfly and will be one of the youngest competitors. Rafaela is an outstanding demonstration of the exceptional talent in the Miranda Electorate. I commend her for the immense training and effort she has dedicated to her sport. I also acknowledge her wonderful parents Lynne and Theodoros for their ongoing support of their daughter as she pursues her swimming dream. I commend Rafaela on these outstanding achievements and wish her well in the Olympic Trials later this year.

BARBARA ANDERSON

Mr NATHANIEL SMITH (Wollondilly)—I am very grateful to all the Liberal Party members in my electorate who handout at polling stations, fundraise, and provide advice on various community issues. Participation in political parties is something that should be encouraged as it enhances our democracy. It also assists me in ensuring I am a better-informed representative for my community. Party office-bearers at a branch level take on added responsibilities. The role of Treasurer is one of trust and involves some work. At times, it can be challenging to find suitable people who are prepared to take on these responsibilities. One such member, Barbara Anderson, has been involved with the Liberal Party since her twenties, and for the last 15 years served as Bowral Branch Treasurer. During that time, she has seen electoral law compliance increase and reporting transition to an online platform. She has met these challenges with dedication and professionalism. Although Mrs Anderson has enjoyed her time performing her role, last month she decided to stand down. I thank Barbara for her service. Her successor has huge boots to fill. Of course, Barbara's involvement with the Party will not end and I look forward to catching up with her at future branch meetings.

ELIZABETH D'ANASTASI

Mr NATHANIEL SMITH (Wollondilly)—Elizabeth D'Anastasi is challenging stereotypes by making her mark in a male dominated industry by pursuing a career to become a butcher. Elizabeth, a third-year apprentice at Bowral's Oxley Butchery in my electorate of Wollondilly, is currently completing a Certificate III in Meat Processing (Retail Butcher) at Wollongong TAFE. I understand that Ms D'Anastasi loves her job, and dreams of someday managing or owning her own butcher shop. I strongly encourage her in her pursuit of achieving these career ambitions and wish her well with the rest of her training.

MOLONG PORTRAIT GALLERY

Mr PHILIP DONATO (Orange)—I wish to recognise the recent successful gathering of the Friends of the Molong and District Servicemen and Servicewomen's Portrait Gallery. More than fifty Friends gathered at the Molong RSL Club on March 28th 2021. The occasion was made special with the attendance at the event by Sydney-based members of the Lovell family, who are the granddaughters of Richard Starr, who served with the

Light Horse in the Great War. Year 11 students from the Molong Central School, Charles Dover, Hayden Bliss and William Thorne addressed the gathering about their school's Year 7 to 12 History studies. Becky Ingham Broomfield spoke about her mother, artists and author Anne Marie, and her background of living in New Zealand and Rabaul before World War 2, and of her father's heritage and his service in the Great War, and later becoming a doctor. I wish to acknowledge and congratulate the Molong and District Servicemen and Servicewomen's Portrait Gallery for their work in acknowledging and memorialising the service of our armed forces, which is delivered in a unique collection of artworks. Congratulations.

[The Deputy Speaker left the chair pursuant to resolution at 18:35. The House resumed at 19:11.]

Committees

COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Membership

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I report receipt of a message from the Legislative Council regarding the membership of the committee. Mr Sam Faraway has been discharged from the committee and Mr Peter Poulos has been appointed as a member.

Bills

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AMENDMENT BILL 2021

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I report receipt of a message from the Legislative Council returning the bill with amendments.

Consideration in Detail

Consideration of the Legislative Council's amendments.

Schedule of amendments referred to in message of 13 May 2021

No. 1 IND No. 1 [c2021-014F]

Page 2, clause 2(2)(e), line 13. Omit all words on that line.

