



New South Wales

Legislative Assembly

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES (HANSARD)

**Fifty-Seventh Parliament
First Session**

Tuesday, 8 June 2021

Authorised by the Parliament of New South Wales

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 8 June 2021

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

The Speaker read the prayer and acknowledgement of country.

Committees

COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Membership

The SPEAKER: I report receipt of a message from the Legislative Council discharging Mr Mason-Cox from the committee and appointing Mr Faraway as a member of the committee in his place.

Bills

MANDATORY DISEASE TESTING BILL 2020

Returned

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

Documents

OMBUDSMAN

Reports

The SPEAKER: In accordance with section 31AA of the Ombudsman Act 1974, I announce receipt of the special report of the NSW Ombudsman entitled *Strip Searches Conducted After an Incident at Frank Baxter Youth Justice Centre*, dated 8 June 2021, received on 8 June 2021. I order that the report be printed.

Business of the House

CHAMBER SEATING ARRANGEMENTS

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN: I move:

That, unless otherwise ordered, this House make provision for all 93 members to sit on the floor of the House and in the Speaker's Gallery in designated positions as part of an expanded Chamber.

Motion agreed to.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING AND SESSIONAL ORDERS: ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN: I move:

That standing and sessional orders be suspended for the sitting weeks commencing Tuesday 8 June 2021 and Tuesday 22 June 2021 to amend the routine of business on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays so that community recognition statements occur before private members' statements, and the House adjourns without motion moved at the conclusion of private members' statements.

Motion agreed to.

Bills

MANDATORY DISEASE TESTING BILL 2020

Consideration in Detail

Consideration of the Legislative Council's amendments.

Schedule of amendments referred to in message of 7 June 2021

No. 1 **GOVT No. 1 [c2021-025C]**

Page 2, proposed section 2(1), lines 6 and 7. Omit ", except as provided by subsection (2)".

No. 2 **GOVT No. 2 [c2021-025C]**

Page 2, proposed section 2(2), lines 8 and 9. Omit all words on those lines.

No. 3 **PHON No. 1 [c2021-027C]**

Page 3. Insert after line 7—

6A Use of blood samples by NSW Police Force

To avoid doubt, blood taken from a third party under a mandatory testing order must not be used by a member of the NSW Police Force for a purpose that is not authorised under this Act.

No. 4 **PHON No. 2 [c2021-027C]**

Page 7, proposed section 12(1). Insert after line 8—

(d) the Ombudsman.

No. 5 **PHON No. 3 [c2021-027C]**

Page 7, proposed section 12(3), lines 11–13. Omit all words on those lines.

No. 6 **PHON No. 4 [c2021-027C]**

Page 11, proposed section 21. Insert after line 43—

(2) The pathology laboratory at which the testing of a third party's blood under a mandatory testing order was carried out may destroy the sample as soon as the sample is no longer required for the purposes of this Act.

No. 7 **PHON No. 5 [c2021-027C]**

Page 13, proposed section 25(1). Insert after line 20—

(e) the Ombudsman.

No. 8 **PHON No. 6 [c2021-027C]**

Page 13, proposed section 25(2), lines 21–23. Omit all words on those lines.

No. 9 **PHON No. 7 [c2021-027C]**

Page 15, proposed section 30(1). Insert after line 8—

(c) a blood sample obtained from a third party under a mandatory testing order,
(d) information derived from a blood sample obtained from a third party under a mandatory testing order.

No. 10 **PHON No. 8 [c2021-027C]**

Page 15, proposed section 30. Insert after line 10—

(2A) Evidence referred to in subsection (1) may not be used as a ground on which a search warrant may be issued under an Act or law.

No. 11 **PHON No. 9 [c2021-027C]**

Page 16, proposed section 32. Insert after line 22—

(5) Despite section 2, this Act does not have effect until guidelines are issued by the Chief Health Officer and made publicly available.

Mr DAVID ELLIOTT (Baulkham Hills—Minister for Police and Emergency Services) (12:18):

I move:

That the Legislative Council amendments be agreed to.

The Mandatory Disease Testing Bill 2020, as amended in the other place, supports our frontline workers while balancing the rights of third parties. Prior to consideration by the Legislative Council, the bill was referred to the Legislative Council's Standing Committee on Law and Justice, which tabled its report on 30 April 2021. That has occurred and the bill, as amended, has added provisions to address some of the key issues raised during the inquiry.

The amendments made by the Legislative Council will put beyond doubt that blood samples taken from a third party under a mandatory testing order must not be used by a member of the NSW Police Force for a purpose that is not authorised under the proposed Act; require a senior officer and the Chief Health Officer to give written notice of a determination and the reasons for it to the Ombudsman as soon as it is practicable after determining an application for a mandatory testing order, instead of on a quarterly basis; allow the pathology laboratory to destroy a blood sample as soon as the sample is no longer required for the purposes of the proposed Act; provide that a blood sample taken under the proposed Act, or information derived from it, is not admissible in proceedings against a third party; provide that evidence that is not admissible under the proposed Act may not be relied on as a ground for a search warrant; clarify that the proposed Act does not have effect until guidelines are issued by the Chief Health Officer and made publicly available; and update the bill to reflect the recent commencement of the

Mental Health and Cognitive Impairment Forensic Provisions Act 2020, which is relevant to the definition of "vulnerable third party" in the proposed Act.

Together with the earlier amendments made in this Chamber last year regarding the provision of demographic information to the Ombudsman, the amended bill balances the protection of frontline workers and the safeguarding of third party rights. I thank the Hon. Rod Roberts, MLC, in the other place for the valuable amendments he moved, which the Government was also pleased to support. I also acknowledge the contribution of the member for Sydney, Alex Greenwich, MP, in supporting these amendments and for his sage counsel over the course of this legislation. Finally I thank the Parliamentary Secretary in the Legislative Council, the Hon. Scott Farlow, MLC, on behalf of the Minister with carriage of the bill. I also thank Commissioner Mick Fuller and Deputy Commissioner Mal Lanyon for their leadership and support on the bill.

I acknowledge the efforts of Nicole Miller, Jane Holden and the policy team at the NSW Police Force. I also thank the Police Association of NSW for its strong advocacy on the bill. I particularly mention president Tony King and secretary Tony Bear for their strong support and advice. Finally I thank in my office my chief of staff, Tanya Raffoul; deputy chief of staff, Rommel Varghese; and policy adviser, Trish Wild, for their leadership and efforts on the bill. All have played an outstanding role in the policy development of the bill and assisted in negotiations with various members across both Chambers. I know that all members support the safety and wellbeing of our frontline workers and no-one condones acts of violence against them. I thank members in both Chambers for their words of support for our hardworking frontline workers. The amended bill sends a concrete and tangible message to frontline workers that we appreciate and support them. Words alone are not enough; this bill backs up our words of support. I commend the amendments to the House.

Ms JENNY LEONG (Newtown) (12:21): I move:

That the motion be amended by inserting the following amendment:

No. 1 Chief Health Officer guidelines

Page 16, proposed section 32. Insert after line 22—

- (6) The guidelines must contain information relating to—
 - (a) the protection of human rights of third parties, and
 - (b) the method of determining whether there are sufficient medical reasons to make a mandatory testing order.

It is no secret that The Greens oppose the bill in its entirety. We first saw it come to this Chamber when the then Leader of the Opposition had promised on radio that she would deliver a mandatory testing bill that was not supported by health experts or advocates and would add to further discrimination against people suffering from bloodborne diseases and viruses. We then saw the Government fall into line and people, with much enthusiasm, come forward and support the bill. It is a disastrous bill when it comes to the long-held cross-party support in this place over many decades of the concept that we do not play politics with people's health or with HIV and AIDS and to the multi-partisan support of listening to health experts rather than whipping up fear in the community.

The fact that this bill is putting in the hands of the police Minister and the NSW Police Force decisions about whether or not there is a risk to people's health and safety as a result of the potential transmission of certain types of diseases or bloodborne viruses is outrageous. The fact that we are talking about testing in relation to spitting when we are allegedly trying to prevent the spread of bloodborne viruses in and of itself demonstrates that. What hypocrisy for the New South Wales Opposition to on the one hand seek to play into the tough law-and-order approach of the NSW Police Force while on the other hand speak out and stand as allies of the LGBTIQ community. I cannot let this go without calling it out in the Chamber. I do not want the Labor Opposition to be bad on this issue; I want them to be good because I want the members on the other side of the Chamber out of government in 2023.

But the reality is that we have a weak Opposition narrowcasting an offensive message to the LGBTIQ community on this issue and the Liberal-Nationals Government advancing an agenda to look like it is placating the interests of the NSW Police Force and pretending it cares about the safety of frontline health and emergency services workers. If the Minister and the New South Wales Government really cared about risks to frontline workers and their health and safety concerns, they would introduce appropriate nurse-to-patient ratios and fund adequate levels of security and support staff to assist those workers. They would not be coming up with flawed law-and-order bills that will punish Aboriginal people and vulnerable people by giving New South Wales police additional powers. The Greens have moved an amendment to the amended bill from the Legislative Council. The Chief Health Officer guidelines will include an additional insertion, which states:

- (6) The guidelines must contain information relating to—
 - (a) the protection of human rights of third parties, and

- (b) the method of determining whether there are sufficient medical reasons to make a mandatory testing order.

This is not a controversial amendment. If there is a willingness to recognise that the bill should have oversight by the Chief Health Officer and should be based on the advice of health experts, then there is no reason to not support the amendment. If this is an attempt by the police Minister to override the interests of people's health in New South Wales and to override health experts when it comes to these issues, then we will not see support for the amendment. We should recognise that in this place we have one final shot to not play politics with people's lives when it comes to HIV/AIDS and other bloodborne viruses. We have that opportunity today. It will be a disgrace if this bill comes into effect. We can make sure that in the middle of a global pandemic when we are all talking up the interests of listening to the health evidence, we actually listen to the health evidence and support The Greens amendment.

Ms LYNDIA VOLTZ (Auburn) (12:26): It is always interesting to me when I come into the Chamber and Labor is attacked by both sides. It usually means we are probably in the right spot. The New South Wales Labor Opposition has supported mandatory disease testing. We supported it in this Chamber and we always said we would support it. We support the amendments that were passed in the Legislative Council. A couple of amendments that we moved were defeated in the other Chamber and we accept the Legislative Council's decision. This legislation is important. The member for Newtown talks constantly about police. She never acknowledges the nurses, the corrective services officers and the paramedics who are calling for this legislation. She only talks about police and the police Minister.

I thank the Health Services Union and Gerard Hayes, Stewart Little of the Public Service Association and Brett Holmes of the Nurses and Midwives' Association for their support for the legislation. By the way, they took the legislation to their members and asked them to vote on it. It was not just a decision of the executive; the members of those unions decided to support the legislation. When a corrective services officer opens a prison door and someone flings a handful of faeces in their face, very few people would argue that that officer is not entitled to a sense of surety for their mental wellbeing by finding out whether they have been exposed to bloodborne viruses. That is why this legislation is so important.

The member for Newtown has moved an amendment. The guidelines were mentioned in the other Chamber. I assume they are the ones that the member for Sydney has negotiated with the Government. They make the Chief Health Officer the person who writes the guidelines. I have complete confidence in the Chief Health Officer and the outcomes that she will achieve. The amendment is unnecessary unless one does not have confidence in the Chief Health Officer. The NSW Labor Opposition does. We support this legislation. Hepatitis is a big concern that is constantly raised with us by the unions and the workers. Let us not lessen the impact of these bloodborne viruses. That is why the then Leader of the Opposition, Jodi McKay, argued for this legislation. That is why Labor supported the bill in this Chamber and the other Chamber, despite our amendments not getting up, which were about whether a blood test would be taken at the beginning or the end of an appeal process. Labor supports the bill and we will be opposing The Greens amendment.

Mr DAVID ELLIOTT (Baulkham Hills—Minister for Police and Emergency Services) (12:30): I feel like I am living in a parallel universe today. So far I have agreed with statements from the member for Auburn, the member for Granville and the member for Prospect. To quote Humphrey Bogart in the great movie *Casablanca*, I think this is the start of a beautiful friendship.

Mr Jamie Parker: They're moving your way, mate, don't worry.

Mr DAVID ELLIOTT: I think they are beyond me. The Government opposes the amendment moved by the member for Newtown as it is unnecessary, impractical and overly bureaucratic. The Chief Health Officer's guidelines play an important role in the mandatory disease testing scheme, but requiring them to be adopted into regulation adds nothing to the process and risks delaying those being released or appropriately updated. The Chief Health Officer's guidelines will contain important information about how bloodborne diseases are transmitted, the minimisation of risks of infection and onward transmission, and the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of bloodborne diseases, as well as advice and information to be given to a third party providing blood under a mandatory testing order.

Those guidelines will be publicly available and must be considered by senior officers making decisions under the Act. The Chief Health Officer needs the flexibility to update the guidelines based on current medical advice and best practice in the management of bloodborne viruses. If set in regulation, there is a risk they may become rigid and outdated and senior officers and others exercising functions under the Act will not be able to make the best decisions based on current medical expertise. The current arrangements in the bill allow the guidelines to be appropriately updated by the Chief Health Officer, be republished and, importantly, be available to senior officers, affected workers and third parties.

In concluding my remarks about this amendment, I reiterate my thanks and apologise to the unions and organisations, whom the member for Auburn raised—Stewart Little, the nurses and midwives, and St John Ambulance. There was support for this legislation right across the volunteer emergency services fraternity as well as the salaried emergency services, police and the medical fraternity. As members in this House know, many of them are volunteers. The proposed legislation is a win-win for salaried frontline workers and also will support those many volunteers who often put themselves into risky situations without thought of reward or recognition. I believe that is one of the reasons that this legislation is being so well received by the community.

Mr ALEX GREENWICH (Sydney) (12:32): I speak in support of The Greens amendment and also in support of the amendments that were passed in the upper House. The Mandatory Disease Testing Bill is a retrograde and an irresponsible bill. It fosters stigma and discrimination of people who live with bloodborne diseases like HIV while doing nothing to protect frontline workers, and I am disappointed that it will come into effect. My amendments that passed this House will strengthen the Ombudsman's oversight, and since then I have worked to further improve provisions in the bill.

I welcome the changes in the other place that improve checks and balances, including new provisions to require the Ombudsman to be notified of every testing order instead of on a quarterly basis. Importantly, the amendments I put forward and that were passed in the other place will ensure that this legislation will not come into effect until the Chief Health Officer's guidelines on the framework of the new powers are in place. As members know, debate on this legislation has continued for some time. I have been negotiating actively with members of the crossbench, the Opposition and the Government as well as directly with the police to improve the safeguards in the legislation. After raising concerns directly with the NSW Police Force, I received the following correspondence, which I will read onto *Hansard*:

Dear Mr Greenwich

I write in relation to the *Mandatory Disease Testing Bill 2020*, currently being considered in NSW Parliament and thank you for our recent conversation regarding same.

I recognise that you have raised concerns about how the Bill may be implemented by the NSW Police Force.

I am pleased to confirm that the NSW Police Force will prepare comprehensive information and guidelines on the scheme for all staff. These will reflect the Chief Health Officer Guidelines, which are required to be published before the Act commences. Senior Officers are mandated to consider these Chief Health Officer Guidelines when making decisions under the Act. The NSW Police Force will also provide specific training for Senior Officers exercising decision making functions under the Act.

The Chief Health Officer Guidelines, and NSWPF internal guidelines, information and training will play an important role in supporting the effective and appropriate implementation of the Act. As requested, the NSW Police Force will consult with you with respect to the NSWPF guidelines.

I appreciate you contacting me over your concerns, and I look forward to consultation with you on the NSW Police Force Guidelines.

While I appreciate the work of all those involved in the negotiations and appreciate the Hon. Rod Roberts putting forward amendments in the upper House to strengthen oversight, this bill should not be in place. The concerns of my community remain, as I have expressed directly to New South Wales police. The NSW Police Force and the LGBTI community have a good working relationship. I am deeply concerned that unfortunately this bill has created a rift. I and I know other members of this place will continue to work hard to mend that rift. I take the police correspondence at its word and look forward to working with the NSW Police Force to ensure that appropriate guidelines and rules are in place. Stakeholders and advocates of the potentially targeted groups that we have heard from in this debate will closely monitor the use of the powers under the bill, including Ombudsman assessments. If any aspect of bloodborne disease testing is weaponised to increase punishment, I will work to get the bill repealed. I commend the upper House amendments and The Greens amendment.

Ms JENNY LEONG (Newtown) (12:36): I address a couple of the points that have been raised. In the Minister's contribution, he referred to the overly bureaucratic nature of the guidelines and regulation. I am not sure if the Minister has the correct amendment in front of him but it refers to two specific points. The first is the guidelines by the Chief Health Officer relating to the protection of the human rights of third parties and the second is the method of determining whether there are sufficient medical reasons to make a mandatory testing order. There is no reference to the inclusion of the guidelines in the regulation, so I am not sure whether the Minister is actually addressing the amendment that we are considering.

I note that the member for Sydney has gone above and beyond to try to make the bill less offensive than it currently is. While it is reassuring that there will be some consultation between the NSW Police Force and the member for Sydney, when it comes to this issue the most vulnerable groups are Aboriginal communities, homeless communities, activist communities and people suffering mental health issues or complex mental health needs. It is crucial that New South Wales police provides consultation to those who are most vulnerable and who will be impacted by the bill. This is part of the problem with this process. I have faith in the Chief Health Officer to

develop the guidelines but they are being created in a political environment where pressure will be put on various sectors of police, health and other government agencies to deliver on them.

As we have heard, there is much fear among people who are in those frontline services and face the reality of violence towards them in their workplace. No-one should be unsafe in their workplace. But creating further fear by advancing myths about what is or what is not a risk to people in their workplace is not the solution. As I said when I spoke earlier to this amendment, the solution is to deal with the underfunding and under-resourcing within our healthcare system, to put in place appropriate nurse-to-patient ratios and to recognise the need to resource frontline emergency service workers so that they all have the same level of equipment and resourcing as other frontline services.

This bill will do something that Hepatitis NSW, the AIDS Council of NSW, the Sex Workers Outreach Project, the NSW Users and AIDS Association, the Australasian Society for HIV, Viral Hepatitis and Sexual Health Medicine, Positive Life NSW and ACON have all recommended that we do not do, that is, to implement a mandatory testing regime. I put on the record an extract from *Fighting For Our Lives*, a book produced by ACON about the history of New South Wales' response to HIV. I thank Nicolas Parkhill for reminding me of it. It states:

Mandatory testing would have been an obvious vote winner, so it is remarkable that it was never seriously considered by the major parties. Blewett categorically ruled it out, declaring in 1989 that "public health and individual rights march hand in hand on the AIDS issue", while the conservatives maintained bipartisanship on the issue. It is one of the great achievements of Australia's federal politicians that they were able to resist such a popular measure, governing through compassionate pragmatism rather than ill-informed public consensus.

Sadly, today that ill-informed approach most likely will see the passage of this bill through this House. As a result, the people who will be most vulnerable and most at risk are those whose voices we need to hear the most. We must not ignore their voices and their vulnerabilities. We must speak out against and not cave in to the demands of an already too powerful NSW Police Force and police Minister in this State. I hope that the New South Wales Labor Party will reconsider its position on this amendment, which will simply provide additional guidance to the Chief Health Officer. We must all make a commitment to put health advice first.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Gurmesh Singh): Mr David Elliot has moved that the Legislative Council's amendments be agreed to, to which Ms Jenny Leong has moved an amendment. The question is that the amendment be agreed to.

The House divided.

Ayes6
Noes79
Majority.....73

AYES

Greenwich, A
Leong, J (teller)

McGirr, J
Parker, J (teller)

Piper, G
Smith, T

NOES

Aitchison, J
Anderson, K
Atalla, E
Ayres, S
Bali, S
Barilaro, J
Barr, C
Berejiklian, G
Bromhead, S
Car, P
Catley, Y
Chanthivong, A
Clancy, J
Conolly, K
Constance, A
Cooke, S (teller)
Cotsis, S

Finn, J
Gibbons, M
Griffin, J
Gulaptis, C
Hancock, S
Harris, D
Harrison, J
Haylen, J
Hazzard, B
Henskens, A
Hoening, R
Hornery, S
Kamper, S
Lalich, N
Lee, G
Lindsay, W
Lynch, P

Perrottet, D
Petinos, E
Preston, R
Provest, G
Roberts, A
Saffin, J
Saunders, D
Scully, P
Sidgreaves, P
Sidoti, J
Smith, N
Speakman, M
Stokes, R
Taylor, M
Tesch, L
Toole, P
Tuckerman, W

NOES

Coure, M	Marshall, A	Upton, G
Crakanthorp, T	McDermott, H	Voltz, L
Crouch, A (teller)	McKay, J	Warren, G
Dalton, H	Mihailuk, T	Washington, K
Davies, T	Minns, C	Watson, A
Dib, J	O'Dea, J	Williams, L
Dominello, V	O'Neill, M	Williams, R
Donato, P	Park, R	Wilson, F
Elliott, D	Pavey, M	Zangari, G
Evans, L		

Amendment negatived.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Gurmesh Singh): The question now is that the Legislative Council amendments be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.**BUILDING LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2021****Second Reading Debate****Debate resumed from 12 May 2021.**

Ms JULIA FINN (Granville) (12:53): As shadow consumer protection Minister and acting shadow building reform Minister, it is my pleasure to lead for the Opposition in debate on the Building Legislation Amendment Bill 2021. The bill was introduced and the second reading speech given in the Legislative Assembly on 12 May. I state at the outset that the Opposition will not support the bill unless our amendments are agreed to. I will discuss those amendments in more detail later. I have spoken to several stakeholder groups and several colleagues, including the shadow Minister for Finance and Small Business, the Hon. Daniel Mookhey, who has carriage in the other place, and the member for Swansea, who has been a tireless advocate for improving building quality in New South Wales. Not all stakeholder groups have been consulted. Several were caught unaware of the proposals in the bill and of the timing for its introduction by the Minister for Better Regulation and Innovation.

I thank the Minister's staff who have briefed us on the bill. I note the Government's urgency to pursue it. However, I note also the Opal Tower at Olympic Park was completed in August 2018—almost three years ago and almost 3½ years since the February 2018 report by Professor Peter Shergold and Ms Bronwyn Weir, *Building Confidence—Improving the effectiveness of compliance and enforcement systems for the building and construction industry across Australia*. It is a pity the Government has not pursued long-overdue building reforms with greater urgency before now. Although the bill contains some sound measures, Labor has flagged with the Minister its intention to move amendments to improve glaring inadequacies. We hope the Government will support our suggested changes, as we believe they uphold the original intent of the bill.

The Building Legislation Amendment Bill 2021 brings together a number of amendments to the Design and Building Practitioners Act 2020, or the DBP Act; the Residential Apartment Buildings (Compliance and Enforcement Powers) Act 2020, known as the RAB Act; and the Home Building Act 1989. It also transfers provisions from the Electricity Supply Act 1995 to the Gas and Electricity (Consumer Safety) Act 2017. The Government has indicated that the changes include requiring certain developers and owners of class 2 buildings—typically multi-unit residential apartment buildings—to pay a levy into the Home Building Administration Fund to fund compliance, auditing of declared plans and new licensing measures that support lifting standards in the building and construction industry; allowing the secretary to make an order prohibiting the issue of an occupation certificate or registration of a strata plan for a strata scheme if a developer fails to comply with a direction under the RAB Act or in other circumstances prescribed by the regulations; and introducing new continuing offence penalties for offences relating to failure to comply with directions or notification requirements under the RAB Act.

Changes made by the bill also include allowing the Local Court and the Land and Environment Court to require a person to comply with an order or direction made under the RAB Act; broadening the regulation-making power to regulate the recognition or registration of engineers by approved professional engineering bodies under the DBP Act to ensure consistent decisions on the registration of professional engineers and enabling the review of decisions of the secretary in relation to those bodies by the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal; amending the electricity Acts to transfer responsibilities relating to electricity metering to the Minister for Better Regulation and Innovation to reflect current administrative responsibilities; and amending the Home Building Act to make

clear that the secretary has the power to make a legislative instrument about the necessary qualifications, examinations, practical tests and experience requirements for certificate holders and licensees.

It is worth examining how we got to this point in building reform. In 2018 Opal Tower and Mascot Towers hit the headlines as notorious building failures. Some 3,000 people were evacuated from Opal Tower after residents reported loud banging noises, exposed panelling and cracks that mainly affected levels 4 and 10. Last year, after 500 new defects were found, the residents were forced to launch a case in the Supreme Court in addition to a separate class action. One of the residents was reported as saying that living in the building was not easy. The article stated:

"It's very difficult to put into words, our homes are our greatest asset, it's where we make lasting memories," ...

"We've had to deal with over 100 construction workers on the site, drilling noise all day ... sometimes we've found we only have one lift working and we have to wait 10 minutes."

...

"You say you own a property in Opal Tower, that property was worth \$500,000 [or] \$700,000 ... the bank puts a zero against your name, you can't refinance, you can't get a small loan to buy a car."