No. 2 OPP No. 2 [c2021-013A]

Page 3, Schedule 1.1. Insert after line 2—

[1A] Section 218CC

Insert after section 218CB—

218CC Proposals for de-amalgamations

- (1) The new council may, within 10 years of the constitution of the new area, submit a written business case to the Minister setting out—
 - (a) a proposal for the de-amalgamation of the new area, whether by reconstituting the former areas or constituting different areas, and
 - (b) the reasons in support of the proposal.
- (2) The Minister must, within 28 days after the business case is submitted, refer the de-amalgamation proposal to the Boundaries Commission with a direction that it conduct an inquiry and report on the proposal.
- (3) Without limiting subsection (2) or section 263, the Boundaries Commission may in its report recommend that—
 - (a) the de-amalgamation proposal be supported, or
 - (b) the de-amalgamation proposal be rejected, or
 - (c) a different de-amalgamation proposal be supported.
- (4) The Minister must ensure that the report of the Boundaries Commission is publicly released within 48 hours after it is provided to the Minister.
- (5) The Minister must, within 28 days after the report is provided to the Minister, provide a written response to the new council setting out—
 - (a) whether or not the Minister supports the de-amalgamation proposal or a different de-amalgamation proposal recommended by the Boundaries Commission, and
 - (b) the reasons for the Minister's decision, and

- (c) if the Minister supports the de-amalgamation proposal or the different de-amalgamation proposal—the anticipated time frame for giving effect to the proposal.
- (6) The Minister is to ensure that the cost of any de-amalgamation of the new area resulting from a business case submitted under this section is fully funded, whether by using grants under section 620 or otherwise.
- (7) This section extends to new areas constituted before the commencement of this section.
- (8) In this section—

new area means the area constituted by the amalgamation of areas (**former areas**) by the relevant proclamation.

new council means the council of a new area constituted by section 219.

relevant proclamation means the proclamation made pursuant to Chapter 9, Part 1 that amalgamates former areas into the new area and constitutes the new council.

No. 3 **GRN No. 2 [c2021-012C]**

Page 4, Schedule 1.1. Insert after line 32—

[3A] Section 505 Application of Part

Insert after section 505(a)(vi)—

- (vii) fire and emergency service levies payable under the *Fire and Emergency Services Levy Act 2017*, and

No. 4 **GRN No. 2 [c2021-035A]**

Page 8, Schedule 1.1[19], lines 16 and 17. Omit ", but only if the owner of the land is not receiving regular State financial assistance in relation to the agreement". Insert instead "unless it is a kind of conservation agreement excluded by the regulations".

No. 5 **GRN No. 3 [c2021-035A]**

Page 10, Schedule 1.1[24], proposed section 556(3), lines 2–4. Omit ", but only if the owner of the land is not receiving regular State financial assistance in relation to the agreement". Insert instead "unless it is a kind of conservation agreement excluded by the regulations".

No. 6 **OPP No. 5 [c2021-013A]**

Page 11, Schedule 1.1[30], lines 19 and 20. Omit all words on those lines.

No. 7 **OPP No. 6 [c2021-013A]**

Page 12, Schedule 1.1[31], proposed clause 127(2)(b), line 11. Omit "4 years". Insert instead "8 years".

No. 8 **OPP No. 7 [c2021-013A]**

Page 13, Schedule 1.1[31], proposed clause 129(5)(a), line 12. Omit "4 years". Insert instead "8 years".

No. 9 **OPP No. 8 [c2021-013A]**

Page 14, Schedule 1.1[31], proposed clause 133, lines 5–10. Omit all words on those lines.

No. 10 **OPP No. 9 [c2021-013A]**

Page 14, Schedule 1.1[31], proposed Part 41. Insert after line 10—

Division 5 Statutory review

134 Minister to review amendments

- (1) This Minister is to review the amendments made by the amending Act to determine whether—
 - (a) the policy objectives of the amendments remain valid, and
 - (b) the terms of the provisions inserted, substituted or amended by the amending Act remain appropriate for securing those objectives.
- (2) The review is to be undertaken as soon as possible after the end of the period of 2 years following the commencement of this clause.
- (3) A report on the outcome of the review is to be tabled in each House of Parliament as soon as practicable after the review is completed.

No. 11 **GRN No. 4 [c2021-035A]**

Page 14, Schedule 1.1[32], lines 15 and 16. Omit "other than a conservation agreement of a kind excluded by the regulations".

No. 12 **IND No. 6 [c2021-014F]**

Page 14, Schedule 1.1[33], lines 19–24. Omit all words on those lines.

No. 13 **GRN No. 6 [c2021-012C]**

Page 1. Long title. Insert "and make other amendments" after "Tribunal".

No. 14 **OPP No. 12 [c2021-013A]**

Page 1. Long title. Insert "and about council area amalgamations" after "certain terms of office".