Recently, Mascot Towers owners were advised that it is no longer financially viable to fix the building and that their best option is to sell. The owners' corporation has been told it will cost \$38 million to fix the building, which will blow out to \$64 million, including interest, over the course of a 15-year loan. Chair of the Mascot Towers owners' corporation, Gary Deigan, was reported in the media as saying:

"The only solution in our mind is to sell the building off."

"We have lost a lot of money. We have to decide whether we are going to continue to lose money or try to recover some."

Members would remember that on 25 September 2019 the Minister for Better Regulation and Innovation told this House:

An extraordinary general meeting of Mascot Towers property owners was held on 22 August this year. At the meeting a motion was passed to commence the remediation works which related to the defects identified in 2017, not the current issues that caused the evacuation. A recommendation was included to accept a loan of \$10 million to fund the remedial works and a special levy over 15 years to repay that loan. The motion was voted down. Instead, a motion was passed to raise \$7.7 million over nine months to fund those defects from 2017, not the current issues that have been identified. Another amendment was put to that meeting to defer a decision on that levy. That was also voted down.

Later, the Minister continued:

I stress again that another amendment was put to the meeting to defer a decision on that levy. However, that was voted down again. I stress to the House that was related to the issues from 2017. Following that extraordinary general meeting my office was contacted to set up a meeting with the executive committee of the owners' corporation, which was held on 4 September. At that meeting the owners' corporation advised me that it would be unable to raise the necessary funds to meet the special levy over nine months. However, it was agreed just a week before that they would fund that levy. So they have flip-flopped in that regard. The owners were rightly offended and outraged by the Minister's accusations of flip-flopping. *The Sydney Morning Herald* reported one of the upset owners saying:

To say we had a conspiracy to force the government into a corner, or words to that effect, is absolutely gutting for us.

Another owner said:

... couldn't believe it would actually come out of his mouth ... We had three weeks of sleepless nights before the EGM working out how to pay for the repairs.

Instead of attacking residents, the Minister should have tried to help. The residents asked for assistance purely and simply because they have no other option. The Government has been criticised for being too slow and too light touch. Last week *The Sydney Morning Herald* reported:

It is all too familiar: another developer of apartment towers facing questions over alleged defects in one of its buildings and the structural integrity of another.

That is a reference to Opal Tower and Mascot Towers. There have been numerous announcements and pieces of legislation, but the fondness of successive governments for light-touch regulation has left fundamental problems untouched. Yet some announcements belong in a script for the ABC satire *Utopia*—such as a six-pillar Construct NSW transformation strategy to create a customer-facing building and construction sector by 2025. Last year the Legislative Council Public Accountability Committee's Inquiry into Regulation of Building Standards, Building Quality and Building Disputes highlighted systemic issues plaguing the building industry and the lack of oversight by the New South Wales Government.

The Government's reform strategy outlined in this six-pillar plan by 2025 is moving at a glacial pace. But it should not rush through bills like this one that contains measures that it has got wrong. This slow pace comes at a time of enormous construction activity across Sydney. For too long there have been problems in development

after development. There is a huge onus on developers who are doing the right thing and there is a great fear that people will not be confident in buying their products. New homes are needed for the future. People are making the biggest investment of their lifetime and gambling on the structural integrity of the buildings they buy into. The Government has taken far too long to make these changes, yet all members of the community have not been consulted about the further tweaks we see today.

Importantly, the safety of workers has not been considered properly. This should be non-negotiable. The bill revisits provisions that the Opposition opposed in the Electricity Supply Amendment (Advanced Meters) Bill 2016. We will move amendments to promote electrical safety so that workers can be safe at work. Meter installation should always be done by fully qualified electricians in the interests of both workers' and consumers' safety. In relation to exemptions of certain persons from the operation of the Design and Building Practitioners Act, no case has been made by the Government to expand the current provision enabling the exemption of some persons to all persons. The Opposition will move amendments to delete this element from the bill. I trust that the Government will support our amendments so that the Opposition will then be in a position to support an amended bill.

Ms ELENI PETINOS (Miranda) (13:03): I speak in support of the Building Legislation Amendment Bill 2021. I commend the Minister for Better Regulation and Innovation for bringing forward these important reforms which will increase the accountability of developers working in the building and construction industry. The bill before the House will strengthen compliance within the sector by providing the regulator with further robust powers to support a targeted but aggressive response to seriously defective and noncompliant residential building work.

On 4 June 2020 the Residential Apartment Buildings (Compliance and Enforcement Powers) Act 2020 passed Parliament. The residential apartment buildings Act provides a suite of comprehensive investigation, rectification and enforcement powers to the Secretary of the Department of Customer Service and other delegated persons, including the NSW Building Commissioner, for certain types of residential apartment building work and completed buildings. The Act establishes a mandatory developer notification scheme for building work that is at least six months from completion. The Department of Customer Service has powers to enforce the requirements, with robust offences and penalties.

The NSW Building Commissioner, David Chandler, OAM, is leading the Government's implementation of the legislation and, with powers under the recently passed and enacted Design and Building Practitioners Act 2020, is focusing on the investigation and audit strategies. Those obligations apply to class 2 buildings and buildings including a class 2 component, which are typically multi-storey, multi-unit apartment buildings. The residential apartment buildings Act empowers the secretary to take immediate compliance action by prohibiting the issue of an occupation certificate in relation to a residential apartment building or, if relevant, prohibiting the registration of a strata plan for a strata scheme.

Since the residential apartment buildings Act commenced in September 2020, the focus has been on occupation certificate audits. They occur in the lead-up to a developer's application for an occupation certificate, which allows them to hand over the keys to the end owner. By undertaking audits at that time, the building is almost complete and inspectors can comprehensively review all building work while the developer is still on the hook to fix any issues, rather than owners' corporations and lot owners. For example, when inspectors discover potentially serious defects in key building elements, such as the structure, waterproofing, fire systems, the building envelope and services, they can order rectification and in some instances prohibit the issue of occupation certificates until the rectification work is complete.

By July, over 50 projects will have been audited, and 200 audits are planned to be completed by late 2022. The audits will start to provide the regulator and industry with an end-to-end systemic review of where the industry's fault lines are showing up. The intent is to work with developers, designers, contractors, manufacturers, installers, certifiers and educators to target priority strategies to drive more trustworthy building outcomes. The data will also point to players who should come in for more immediate attention and lift their game. There will be far earlier consequences for players who do not pay attention to the New South Wales reforms. The occupation certificate allows purchasers to occupy their units for the first time and to complete their purchase with the developer. Following that, the developer can complete all sales and take their profits. Meanwhile, the registration of a strata plan brings the owners' corporation into existence, commencing the initial period. Strata lots can be allocated and the developer can then sell them off the plan.

The bill signals that the Government is serious about weeding out bad players and defective residential building work in this State. The bill inserts a new provision that a prohibition order may be issued if a person fails to comply with a direction of an authorised officer. The Act currently allows for the secretary or authorised officer to issue a notice for information and records for the production of documents such as plans, which are used to determine whether an occupation certificate should be issued. Currently penalties are not sufficient to secure

compliance. The current provisions cannot be made into penalty notices as they are not strict liability offences. As an alternative compliance mechanism, it is proposed to expand the reasons that the secretary can make an order preventing the occupation certificate being issued. It is hoped that will provide a cost-effective enforcement mechanism for the department that also imposes a significant penalty on the developer where they choose to not comply.

This will support the compliance and enforcement powers under the residential apartment buildings Act, which currently allow for the secretary to issue a notice for information and records for the production of documents, such as plans, which are used to determine whether an occupation certificate should be issued. Inspectors seek those documents and plans to ensure that they are taking a risk-based approach to regulation; that is, they are undertaking audits where there are indicators that corners have been cut and are focusing on the elements of a building where the risk is likely to be most acute. Prohibiting the issue of an occupation certificate or the registration of a strata plan is the ultimate signal to the developer that they must respond to directions from the regulator and resolve any noncompliance or face never having the building sold or occupied. This is a critical step in stopping noncompliant buildings being handed over to unsuspecting home owners.

The Government has futureproofed the residential apartment buildings Act by including a broad regulation-making power under this bill for additional grounds for a prohibition order to be issued. The bill does not unfairly penalise developers who have complied with the law. The Government continues to make clear that it wants to work with developers, builders and designers to fix issues but expects that these players will also come to the table to remedy defects rather than dragging their feet in the hope that the regulator will go away. From what I have seen of the Building Commissioner, I can say that he will not be walking away and leaving unsuspecting owners to pick up the tab.

Section 7 of the residential apartment buildings Act sets out the notification requirements of a developer, also known as an expected completion notice. In relation to the building work, a developer must not make an application for an occupation certificate for any part of a residential apartment building unless they have given notice at least six months, but not more than 12 months, before the application is made. The expected completion notice must set out the date that the developer expects to make the application for the occupation certificate for the building or part of the building.

Penalties currently apply for failing to comply with this section. However, not all breaches have a continuing offence provision attached to them. In fact, only some provisions do and only where expressly provided for. The Act currently allows for an authorised officer to issue a notice for information and records and to require the production of documents such as plans, which are used to ensure effective oversight of the residential apartment buildings Act including determining whether an occupation certificate should be issued. There have been repeated failures by some developers to abide by requirements to produce plans and other documents that are critical to the regulator's investigation and auditing of buildings to ensure that they are safe for occupation. Failing to submit an expected completion notice or expected completion amendment notice are also not prescribed as continuing offences. After the date that is six months before the expected completion date, in the case of an offence against section 7 breach, the obligation to submit a notice does not continue.

The absence of a continuing offence provision risks undermining the regime around notifying the department in advance of the expected completion date. To reflect the seriousness of these requirements, daily penalties are proposed for each day the developer or person is in contravention. Under the Act, the maximum penalty remains at \$110,000 for a body corporate and \$22,000 for an individual. Under this bill, the maximum penalty will be \$11,000 for each day the offence continues for a body corporate and \$2,200 for each day the offence continues for an individual. Introducing daily penalties enables the secretary to be able to take immediate corrective action to protect consumers and ensures that the cost of non-compliance is not treated as a cost of doing business.

The new compliance provisions under the bill will enhance accountability for building developers. The bill casts a wide net to ensure that building work that causes serious defects is detected and acted upon quickly and effectively and that building work complies with the Building Code of Australia. Where circumstances change and the expected completion date is no longer accurate, the Act requires developers to notify the secretary of a new expected completion date. This notice is known in the Act as the expected completion amendment notice. This notice must be given within seven days of the developer becoming aware of this change in circumstances. *[Extension of time]*

However, under the residential apartment buildings Act, the developers are not required to notify the secretary of a new completion date if it is within 60 days of the expected completion date specified in the original expected completion notice. This means that developers have a 60-day grace period from their expected date so that if a developer is 60 days early or 60 days late, they will not need to notify again. It is important to be clear that developers will not be able to combine the two periods together and notify within 120 days. This grace period

ensures that developers are not forced to unnecessarily and repeatedly notify of any minor change from the expected completion date. Where the developer needs to change the date several times, the legislation allows this to occur and provides that a developer may give more than one expected completion amendment notice. Penalties currently apply for failing to notify of a change in the expected date or new expected date.

Debate interrupted.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Gurmesh Singh): I will now leave the chair. The House will resume at 2.15 p.m.

Members

MEMBER FOR LAKEMBA
MEMBER FOR SUMMER HILL
MEMBER FOR NEWCASTLE
MEMBER FOR NORTH SHORE

The SPEAKER: I wish a happy birthday to the members for the electorates of Lakemba, Summer Hill, Newcastle and North Shore, who celebrated their birthdays over the break.

Visitors

VISITORS

The SPEAKER: I warmly welcome to the Cooper Gallery Andrew Fraser, a former member of this place, and Kerry Fraser, who are here, along with others, to witness the swearing in of the member for Upper Hunter. I also acknowledge the Hon. Greg Smith, SC, former Attorney General and Minister for Justice. I welcome the guests of the member for Lake Macquarie, who are watching question time from the McKell Room. Welcome to student leaders Ben Lindsay, Olivia Morton, Levi Venegas and Chanel Boudan from Avondale School and their principal, Deb Cooper.

Announcements

AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTOGRAPHERS

The SPEAKER: I advise members that Australian Associated Press, *The Daily Telegraph* and *The Sydney Morning Herald* photographers will be in the upper galleries on a rotating basis, and there is a pool camera from the Cooper Gallery.

Members

LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

The SPEAKER: I acknowledge the new Leader of the Opposition, Chris Minns, and congratulate him on his election to that role.