Mrs SHELLEY HANCOCK (South Coast—Minister for Local Government) (19:11): I move:

That the Legislative Council amendments be agreed to.

Mr GREG WARREN (Campbelltown) (19:11): I move:

That the motion be amended by adding the following Opposition amendment on sheet c2021-013A:

No. 3 **Intergovernmental projects**

Pages 3 and 4, Schedule 1.1[3], line 8 on page 3 to line 32 on page 4. Omit all words on those lines.

I acknowledge all stakeholders and everyone involved during this long process, who I know have worked very hard. However, there are certain elements of the bill that colleagues on this side of the House simply cannot accept in relation to the removal of the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal from the grant process. As a result, I move this amendment.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is that Opposition amendment No. 3 on sheet c2021-013A be agreed to.

The House divided.

Ayes32
Noes41
Majority.....9

AYES

Aitchison, J
Atalla, E
Bali, S
Barr, C
Car, P
Catley, Y
Chanthivong, A
Cotsis, S
Daley, M
Doyle, T
Finn, J

Harris, D
Harrison, J
Haylen, J
Hoenig, R
Kamper, S
Lalich, N
Lynch, P
McDermott, H
Mehan, D (teller)
Mihailuk, T
Minns, C

O'Neill, M
Park, R
Saffin, J
Scully, P
Tesch, L
Voltz, L
Warren, G
Washington, K
Watson, A (teller)
Zangari, G

NOES

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

Griffin, J
Gulaptis, C
Hancock, S
Hazzard, B
Henskens, A
Kean, M
Lee, G
Lindsay, W
Marshall, A
Pavey, M
Petinos, E
Preston, R
Provest, G
Roberts, A

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

PAIRS

Crakanthorp, T
Dib, J

Perrottet, D
O'Dea, J

PAIRS

Hornery, S
McKay, J

Barilaro, J
Berejiklian, G

Amendment negatived.

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

Motion agreed to.

PAYROLL TAX AMENDMENT (JOBS PLUS) BILL 2021

Consideration in Detail

Consideration of the Legislative Council's amendments.

Schedule of amendments referred to in message of 13 May 2021

No. 1 GRN No. 3 [c2021-036B]

Page 4, Schedule 1[2], proposed section 66F(9). Insert after line 12—

- (aa) the relevant Minister cannot delegate a function under subsection (1)(a) or (4) to any person other than the Chief Executive Officer of Investment NSW.

No. 2 GRN No. 4 [c2021-036B]

Page 4, Schedule 1[2], proposed section 66F(11), line 22. Insert ", whether created in that financial year or an earlier financial year" after "employers".

No. 3 GRN No. 5 [c2021-036B]

Page 4, Schedule 1[2], proposed section 66F(11), line 24. Insert ", whether in relation to that financial year or an earlier financial year" after "section".

Mr ALISTER HENSKENS (Ku-ring-gai) (19:24): On behalf of Mr Dominic Perrottet: I move:

That the Legislative Council amendments be agreed to.

The Government supports all the amendments passed in the Legislative Council and the bill as it is now before the House. I acknowledge the contributions of members in this place earlier in the week, as well as the contributions of members in the other place: the shadow Treasurer, the Hon. Walt Secord; the finance Minister, the Hon. Damien Tudehope; and Ms Abigail Boyd. I also note the constructive engagement the Hon. Walt Secord and Ms Abigail Boyd have had with the Treasurer's office on the bill and on the various amendments.

The amendment to proposed section 66F (9), which limits the delegation of ministerial powers to enter into a Jobs Plus agreement to only the Chief Executive Officer of Investment NSW, and the amendments to proposed section 66F (11), which adjust the basis for annual reporting for the Jobs Plus Program to report the accumulated total of new jobs created under the program and the amount of payroll tax exemption are agreed to. In the case of the latter two amendments, they represent a slight expansion of the reporting requirements that were proposed by the Opposition in this House and were supported by the Government. In all cases these amendments are reasonable. They are consistent with the intent and existing governance of the scheme. I commend the bill to the House.

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

Motion agreed to.

**The House adjourned, pursuant to resolution, at 19:28 until
Tuesday 8 June 2021 at 12:00.**