Announcements

REGIONAL COMMITTEE HEARINGS LIVESTREAMING

PARLIAMENT ON DEMAND

The SPEAKER (14:16): I am pleased to update the House on new technology and accessibility initiatives. Firstly, as members know, it is vital for us to meet directly with our communities near and far and for all constituents to be able to access committee hearings. As of last month we have started servicing regional hearings with specialised audiovisual teams and equipment, which enables us to stream hearings live through to Parliament's website.

Secondly, an update on the Parliament On Demand video clipping service: In its first month live, Parliament On Demand has been used to create over 825 clips, with a less than 0.5 per cent error rate. We can now advise that access will be given to members of the parliamentary press gallery. Work continues on improving the service. Enhancements to make it easier to find the required footage are expected in the near future. That work complements other recent services provided to members, including the rollout of wi-fi and NBN to electorate offices.

AUSTRALIA'S BIGGEST MORNING TEA

The SPEAKER: I remind the House that tomorrow members and staff are invited to Australia's and New South Wales' Biggest Morning Tea, which I will be hosting, to raise funds for the Cancer Council and to

officially open the newly renovated and accessible Speaker's Garden. I thank the Treasurer for the funding. Please join us for cakes, pastries and barista coffee from 10.00 a.m. tomorrow. There will be an opportunity to make donations to the Cancer Council at the door.

Bills

HEAVY VEHICLE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (NATIONAL REGULATOR) BILL 2021

REAL PROPERTY AMENDMENT (CERTIFICATES OF TITLE) BILL 2021

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AMENDMENT BILL 2021

PAYROLL TAX AMENDMENT (JOBS PLUS) BILL 2021

Assent

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

Governor

ADMINISTRATION OF THE GOVERNMENT

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

Members

ELECTORAL DISTRICT OF UPPER HUNTER

Issue and Return of Writ

The SPEAKER: I inform the House that the writ issued on 30 April 2021 in accordance with section 76 of the Electoral Act 2017 for the election of a member to serve in the Legislative Assembly for the electoral district of Upper Hunter in place of Michael John Johnsen, resigned, has been returned with a certificate endorsed by the Electoral Commissioner advising of the election of David Robert Layzell to serve as member for the electoral district of Upper Hunter.

PLEDGE OF LOYALTY

Mr David Robert Layzell took and subscribed the pledge of loyalty and signed the roll of the House.

Members

MINISTRY

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN: On behalf of Ms Gladys Berejiklian, I inform the House that:

- (1) On 14 May 2021, Her Excellency the Governor:
 - (a) Accepted the resignation of the Hon. Gareth James Ward, MP, as a Minister and as a member of the Executive Council and as Minister for Families, Communities and Disability Services; and
 - (b) Appointed the Hon. Mark Raymond Speakman, MP, as Minister for Families, Communities and Disability Services.
- (2) On 27 May 2021, Her Excellency the Governor accepted the resignations of:
 - (a) The Hon. Mark Raymond Speakman, MP, as Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence, and Minister for Families, Communities and Disability Services; and
 - (b) The Hon. Dr Geoffrey Lee, MP, as Minister for Sport, Multiculturalism, Seniors and Veterans.
- (3) On 27 May 2021, Her Excellency the Governor appointed:
 - (a) The Hon. Mark Raymond Speakman, MP, as Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Sexual Violence;
 - (b) The Hon. Natalie Peta Ward, MLC, as a member of the Executive Council and as Minister for Sport, Multiculturalism, Seniors and Veterans; and
 - (c) The Hon. Alister Andrew Henskens, MP, as a member of the Executive Council and as Minister for Families, Communities and Disability Services.

- (4) The Minister for Counter Terrorism and Corrections will represent the Minister for Sport, Multiculturalism, Seniors and Veterans.
- (5) On 27 May 2021, the Hon. Natasha Maclaren Jones, MLC, was appointed Cabinet Secretary.

LEADER AND DEPUTY LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Mr CHRIS MINNS: I inform the House of the resignations on 28 May 2021 of Jodi Leyanne McKay as Leader of the Opposition and of Yasmin Maree Catley as Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

I further inform the House of the election on 4 June 2021 of myself as Leader of the Opposition and on 8 June 2021 of Prudence Ann Car as Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

The SPEAKER: The congratulations I extended earlier to the Leader of the Opposition, I extend also to the Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

Announcements

DEPUTY CLERK OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

ACTING CLERK-ASSISTANT, HOUSE AND PROCEDURE

The SPEAKER: I advise the House that on 31 May 2021 Carly Amanda Maxwell was appointed Deputy Clerk of the Legislative Assembly and Simon Johnston was appointed as Acting Clerk-Assistant, House and Procedure. Well done to both of them.

Question Time

PARAMEDIC REMUNERATION

Mr CHRIS MINNS (Kogarah) (14:25): My question is directed to the Premier. During COVID paramedics stood up for us. They put their own health on the line to protect New South Wales. I have brought two of them along today. Lani is a paramedic from Narromine who worked the night shift last night and often works eight days in a row. Chris is an intensive care nurse and paramedic from Merimbula. I thank Lani and Chris. Our paramedics are the lowest paid in Australia. Will the Minister sit down with them and offer them fair pay, so they know they are valued and respected?

Mr Mark Speakman: Point of order—

The SPEAKER: The member for Keira will resume his seat.

Mr Mark Speakman: This question is out of order. It goes beyond asking a question to making a statement. I have been restrained in objecting but this now goes well beyond asking a question to making a statement.

Mr Ryan Park: To the point of order: Question one and you cannot handle a question with a bit of detail about frontline paramedics. Are you for real? You want a question about frontline paramedics ruled out of order.

The SPEAKER: Order! I will allow the question to be completed. In fact, I will ask that it be read again, but I ask the Leader of the Opposition to remove the references to those in the Chamber and to read just the question.

Mr CHRIS MINNS: My question is directed to the Premier. Our paramedics are the lowest paid in Australia. Will the Minister sit down with them and offer them fair pay, so they know they are valued and respected?

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN (Willoughby—Premier) (14:27): I congratulate the Leader of the Opposition on his ascension to the job. I hope that he receives the same loyalty that he provided his predecessor. On that basis—

The SPEAKER: Order! Government members are being disruptive.

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: I acknowledge the question and I acknowledge the two paramedics and healthcare workers in the gallery and thank them personally. They represent tens of thousands of workers across the State. As I understand it, there are two main bodies representing the paramedics in New South Wales, and the New South Wales Government is in constant contact with both of them. I also want to say that it was one of the proudest days in my job when the Minister for Health and Medical Research, the Treasurer and I stood together and announced 750 extra paramedics throughout the State, the first time that there had been such a boost in human resources.

I am also incredibly proud of the fact that we have listened to what paramedics have said about their work conditions. A lot of the ambulance stations across the State, in rural and regional communities and across the Sydney CBD in particular, are getting a huge revamp. We know that it is important for paramedics to always advocate not only for their own personal wage conditions but also for their work environment and their ability to do their job properly. In particular I acknowledge most recently—unfortunately I was not able to attend—for example, the Minister for Health and Medical Research was in the electorate of Coogee last week opening the new Randwick superstation, a great example of providing extra facilities to an area that is demanding those services.

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

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: We also made sure that during the pandemic not only did we provide support and services to all of our paramedics, we have ensured that they knew that they and their families would be vaccinated and provided with a vaccine. We have made sure that they have had that vaccine.

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Bankstown will remain silent.

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: As the Minister for Health and Medical Research and I have said on a number of occasions to those representing the paramedics in New South Wales—most notably, I do admit to having more to do with the Health Services Union [HSU] and their leadership—we respect that body for advocating on behalf of its members. These bodies do so in a respectful manner. They do not look at who is in charge; they do not look at the politics. They actually advocate on behalf of their members. That is why I respect them. They will always have my ear and the ear of the Minister for Health and Medical Research, as do, of course, many occupations, many of our frontline workers—

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

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: I note the interjections from those opposite saying, "Why won't you meet with them?" The head of the HSU, the Minister and I actually met with—was it a month ago? The weeks are all rolling into one. The Minister met with him last week and I met with him in the last couple of months. I cannot tell you the exact date. But what I will say is this—

The SPEAKER: I call the member for Wollongong to order for the first time. Members on both sides of the Chamber will remain silent.

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: Even before the horror of the pandemic, the New South Wales Liberal-Nationals Government deeply appreciated and continues to appreciate the work of our frontline workers. We will continue to work with them—

The SPEAKER: Order! I have asked for silence. The Premier is answering the question and I expect members to listen in silence.

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: We will continue to work with them, to support them in every way we can, and we look forward to ongoing discussions.

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

INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT

Ms ROBYN PRESTON (Hawkesbury) (14:31): My question is addressed to the Premier. Will the Premier update the House on how the Government's investment in infrastructure is both leading the nation and driving its economic growth?

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN (Willoughby—Premier) (14:32): I thank the member for Hawkesbury for her question. Only yesterday she and I and the Minister for Transport and Roads and also the Prime Minister and the Federal infrastructure Minister were joined in her community in the Hawkesbury to announce a second crossing of Hawkesbury River—a monumental announcement supporting a half-a-billion-dollar investment and recognising the fact that the communities of Richmond and North Richmond in particular deserve to have less congestion and more time at home with their families doing what they want to do.

This demonstrates not only the quality-of-life issues that infrastructure brings but obviously also the jobs. The project we announced yesterday, whilst a half-a-billion-dollar commitment, will provide around 850 jobs and a lot of the supplies and employment will be driven not just through the local area but also, obviously, through many parts of our State. The New South Wales Government's infrastructure pipeline is unprecedented. As I have said, I challenge any member of this place to find another jurisdiction with our population that can impact

infrastructure in this way. As the Treasurer noted this morning, ever since he has left that electorate, the electorate has been getting more infrastructure and more services. That will no doubt continue to happen.

Mr Dominic Perrottet: I'm not Pork Barilaro.

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: Yeah, yeah, yeah. We know that the New South Wales Government's infrastructure pipeline covers the breadth and State of New South Wales. In particular I note that whilst the Federal Government has been the most forward-leaning government in terms of infrastructure spend—\$110 billion over a decade—New South Wales has \$107 billion over the next four years. I look forward to the State budget on 22 June to see the updated figures the Treasurer provides for us on that occasion. In comparison, the Victorian Government is spending around \$90 billion over the same period—they, unfortunately, have had seven budget deficits in a row—and the Queensland Government is spending just around half of that, \$56 billion over the next four years.

As I was saying, the Government's infrastructure program crosses the breadth of New South Wales. It extends to the Hunter, and I acknowledge the new member for Upper Hunter and the great work he has done. Today the health Minister and I announced as part of our assertive program to vaccinate as many of our citizens as safely and as quickly as possible that the New South Wales Government is in the process of building and fitting out a new mass vaccination hub at Belmont. During the construction of the hub—which we assume will take around six weeks—150 people will be employed from the local area and no doubt many extra frontline staff will be employed to service that hub. We hope to vaccinate at least 20,000 people in that hub every week. As the weeks progress we are getting more efficient. Hopefully we will be able to push the boundaries on how many people we can vaccinate.

It gives us a great sense of pride to know that the infrastructure pipeline we are projecting over the next four years alone will generate 88,000 direct jobs. That does not include supply and other jobs. That is because the Liberals and The Nationals are the parties for the worker. We are the party that supports people who want to work hard to get ahead. We are the government for them. We believe fundamentally in equality of opportunity. It does not matter your postcode, your circumstances, what your parents did or where your parents came from. If you want to work hard and get ahead, we are the government for you. Every time we announce a new project, the members opposite vote against it.

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Gosford will remain silent.

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: Every time we announce a new way of supporting our budget position so we can build those projects, the members opposite oppose it.

The SPEAKER: I call the member for Cessnock to order for the first time. I call the member for Wollongong to order for the second time.

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: Another fact that I am looking forward to the from the Treasurer's update on 22 June is our State's net worth. [*Extension of time*]

The SPEAKER: Order! The Clerk will stop the clock. We are operating in an unusual environment and the microphone operation will be assessed overnight. In the meantime, members will remain silent. The Premier has two minutes to continue her response.

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: As I was saying, when we came to Government, our State's net worth was \$163 billion. As at June 2020 our State's net worth was \$238.7 billion. During the time that the Liberal-Nationals Coalition has been in government, mums and dads across this State own \$75.4 billion more than they did before. That translates to more hospitals, more schools, more roads, more rail and more facilities. Yet at every turn the members opposite oppose our economic agenda.

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

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: At every turn they oppose every initiative we bring forward, whether it is asset recycling or fiscal restraint. The mums and dads and the people of this great State own \$75 billion more, that is, 46 per cent more than the State's net worth when we came to government.

The SPEAKER: The member for Cessnock will remain silent.

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: The heart of our State's wellbeing is jobs. We will always protect jobs, support jobs and grow jobs because we are the party for the workers.

PARAMEDIC REMUNERATION

Mr CHRIS MINNS (Kogarah) (14:38): My question is directed to the Premier and the "party for the workers". The Government is offering paramedics, who are the lowest paid in Australia, a 1.04 per cent wage

increase. How can a young family expect to pay rising bills while serving the community and risking their safety as a paramedic in New South Wales?

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN (Willoughby—Premier) (14:39): I refer the member for Kogarah to my previous response and add the following. As members know, the past 18 months have been incredibly difficult for our State. Whilst the Government employs around 9 per cent of people in New South Wales, 91 per cent of people are not employed by us. Tens of thousands of those were without a job and hopefully they will have the ability to get their jobs back.

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Gosford will be on two calls to order shortly.

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: Last year we had to make the difficult decision in relation to wages policy to reflect the very difficult circumstances we were in. I am sure most members of this House appreciate that the New South Wales Government pumped billions of extra dollars into our health system so that we could cope with the challenges of the pandemic. We also had to provide extra resources to many of our agencies, including the police and the people managing our hotel quarantine—resources that we did not expect that we would have to outlay. I humbly and gratefully thank all of our workers in this State.

The SPEAKER: The member for Prospect will remain silent. I call the member for Shellharbour to order for the second time.

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: I will say this and I mean it genuinely: If there is ever a chance for the New South Wales Government to consider how we can support our frontline workers through a wage increase in the future, we will always take that opportunity.

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

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: One thing I know is that the people of New South Wales judge a government by its actions, not its words.

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

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: I am grateful for the positivity. I hate to think what the negativity is if this is positivity.

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

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: People in this place and outside this place should reflect on what our State has gone through and what we have had to do as a government—whether it is billions of dollars in extra drought support, immediate assistance to our flood victims or immediate support for COVID to the tune of billions of dollars.

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

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: That is why we are incredibly grateful to all of our frontline staff and also staff in agencies such as Service NSW, who are providing support for all of our citizens behind the scenes, and the police and family and community services, who make sure vulnerable people are being protected.

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

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: As I said, I am looking forward to the budget being handed down on 22 June because I am looking forward to demonstrating to the people of this State how deeply we appreciate everything that our frontline workers do.

UPPER HUNTER ECONOMY AND JOBS

Mr DAVID LAYZELL (Upper Hunter) (14:43): My question is addressed to the Deputy Premier. Will the Deputy Premier update the House on how the Government is supporting jobs and the economy in the Upper Hunter?

Mr JOHN BARILARO (Monaro—Minister for Regional New South Wales, Industry and Trade, and Deputy Premier) (14:43): Ladies and gentlemen, in the green corner, standing 190 centimetres tall and hailing from Clarence Town, is the Upper Hunter hero, the coal crusader, the provider of jobs and protector of the economy, the one and only David Layzell. Some 30 candidates came out fighting and swinging and the gloves came off. At the end of the fight, Dave Layzell stood tall. He stood tall because The Nationals represent the people of regional and rural New South Wales and a lot was on the line.

When we look at the critics, especially those opposite and their negative campaign and the shooters party recycling all its corflutes from Barwon and from Orange—I think they were still talking about greyhounds in their campaign—it was a very negative narrative. What happened to the shooters? It had a 50 per cent decline in its primary vote since the 2019 election. And of course the Labor Party, which has spent a decade in this House attacking farmers, the coal industry and miners, decided to pick Jeff Drayton, a coalminer and member of the Construction, Forestry, Maritime, Mining and Energy Union, to rewrite history. But the voters saw through the spin. Throughout the campaign The Nationals pitched to the people of the Upper Hunter a vision of the future with prosperity at its heart. And that is what the new member, Dave Layzell, will deliver. Over the next 18 months, in the lead-up to the 2023 election, not only will he deliver on what we promised at the 2019 election and what we promised at the by-election, he will deliver a vision that brings communities together. That is a challenge for Dave, and I am looking forward to working with the member for the Upper Hunter.

I take this moment to acknowledge the former leader of the Labor Party. Members know that the Tripodi-led faction pre-2011 ousted her from the seat of Newcastle but she found her way back by winning the seat of Strathfield with courage and strength. And with that courage and strength, she found a way to the leadership of the Labor Party. But nothing has changed in Labor. Labor cannot accept its own failings; it blamed the leader and the knives were out. Today the faceless man has a face. We now know who over the past two years has been undermining the Leader of the Opposition. I offer to the former Leader of the Opposition, the member for Strathfield, a title that has a great sound: The Nationals member for Strathfield. She is always welcome in our party. The Nationals is a party of the workers, a party for the regions, especially for the girl from Gloucester. We would welcome her to the National Party.

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

Mr JOHN BARILARO: We provide jobs from what we do, not on what we say. During the by-election campaign, as we were delivering our election commitments of 2019—the Muswellbrook bypass, for which we have now committed it connects to the town centre and Coal Road; our commitment that Singleton bypass connects to Putty Road; our commitment of \$12 million for the Singleton police station; our commitment of \$45 million for stage three of the Muswellbrook Hospital development; our commitment of \$650,000 to Dungog Common to ride the Dungog tracks—those opposite went to Scone to talk down TAFE. While we talked up our investment of opportunity, with the \$4 million that we have received—

Mr Greg Warren: Point of order—

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

Mr Greg Warren: It is under Standing Order 129. The Deputy Premier is being totally irrelevant. This is not an opportunity for him to advocate for their recycled, broken promises during the campaign. He should be drawn back to the question and should answer it appropriately.

The SPEAKER: I am satisfied that the Deputy Premier is being generally relevant.

Mr JOHN BARILARO: When it came to TAFE investment, those opposite raced up to Scone to talk down TAFE. Of course, we have sold the old equine site of TAFE to Racing NSW. Who is better placed in this State to run an equine centre, a facility that will train the next workforce of the equine industry, in partnership with TAFE? Of the \$4 million that we receive from the sale, \$3 million will go back into Scone TAFE for continued investment in the Scone Connected Learning Centre and another \$1 million will go to Muswellbrook. All \$4 million will be recycled back into the Upper Hunter electorate. We want to offer opportunity, not just through TAFE but in partnership. Those opposite went into the campaign with a negative message. [*Extension of time*]

As I said earlier, it is not what we say, it is what we do. We have delivered already on stages one and two of the Muswellbrook Hospital development. That is why people can trust the Liberals and The Nationals in government and Dave Layzell to deliver stage three. We have seen already the investment through the roads Minister for Dungog bridges—about \$16 million for 21 bridges. As a result of our actions, people can trust us to deliver the \$25 million for Dungog local roads upgrades. The Scone bypass is open and is supporting that community. Our actions in building the Scone bypass show that we will deliver both the Muswellbrook bypass and the Singleton bypass.

When we look at our investment right across the board, our track record speaks for itself. That is why the voters of the Upper Hunter trusted Dave Layzell and The Nationals to deliver on our agenda—an agenda not just for today but for the future. We have spoken about the Resources for Regions in this House. The National Party policy that we took to the 2011 election of Resources for Regions, which commenced in 2012, in this latest round,

round eight, now provides \$75 million per annum. That is in addition to the \$350 million already going into those mining communities. Of course, those opposite decided to announce a \$100 million fund!

We also have committed \$25 million for the Royalties for Rejuvenation Fund, which is about setting money aside for the future as we transition away from mining and away from relying heavily on those industries. We have a plan for today and investments for today but, more importantly, we have a plan for the future where agriculture, the equine industry and viticulture continue to thrive, where there is mining and energy, all part of a landscape coexisting and delivering opportunity and prosperity to the people of the Upper Hunter. That is our plan, not just for the Upper Hunter but for regional and rural New South Wales.

The SPEAKER: Before I call the newly elected Deputy Leader of the Opposition, I alert members to the fact that when the Deputy Premier is speaking he does not like to be interrupted, and I will not interrupt him because he speaks over the interjections. However, retrospectively I call the member for Wollongong to order for the third time, I call the member for Rockdale to order for the third time and I call the member for Port Stephens to order for the second time for repeated interruptions during the Deputy Premier's contribution.

PARAMEDIC REMUNERATION

Ms PRUE CAR (Londonderry) (14:52): My question is directed to the Premier. Does the Premier believe our paramedics, the lowest paid in the country, are paid enough?

Ms GLADYS BEREJKLIAN (Willoughby—Premier) (14:52): I refer the Deputy Leader of the Opposition to my previous two responses.

STATE ECONOMY

Mr MARK COURE (Oatley) (14:52): My question is addressed to the Treasurer. Will the Treasurer update the House on how the Government is maintaining a strong economy and supporting the community in New South Wales?

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET (Epping—Treasurer) (14:53): I thank the member for Oatley for his question and his interest in the New South Wales economy. I note that I have been out of Parliament for a while and have been out for a bit longer but in that time the Berejiklian-Barilaro Government has been hard at work. I made a massive difference from isolation. The Government has set up the State's mass vaccination hub in Homebush, which is open and NSW Health has delivered—if I am not wrong, health Minister—80,729 doses of the COVID vaccine in the last week alone. Since 22 February, 1.498 million doses have been administered across the State. Dave Layzell is here; we won a by-election.

We have announced \$24 million for live music support packages, \$89 million for three new schools for students with disabilities and \$850,000 for a range of activities in The Rocks and Darling Harbour, which the customer service Minister, the planning Minister and the tourism Minister are all across, as part of our CBD revitalisation fund. We put together a flood-prone land package and on Sunday we announced \$36.4 million for mental health support in the bush. The Premier spoke about the river crossing in Hawkesbury, which she announced with the Prime Minister and the transport Minister yesterday. Recently I was with the new sports Minister and the planning Minister at Warriewood Beach to announce \$16 million of funding across four years—that is \$4 million each year—for surf club facility programs. We have been incredibly busy. What have members opposite been up to? How are they going? Are they all okay?

Mr Ryan Park: Everyone's happy over here, Dom. Everyone's happy.

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: That's good. It is accomplished: The chosen one has arrived. I congratulate Chris, well deserved. I have done a bit of reading. You studied at Princeton, Ivy League, right? Wow, we are so privileged and honoured to be in your presence. Do you row?

The SPEAKER: The Treasurer will direct his comments through the Chair.

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: Mr Speaker, I think you are going to have some problems this week because they are all auditioning for the shadow ministry.

Ms Jodi McKay: Not all of us, Dom.

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: Not all of them. Not Jodi; she is out. The new Leader of the Opposition should sack them all and be on his own because, as they say, a change is as good as a holiday. But that only works if you have been working, and the members opposite have been on a holiday for 10 years. The Berejiklian-Barilaro Government's focus is where it should be, and that is on the people of New South Wales. Yesterday we handed down the NSW Intergenerational Report, or IGR, which shows that our State will change drastically over the next 40 years. It gives an insight for governments from all sides of politics to look at the opportunities and challenges

we are facing so we can develop policies that will improve the lives of people right across the State. As the great David Bowie said, "The future belongs to those who hear it coming." That is exactly what the Berejiklian-Barilaro Government is doing.

The report found that productivity is projected to become the biggest driver of our economic growth, increasing at 1.2 per cent per year over the next 40 years. By 2061 the fiscal gap will be 2.6 per cent of GSP. The good news is that is an improvement from the 2016 IGR when the gap was 3.4 per cent. Our population will expand by around 40 per cent to 11.5 million people in 2061. That is up from 8.2 million. Life expectancy is projected to increase to almost 92 years for women, with men falling behind—discriminated against again—at just over 89 years for people born in 2061. New South Wales will need an additional 1.7 million homes, which the planning Minister is all across. That is 42,000 additional homes each year. [*Extension of time*]

The report also notes that housing affordability has reduced, with the time taken to save for a deposit increasing from 6.6 years in 1996 to 11.5 years in 2020. This is an interesting one for the boomers—and Brad has just walked back in.

Mr Ryan Park: Hang on, that's a bit harsh.

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: It is just a fact, Ryan. Sixty per cent of boomers owned a home when they were between the ages of 25 and 34. The figure for millennials is 15 points lower, at 45 per cent, for the same age bracket. That shows that housing affordability is obviously decreasing. But we need to continue to look at policies to help. Millennials do not have a lobby group or talkback radio to go to, so it is our job to represent them in this place. Wages will increase, as we have seen, to an average of about \$139,000 per year in today's dollars. That is compared with \$86,000 in 2018-19. The jobs of the future will be more highly skilled and the workforce will be increasingly concentrated in the social services and business services sectors.

Former Prime Minister Paul Keating talked about the touch and tech industries that will come forward. Overall, the IGR projects that by 2061 the people of New South Wales—because of the great work of the health Minister—can be expected to live longer lives, have more flexible career options and enjoy a higher standard of living. A few years ago we set up the NSW Generations Fund and seeded it with \$10 billion. It is now at \$14 billion, with returns of around 8.05 per cent. That will grow to \$430 billion and have a significant impact on reducing the debt that future generations will have to pay down in the years to come.

CROWN CEMETERIES

Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect) (15:00): My question is directed to the Minister for Water, Property and Housing. Given the huge amount of angst that the Minister's OneCrown proposal has caused, why has she not met with Archbishop Fisher for the last six months before today nor responded to the Catholic Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust's proposed model?

Mrs MELINDA PAVEY (Oxley—Minister for Water, Property and Housing) (15:01): I thank the member for Prospect for his important question on an issue that is very relevant to people across the Sydney Basin. It is important that we have an appropriate response to drive down the cost of burials and internments. The recent IPART report has shown that we have challenges in terms of affordability and future cemetery space. That is what *The 11th Hour* report has dealt with and a lot of the information and the challenges going forward are highlighted in the recently released IPART report. I also acknowledge and very much appreciate the Catholic Church and the Catholic Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust and I will continue to work with them.

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

Mrs MELINDA PAVEY: The Catholic Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust has been involved in delivering services and running Rookwood Necropolis as well as Liverpool Cemetery for 150 years.

The SPEAKER: Order! I remind the member for Rockdale that he is on three calls to order.

Mrs MELINDA PAVEY: I can give a guarantee that the Catholic Church will continue to be involved in the delivery of services across New South Wales and across the Sydney Basin.

The SPEAKER: I remind the member for Maroubra that he is on three calls to order. He will be removed from the Chamber if he makes another sound.

Mrs MELINDA PAVEY: I have met with Archbishop Anthony Fisher and I have met on numerous occasions with the Catholic Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust. I respect their work and I respect their involvement. When we came to government in 2011 there were 24 trusts across Sydney delivering cemetery services. We brought that down to five. We have now consolidated the remaining five to four and I will continue, as the Premier

and the Deputy Premier expect me to, to have conversations on behalf of our Government with the Catholic Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust.

The SPEAKER: The member for Wollongong is on his final warning. The member for Prospect will remain silent. I call the member for Prospect to order for the second time.

Mrs MELINDA PAVEY: We will consult and continue to work for the best outcome as we continue to deal with this pressing issue, which is space into the future for all faiths—Jewish, Muslim and all Christian faiths. The Catholic Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust and its board will be very much involved in the future arrangements.

The SPEAKER: The member for Coogee will remain silent.

DINE & DISCOVER NSW

Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal) (15:04): My question is addressed to the Minister for Customer Service and the Minister for Digital. Will the Minister update the House on how the Government's Dine & Discover program is boosting the State economy?

Mr VICTOR DOMINELLO (Ryde—Minister for Customer Service) (15:04): I thank the member for Terrigal and congratulate him on all the wonderful work he is doing in the electorate of Terrigal and, more broadly, on the Central Coast. He understands that these Dine & Discover vouchers are not just good for the economy. They are also good in easing cost-of-living pressures and supporting local jobs. As a result of the work that he has done, I am proud to say to the member for Terrigal that the Central Coast has had 237,654 voucher redemptions, injecting over \$5 million into the Central Coast economy. I will give members some quick high-level statistics on the Dine & Discover vouchers. The average transaction spend so far is more than \$41; the business registration feedback is 97 per cent—not bad for government delivery of service; customer registration feedback is 97.5 per cent; total businesses registered 14,000; and registered customers 4.25 million. But it is now up to the 4.26 million registered customers. The highest customer registration is in the Blacktown local government area [LGA]. The total vouchers redeemed is 187 million.

The SPEAKER: Order! There is too much audible conversation in the Chamber. I call the member for Canterbury to order for the first time.

Ms Sophie Cotsis: Extend the vouchers.

Mr VICTOR DOMINELLO: Yes, maybe. We will look at that.

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

Mr VICTOR DOMINELLO: The total spend is \$358 million. Members might be interested to know the top 10 LGAs: Sydney, 1.1 million; Blacktown, 693,000; Central Coast, 240,000; Northern Beaches, 225,000—I give a particular shout-out to the member for Manly, the member for Pittwater and the member for Wakehurst; Fairfield—wherever the member is—171,000; Newcastle, 169,000; Canterbury, 143,000; Wollongong, 139,000; Inner West, 137,000; and Lake Macquarie, 133,000.

Dr Geoff Lee: What about Parramatta?

Mr VICTOR DOMINELLO: I don't know where Parramatta is.

Dr Geoff Lee: It's good though.

Mr VICTOR DOMINELLO: Yes, it's brilliant. In this era of détente, I just thought I would lend a hand to the Opposition and give it a shout-out for all the great work that some of its members are doing promoting the Dine & Discover vouchers because those members are focusing on cost of living and local jobs. In order, fifth place goes to the member for Auburn. Lynda Voltz—credit to her—is on social media and promoting the program. She has not done a great job but at least she has been talking about Dine & Discover, so I congratulate the member for Auburn. The member for Charlestown has gone into more detail, so she comes in at number four.

Mr David Harris: Excellent member.

Mr VICTOR DOMINELLO: Yes, she is a great member. She is doing great work. She is talking about residents in New South Wales, with a bit more detail around the \$25 vouchers. The bronze medal goes to arguably everyone's favourite MP in the Chamber. I say to the member for Kogarah that the member for Cessnock should be a shadow Minister for sure. He is a great guy, a top man. We all love the member for Cessnock. He has gone more into detail: "Vouchers must be used by 30 June." I say well done to the member for Cessnock. He is on social media. The silver medal goes to the member for Newcastle—again, top bloke, nice guy. I love his creativity. I think it is a Southern Cross on his social media, but it has a red background. What is that? I thought it was a blue background but it is deep red. Hey, no problem. [*Extension of time*]

The gold medal goes to a thoroughly decent human being, Sonia Hornery. She has promoted Dine & Discover multiple times. But when we are talking about Dine & Discover and supporting local jobs and helping out with the cost of living, the member for Kogarah, the Leader of the Opposition, knows how important that is because he has said on his Facebook page that he is focused on securing local jobs and keeping down the cost of living. Just before the Kogarah coup, he had 8,600 followers. I am sure that has shot up since his takeover. But the point is for a person who is interested—

Mr Ryan Park: Bring back John Macgowan, if this is your research. John is shaking his head at this.

The SPEAKER: Order! Members on both sides of the Chamber will come to order. I call the member for Keira to order for the first time.

Mr VICTOR DOMINELLO: The member for Keira is really asking for a gig, isn't he? He wants that gig in shadow ministry. Go harder! For a person who is really interested in the cost of living and securing local jobs, the member for Kogarah has not promoted Dine & Discover in his local electorate. That is very disappointing.

Mr Stephen Kamper: That was it? Free lunches was the punchline?

Mr VICTOR DOMINELLO: Yes, it is. Because it is important. As I said, in this period—

Mr Stephen Kamper: He's not as good as you with the free lunches.

Mr VICTOR DOMINELLO: No, that is right. I encourage those opposite to support the Government's initiatives because we are out there supporting people who are struggling with the cost of living.

COVID-19 VACCINE

Mr ALEX GREENWICH (Sydney) (15:11): My question is directed to the Minister for Health and Medical Research. How is the New South Wales Government ensuring that vulnerable communities, including people who are homeless, have access to COVID-19 vaccinations?

Mr BRAD HAZZARD (Wakehurst—Minister for Health and Medical Research) (15:11): I thank the member for Sydney for his question. I know, having worked with him in a number of different areas, that he is genuine about his concerns, as I am sure all members in this place are in regard to vulnerable members of the community, culturally and linguistically diverse communities and so on. A lot of work obviously has been done in regard to vaccination more broadly. I think last week NSW Health managed to get up to about 80,000 vaccinations. The majority of vaccinations are being done and will hopefully continue to be done by GPs with patients they understand and know. I stress to the community more broadly that if you are over 50 and have a GP who has access to the AstraZeneca vaccine, you should try to make an appointment with the GP. People in the 40-to-49 age bracket are currently eligible for the Pfizer vaccine. It has temperature restrictions, so it must be delivered through NSW Health facilities at the present time.

Obviously the challenges for people who are homeless or vulnerable or sex workers are a little different. In essence, we have to look at ways to reach out to them to get the vaccine to them. There cannot be the same expectation that they will necessarily come to NSW Health or, indeed, GPs because many people in those situations do not have a GP. Some do, but some do not. I think it is fair to say that lessons were learnt by me personally when I was the housing Minister and I went out onto the streets all over Sydney and throughout New South Wales. I got Housing NSW to do outreach. It had not done so in the past, which was interesting because it had expected homeless people to come to it.

Mr Ryan Park: Good program.

Mr BRAD HAZZARD: Yes. I thank the member for that comment. Outreach is crucial and that is certainly the message I have given to Housing NSW. Having said that, some very good services are already underway. Although it is five or six years since I was doing that job, I remember an incredible service run through St Vincent's Hospital, where there was a remarkable nurse, Erin Longbottom, who was an ambassador for everything that can be done for people who are homeless. The hospital has a lot of nurses and doctors who are remarkable. The St Vincent's Hospital Homeless Health Service is continuing that task and offering vaccinations to homeless people. The South Eastern Sydney Local Health District is doing something similar and reaching out to homeless people throughout the district. A new centre has been opened at Woolloomooloo, Ozanam Learning Centre.

Before I address the regions, I will address western Sydney. Services are being offered there to mental health patients through the Western Sydney Local Health District at Cumberland and Auburn hospitals, as well as to methadone clinic patients generally who have some association with Blacktown Hospital. Refugees are obviously a very vulnerable population and we have been doing outreach programs through an association with

Settlement Services International. Again, I remember working with that body, which is effectively a federally funded body. Many of the people who work in Settlement Services International are themselves refugees who have moved on to become Australian residents and citizens. They really understand how to reach out to the various subset communities. In western Sydney they are working with Jeffery House to provide vaccines through their sexual health clinic.

Generally the regions are a little more challenging because obviously it is up to each individual local health district. The Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District, for example—which I visited with a number of my colleagues the week before last to make the very important announcement of the new hospital in Shellharbour—is working with the Shoalhaven Homeless Hub to provide outreach pop-up clinics for those sleeping rough. In essence, a lot is being done but a lot more can be done. Members on both sides of the House and Independent members often have come to me with ideas on how to reach out. I thank members of the Opposition, Independent representatives and other Liberals and Nationals who have come to me with local suggestions for local areas. If members have any other suggestions, they should come and see me and I will make sure that Health acknowledges and works with them on those initiatives.

ZERO EMISSIONS BUS FLEET

Mrs TANYA DAVIES (Mulgoa) (15:17): My question is addressed to the Minister for Transport and Roads. Will the Minister update the House on how the Government's zero emissions bus rollout is creating economic growth and supporting local jobs?

Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE (Bega—Minister for Transport and Roads) (15:17): I congratulate the Leader of the Opposition on winning the latest series of *Survivor: Sussex Street*. There is no doubt poor Yasmin and Jodi got voted off the island without a boat. I organised a protest for Michael Daley to announce his leadership and he did not take advantage. What happened?

Mr Michael Daley: It disappeared like your buses, mate.

Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE: I will pay that; the member for Maroubra is good. He forgot to play *Survivor: Sussex Street* and instead played *The Biggest Loser*. It is very sad.

Mr Stephen Kamper: Come on, mate. Are you at the pub having a chat?

Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE: Now, all those opposite are playing *Married at First Sight*. Hands up who likes each other over there, because it is not good. There is no doubt that the State Government's focus on zero emissions buses is starting to deliver some incredible outcomes in local manufacturing. Those opposite are not interested in climate change or zero emissions buses. What is interesting about this—

The SPEAKER: Order! Members will cease conversing across the table. The Minister is coming back to the serious nature of the question.

Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE: Nothing has changed over there; we have seen that today. What is important about zero emissions buses is the direction the Government is taking and the resulting outcome for manufacturing in western Sydney. The Government has been concerned about the impact of diesel particulates on public health for many a year but also about making sure we head towards addressing the issues around emissions very aggressively, given the impact that they are having on our environment. When it comes to net zero emissions buses, there is no doubting the public health impacts on children in particular of diesel particulates, which we have seen in places like London and elsewhere throughout Europe. This is a critical issue that we must move on. Referring to where we are headed, it is very pleasing that we have just signed the first bus contract in the State's history that will not see a diesel emission bus procured. We have not procured a diesel emission bus since 2019 for Greater Sydney, and what is particularly exciting—

Ms Liesl Tesch: Tell me you did not buy it from those ferry builders—last in the world.

Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE: Will the member for Gosford just be quiet, please?

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Gosford will remain silent.

Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE: Those opposite did not do it. What is particularly pleasing is that in western Sydney, Custom Denning—

Ms Prue Car: Custom Denning is a great company.

Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE: Yes, exactly. Custom Denning is a great company and those opposite are not interested in hearing about it. That is because the direction we are taking—

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr Stephen Kamper: Don't get too emotional.

Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE: What does that mean?

Mr Stephen Kamper: I was saying you are getting emotional about nothing.

Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE: Right, yes. A real smart Alec; smart Alec in chief. What is important in relation to electric buses is that Custom Denning has the capacity to employ 400 workers. It is another demonstration of this Government being the party for the workers. Those opposite do not want to hear this but Custom Denning has produced an electric bus that is the most efficient in the world. It is 30 per cent more efficient than a bus out of China and 30 per cent more efficient than any other bus in the world. A charge of four hours delivers 22 hours of service for commuters on Sydney streets.

That is the type of innovation that we are seeing in Australian manufacturing right here in New South Wales as a result of the direction that this Government is taking. It is pleasing to note not only those jobs at places like Custom Denning but also that we are now seeing buses hitting Sydney roads, with obvious benefits in amenity, public health and the environment. As a result of the franchise contract that we have now signed up on the northern beaches, 125 electric buses also will be procured for that region. When it comes to electric buses, that is the type of power that we are seeing delivered from an industry that is willing to respond to the direction of government, and that is the type of direction our community expects. [*Extension of time*]

The SPEAKER: The Minister will be directly relevant to the question and Opposition members will remain silent.

Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE: The point of moving to a fully zero emissions bus fleet is that we have the capacity to reduce the emissions from Transport for NSW by 40 per cent. The environmental and health benefits could realise a benefit of up to \$1.9 billion if we replace all diesel buses in Sydney, so it is a very profound and very real return to our community in health impacts and environmental impacts. We will stay the course. I am very in tune with what is happening with the manufacturers, but an incredible employment benefit also will be provided to the mechanics who will now need to upskill for electric buses. That is very exciting for our TAFE system and particularly for the young people who will enter the industry in the years ahead. I acknowledge the work that our operators are doing. Companies like Transit Systems, Transdev, Busabout, Punchbowl Bus Company and Busways are all moving very aggressively to take on the opportunities relating to zero emissions buses and we will continue to order them.

The SPEAKER: The member for Port Stephens will remain silent.

Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE: We are moving very clearly towards making sure that we hit the mark in converting the full fleet of 8,000 diesel buses as quickly as we can, ideally by 2030, so that we can make sure our community is safe and that we tackle the challenges associated with climate change.

Documents

AUDITOR-GENERAL

Reports

THE CLERK: In accordance with section 63C of the Public Finance and Audit Act 1983, I announce receipt of the following reports:

- (1) Performance Audit Report of the Auditor-General entitled *Acquisition of 4-6 Grand Avenue, Camellia*, dated 18 May 2021, received out of session on 18 May 2021 and authorised to be printed.
- (2) Financial Audit Report of the Auditor-General entitled *Report on Local Government 2020*, dated 27 May 2021, received out of session on 27 May 2021 and authorised to be printed.
- (3) Performance Audit Report of the Auditor-General entitled *Responses to Homelessness*, dated 4 June 2021, received out of session on 4 June 2021 and authorised to be printed.

Committees

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY SERVICES

Government Response: Inquiry into the Protocol for Homeless People in Public Places

The CLERK: I announce receipt of the Government response to report No. 1/57 of the Legislative Assembly Committee on Community Services, entitled *Inquiry into the Protocol for Homeless People in Public Places*, received out of session on 19 May 2021 and authorised to be printed.

*Documents***NSW STATE CORONER****Reports**

The CLERK: In accordance with section 37 of the Coroners Act 2009, I announce receipt of the following reports:

- (1) *Report by the NSW State Coroner into deaths in custody/police operations for the year 2020*, received out of session on 21 May 2021 and authorised to be printed.
- (2) *Report by the NSW State Coroner into First Nations People's Deaths in Custody in NSW 2008-2018*, received out of session on 21 May 2021 and authorised to be printed.

RESILIENCE NSW**Reports**

The CLERK: I announce receipt of the report of Resilience NSW entitled *NSW Bushfire Inquiry 2020 Progress Report: Implementation of the NSW Government's Response to the NSW Bushfire Inquiry for period January to March 2021*, received out of session on 27 May 2021 and authorised to be printed.

NSW ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AUTHORITY**Reports**

The CLERK: I announce receipt of the Report of the NSW Environment Protection Authority entitled *NSW Litter Report 2016-2020*, dated March 2021, received out of session on 4 June 2021 and authorised to be printed.

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

Ms FELICITY WILSON: As Chair: I table the report of the Legislation Review Committee entitled *Legislation Review Digest No. 31/57*, dated 8 June 2021. I move:

That the report be printed.

Motion agreed to.

Ms FELICITY WILSON: I table also the minutes of the committee meeting regarding *Legislation Review Digest No. 30/57*.

*Committees***JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON ROAD SAFETY****Inquiry**

Ms ROBYN PRESTON: As Deputy Chair: In accordance with Standing Order 299 (1), I inform the House that the Joint Standing Committee on Road Safety has resolved to conduct an inquiry into mobile speed camera enforcement programs in New South Wales, the full details of which are available on the committee's home page.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE**Inquiry**

Mr GREG PIPER: As Chair: In accordance with Standing Order 299 (1), I inform the House that the Public Accounts Committee has resolved to conduct an inquiry into selected Auditor-General's Financial Audit Reports of 2020, the full details of which are available on the committee's home page.

*Petitions***PETITIONS RECEIVED**

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

Consent Sex Education

Petition requesting the Legislative Assembly include holistic consent sex education in the curriculum and legislate urgent reform to require sexual consent to be enthusiastic consent, received from **Ms Jenny Leong**.

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

Business of the House

INAUGURAL SPEECH

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN: I move:

That the business before the House be interrupted on Wednesday 9 June 2021 after question time to permit the presentation of an inaugural speech by the member for Upper Hunter.

Motion agreed to.

Committees

LEGISLATION REVIEW COMMITTEE

Membership

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN: I move:

That:

- (1) David Robert Layzell be appointed to serve on the Legislation Review Committee in place of Wendy Elizabeth Lindsay, discharged.
- (2) A message be sent informing the Legislative Council.

Motion agreed to.

Petitions

PETITIONS RECEIVED

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

First Home Buyer Grants for Survivors of Spousal Domestic Violence

Petition requesting the Legislative Assembly legislate that a survivor recovering from a spousal domestic violence relationship should have access to all New South Wales first home buyer grants and assistance regardless of whether they have previously accessed such benefits, received from **Mr Ray Williams**.

Hastings Secondary College Port Macquarie Campus

Petition requesting the Legislative Assembly fund the full refurbishment of Hastings Secondary College Port Macquarie Campus to accommodate the 750 students currently enrolled and ensure that all teaching spaces in the school are fit for purpose and to modern standards, received from **Mrs Leslie Williams**.

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

Jannali Commuter Car Park Compulsory Acquisition

Petition requesting the Legislative Assembly stop the process of compulsory acquisition of nine family homes in Jannali for a commuter car park, provide an opportunity for genuine consultation between the Government and the community and reconsider the location of the car park, received from **Mr Chris Minns**.

Education Legislation Amendment

Petition requesting the Legislative Assembly prevent the passing of the Education Legislation Amendment (Parental Rights) Bill, received from **Ms Jenny Leong**.

Picton Bypass

Petition requesting the Legislative Assembly call on the Government to fund and deliver a road bypass for Picton, received from **Mr Nathaniel Smith**.

Cooks River Pipeline Route

Petition requesting the Legislative Assembly prevent any further destruction of vegetation along the Cooks River pipeline route, received from **Ms Sophie Cotsis**.

Region 7 Bus Network

Petition requesting the Legislative Assembly immediately halt all plans to privatise the public bus network in Region 7, reverse all cuts to current bus route and services in Region 7, commit to a process of community consultation with all stakeholders before implementing any changes to bus routes in Region 7 and guarantee that no existing bus route or service in Region 7 be cut in future, received from **Mr Chris Minns**.

Tweed Greyhound Track Development

Petition requesting the Legislative Assembly call on the Government to commit no funding towards the Tweed greyhound track development or prize money for Tweed greyhound races, provide no further racetrack licences or race dates until the industry's track standards are made public and the industry commits to implementing the University of Technology Sydney's track report recommendations, and protect the regionally significant land purchased for the development of the proposed Tweed greyhound track, received from **Ms Tamara Smith**.

Ingleburn Community Policing Centre

Petition requesting the Legislative Assembly reopen the Ingleburn community policing centre, received from **Mr Anoulack Chanthivong**.

RESPONSES TO PETITIONS

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

The Hon. Don Harwin—Removal of the Statue of General Lachlan Macquarie—lodged 4 May 2021 (Ms Jenny Leong)

The Hon. Andrew Constance—Plumpton Public School Pedestrian Crossing—lodged 4 May 2021 (Mr Edmond Atalla)

The Hon. Kevin Anderson—NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal Landlord Register—lodged 4 May 2021 (Ms Jenny Leong)

Business of the House

BUSINESS LAPSED

The SPEAKER: I advise the House that in accordance with Standing Order 105, general business order of the day (for bills) No. 3 [Independent Commission Against Corruption Amendment (Ministerial Code of Conduct—Property Developers) Bill 2021] and No. 4 [Independent Commission Against Corruption Amendment (Publication of Ministerial Register of Interests) Bill 2021], and general business notices of motions (general notices) Nos 1982 to 1987, 1989 to 2069 and 2071 to 2073 have lapsed.

Bills

BUILDING LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2021

Second Reading Debate

Debate resumed from an earlier hour.

Ms ELENI PETINOS (Miranda) (15:30): Following on my second reading contribution earlier today to the Building Legislation Amendment Bill 2021, developers have a 60-day grace period from their expected date, so a developer who is 60 days early or 60 days late will not need to notify again. It is important to be clear that developers will not, however, be able to combine the two periods and notify within 120 days. This grace period ensures that developers are not forced to unnecessarily and repeatedly notify in the case of any minor change from the expected completion date. Where the developer needs to change the date several times, the legislation allows this to occur and provides that a developer may give more than one expected completion amendment notice. Currently penalties apply for failing to notify of a change in the expected date or new expected date.

Under the bill, daily penalties are introduced for each day the developer or person is in contravention. Under the Residential Apartment Buildings Act, the maximum penalty remains at \$55,000 for a body corporate and \$11,000 for an individual. In the case of a continuing offence, the maximum penalty will be \$5,500 for each day the offence continues in the case of a body corporate and \$1,100 for each day the offence continues for an individual. Under the Residential Apartment Buildings [RAB] Act, strict penalties apply for any person who fails to comply with the requests of an authorised officer.

The RAB Act provides that a person must not obstruct, hinder or interfere with an authorised officer in the exercise of their functions, or refuse or fail to comply with a direction without a reasonable excuse. Currently a maximum penalty applies for a breach of these provisions. Under the bill, penalties would be increased and daily penalties would be introduced for each day the developer or person is in contravention. The bill provides for body corporates a maximum penalty of \$1.1 million and, in addition, up to \$110,000 for each day the offence continues. For an individual, the maximum penalties are \$220,000 and up to \$22,000 for each day the offence continues.

Let us not undersell this aspect; these are significant penalties. That is the intention. However, industry should now be well aware of the Government's building reforms. The new penalties make clear that noncompliance, cutting corners and working to fix problems that have been caused is unacceptable. The proposed amounts are, however, intended to be in line with other continuing offences already in the Act. The bill includes an amendment that provides that where a person is found guilty in the Local Court or the Land and Environment Court for a breach of an order or direction under the Act, the court can, if appropriate to do so, make an order for the person to comply with that order or direction.

Empowering the court to make an order directing that a defendant comply with the notice means that the department will have greater enforcement options available and that it is better equipped to achieve rectification or prevention of serious defects. I again congratulate the Minister for Better Regulation and Innovation, Kevin Anderson, and his staff on bringing such an important bill before the House. I note the Minister's presence in the Chamber. The bill makes necessary reforms to the regulation of the building and construction industry to better protect consumers. It is an important step in the Government's agenda to improve the residential building system in New South Wales. I commend the bill to the House.

Mr ALEX GREENWICH (Sydney) (15:33): As the member representing the electorate with the largest proportion of apartments, I know all too well the damage and suffering that owners and residents experience from building defects. I have heard from many constituents who bought homes in newly constructed buildings only to find themselves having to deal with faulty membranes that cause damp and mould; noncompliant fire systems that put residents in danger and become the subject of complex and expensive fire safety orders; and inadequate foundations that cause buildings to crack.

Apartment owners in buildings with defects have been understandably angry about the erosion of protections in recent decades, including the introduction of private certification and reduced statutory warranty periods. To fix defective work, many have had to pay massive levies on top of their big mortgages. Where court action has been possible, many owners paid expensive legal fees only to lose on technicalities and, in some cases, pay the developer's costs—all to address defects that were not their responsibility and that they could not have foreseen. People invest their life savings in buying a home. The devastation that defects can have on their finances and wellbeing cannot be understated.

In the past two years, we have made substantial leaps forward in consumer protection against apartment defects. I congratulate the Minister on his part in making the issue a priority. We now have a comprehensive accreditation system for all building practitioners and strong duty-of-care provisions. Most importantly, we have a dedicated and active Building Commissioner, who is working hard to improve apartment building quality. The Building Legislation Amendment Bill 2021 will help strengthen the new regime that was introduced to improve building standards. The oversight role of the NSW Building Commissioner is the cornerstone of that regime. Much of the work is hands on, requiring audits, inspections and work with developers and building practitioners to fix problems.

The bill will ensure a sustainable funding model for this important work by means of a levy on developers. The levy, which is unlikely to amount to more than \$100 per lot, will have no impact on the prices of units—which are set by market value anyway. Unfortunately, developers are still trying to use loopholes to avoid their obligations and duties and to frustrate the Building Commissioner's work. Their efforts only demonstrate how important a strong regulatory framework is to protecting homebuyers. Currently, a prohibition order against issuing an occupation certificate or registering a strata plan is only permitted when defects have been found. As a result, some developers are refusing to provide documents, information or records or even answer questions to make it impossible to identify defects.

The bill enables the Building Commissioner to issue orders when a developer fails to comply with a request for information regardless of whether defects have been found. The penalties for failing to comply with directions or notifications will be continuing and will accumulate as the failure to comply continues. Since the bill was introduced a new loophole has come to light whereby developers are arguing that the Building Commissioner has no power to issue orders in cases where work has been done illegally, such as without a construction certificate. That sounds ludicrous but it is happening. I will move an amendment to close the loophole. The Better Regulation Legislation Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2021, which also amends legislation in the Minister's portfolio,

gives the Building Commissioner power to order a bond from a developer when defects are found. That will provide an important safeguard to ensure that defects get fixed.

Other changes in the Building Legislation Amendment Bill 2021 facilitate the co-regulatory model for registering engineers, consistent with the recommendations of the inquiry conducted by the Legislative Assembly Committee on Environment and Planning, which I chaired. We will only raise building standards through continuous improvement. I congratulate the Minister on introducing new measures to strengthen the current framework. Building Commissioner David Chandler has brought much-needed confidence in the future of building standards, which will benefit the Government, the sector and consumers alike. We must remain vigilant and address any new loopholes or problems that arise. We must keep working with consumer groups like the Owners Corporation Network to ensure that we reverse the proliferation of building defects and have a world-class apartment building industry. I commend the bill to the House.

Mr NATHANIEL SMITH (Wollondilly) (15:38): I speak in support of the Building Legislation Amendment Bill 2021 and commend the Minister for Better Regulation and Innovation for introducing it to the House. The bill supports ongoing government oversight of the building and construction industry. As someone who has worked in the building and construction industry for over a decade, I am glad to have a partner in crime in the member for Upper Hunter—a magnificent builder in his region, which is a bit similar to God's country in Wollondilly. It is great to have a member of this House who knows the difficulties in the industry. As a worker on construction sites who has fixed defects in finished buildings, I understand the huge costs to home owners and bodies corporate. It has gone on for too long.

Too many builders and developers have cut corners as technology continually changes and new building materials come onto the market. I saw it in my own trade. A company in my electorate builds concrete and fibreglass panels that will reduce the footprint of unit buildings in residential areas. But we must ensure that new materials meet Australian code standards. As an ex-construction worker, I am proud to speak to the bill in this House. This Government continues to be a steadfast supporter of growth in the building and construction industry, which will help get us out of COVID-19, especially in my electorate of Wollondilly and in the Macarthur region in general. A lot of residential building is taking place in Wilton and Appin and in the Camden electorate in particular. We must make sure that the purchasers of those homes get a good deal.

I am happy that the Minister is our watchdog, keeping an eye on quality out in the market. As part of the New South Wales Government's response to the COVID pandemic, it is critical that growth is supported by safe, quality buildings. The Government's reforms since the election are part of its response to the 2019 building confidence report, authored by Professor Peter Shergold, AC, and Ms Bronwyn Weir. The bill delivers on the New South Wales Government's commitment to implement transformational reforms to the State's building regulation as part of its ongoing work to secure behavioural change in the industry. That comprehensive reform agenda is focused on improving building quality and restoring consumer confidence in the New South Wales construction industry.

Schedule 4 to the bill amends the Electricity Supply Act 1995 and the Gas and Electricity (Consumer Safety) Act 2017 by transferring responsibilities for electricity metering to the Minister for Better Regulation and Innovation to reflect current administrative responsibilities. On 4 June 2019 the Minister for Energy and Environment and the Minister for Better Regulation and Innovation agreed to formally transfer provisions of the Electricity Supply Act 1995, which is administered by the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, to the Gas and Electricity (Consumer Safety) Act 2017, which is administered by the Department of Customer Service, by 1 June 2021. Regulation of electrical metering is currently split across those two Acts and administered by two Ministers. Accordingly, regulatory responsibilities are split across the Department of Customer Service and the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment.

The proposed amendments do not substantively change the effect of the rules relating to electricity meters, including advanced meters. They reflect that compliance and enforcement of safety requirements relating to metering is to be overseen by the Department of Customer Service. First, the amendments vest sole responsibility for safety with the Minister for Better Regulation and Innovation. The Minister for Energy and Environment will continue to oversee elements of metering requirements that regulate the relationship between the electricity/metering provider and the customer. Secondly, the amendments relating to powers of entry insert provisions into part 7 of the Gas and Electricity (Consumer Safety) Act 2017 that replicate the power of entry provisions of the Electricity Supply Act 1995.

Those provisions will enable authorised officers of retailers to enter premises to carry out preliminary investigations in connection with the installation or extension of electricity works; read, test, maintain, inspect or alter meters installed at premises; and enter premises outside daylight hours if there is a problem with a meter that poses a safety risk. Those are all reasonable and measured powers. The vesting of powers of entry in

non-government officers will ensure that the functions of retailers, including checking meters for billing and maintenance, can be carried out without undue interference.

Authorised officers of the retailer will remain responsible for ensuring that they do as little damage as possible to the premises when exercising their function. That means that, for example, if an authorised officer needed to enter fenced land and the existing opening was not practicable, they would be required to ensure the new opening made was properly closed and fixed. Importantly, authorised officers of retailers may enter the premises of a customer to carry out their functions, but their work must be done in daylight hours unless the meter on the premises poses a risk to safety. Pursuant to section 47 of the Gas and Electricity (Consumer Safety) Act 2017, authorised officers of retailers will still be required to seek a home occupier's permission before entering their property or premises.

I commend the Minister for introducing the bill. It makes necessary changes to the Gas and Electricity (Consumer Safety) Act 2017 and adds to the Government's reforms, which include the establishment of the Office of the NSW Building Commissioner, the introduction of the Residential Apartment Buildings (Compliance and Enforcement Powers) Act 2020, and the Design and Building Practitioner Act 2020. The changes to the Gas and Electricity (Consumer Safety) Act 2017 support the work of the NSW Building Commissioner and NSW Fair Trading by ensuring that the building regulator has the right suite of capabilities and powers to meet the Government's commitments in this space. I will also address something that the member for Granville raised earlier. In relation to support for the residents of Mascot Towers, the Government has so far contributed \$7 million for emergency accommodation. The Government was there from the first night of the eviction and it will continue to support residents until circumstances change. I commend the bill to the House.

Ms YASMIN CATLEY (Swansea) (15:46): I make a brief contribution to debate on the Building Legislation Amendment Bill 2021. It is my strong view that both sides of politics are trying very hard to restore confidence in the building industry. Both the Minister for Better Regulation and Innovation and the shadow Minister are in the Chamber. Working together, we have been able to achieve significant steps forward in restoring confidence and ensuring that buildings throughout New South Wales are safe. However, we must never compromise safety when it comes to building and building standards, in particular when they relate to the installation of electricity. First and foremost, I will address the issue that is, for me, the most concerning aspect of the bill, which is the proposal to transfer provisions relating to electricity metering from the Electricity Supply Act 1995 to the Gas and Electricity (Consumer Safety) Act 2017. I point out that the bill includes new section 38AB, which quite rightly states:

- (1) A retailer or metering co-ordinator who provides, installs, maintains or replaces an advanced meter must ensure that—
 - (a) a person engaged to install an advanced meter—
 - (i) is a qualified person, and
 - (ii) has undertaken appropriate training in the installation of advanced meters, including de-energisation and re-energisation of electrical installations, and
 - (b) safety and compliance testing is carried out in relation to each installation as required by the Gas and Electricity (Consumer Safety) Regulation 2018, Parts 8 and 9.

The proposed changes in new section 38AB, titled "Installation of advanced meters by retailers and metering co-ordinators", pose the potential risk of unqualified people working on advanced meters. Members had this discussion in 2016 when we debated the installation of advanced meters as part of the Electricity Supply Amendment (Advanced Meters) Bill. The Labor Party opposed that bill because of its concerns around safety. We cannot impress upon this place too clearly how important it is that we have qualified electricians installing the advanced meters, which are now legislated.

Labor has very strong concerns that if we do not uphold the strong training and qualifications that are in place at the moment, we could be creating a number of safety risks. I have spoken to many electricians about this exact matter. They tell me time and time again that their qualifications when it comes to advanced metering are absolutely critical—there is an anomaly there, which I will speak to next—and that the bill opens the door for linesmen to engage in that activity. We really can leave ourselves open. In the name of safety and building standards and the direction that the Parliament has been taking, I do not want to see the Parliament go backwards in any way, shape or form when we are talking about safety measures and how important they are.

The concern that Labor has is in relation to new section 55A, where there is an anomaly. The provisions would allow network operators or retailers to appoint authorised officers who are not qualified and have not undertaken appropriate training in the installation of advanced meters to perform electrical work like testing, maintaining, altering and replacing advanced meters, which includes de-energisation and re-energisation of electrical installations. The exemption in new section 55A is in conflict with the safety provisions in new section 38AB. That is why I read out new section 38AB in this place; it clearly outlines the qualifications that are

required, and quite rightly so. I believe we can fix this anomaly with an amendment that I understand the shadow Minister will put before the House.

I hope that the Government shares our view and supports the amendment. It is a very sensible amendment. It will remedy the significant anomaly and provide requirements for network operators and retailers to ensure they utilise only qualified persons, as defined in the Home Building Act 1989, who are trained in the installation of advanced meters, including the de-energisation of electrical installations. The shadow Minister will provide that amendment to the House to ensure the safety of all workers. The amendment will make it abundantly clear that the installation of advanced meters can only be conducted by a qualified person, as defined by the Act. That will prevent network operators and retailers from allowing unqualified persons to be appointed to the role of officers authorised to carry out electrical work on advanced meters. The Opposition believes a person should only enter a premise to install an advanced meter if they are a qualified person who has undertaken the appropriate and adequate training.

In addition, I raise another issue that has become quite apparent. When new meters are being installed or replaced, workers often find that asbestos fibres have been used in old workings. I seek from the Minister a commitment to enshrine in legislation requirements for operators to provide workers with the necessary training. The Minister has worked very hard when it comes to silicosis in New South Wales, so I know that he has a genuine concern for workers and their safety. This is a further sensible measure whereby we can ensure that if young electricians who are replacing or installing meters are exposed to asbestos, they deal with it in the appropriate manner and have the adequate training. It would be great to see that in the legislation.

I finish by saying that we simply cannot continue to compromise safety standards in the name of cutting red tape. It is so important that we continue to make our safety standards and building standards higher than those elsewhere in the country. That is something I will strive for whilst I am in this place. I have said it before and I will say it again. When we buy a home, we get a set of keys and we walk into our home, and that is about all we know about the place. We are not builders or engineers. We are not electricians or plumbers. We have no trade qualifications in the building chain. But we need to know that our Government has put in place the proper regulations to ensure that the property we are moving into is safe and secure and will stand the test of time.

Ms WENDY LINDSAY (East Hills) (15:54): I lend my support to the Building Legislation Amendment Bill 2021. I applaud the Minister for Better Regulation and Innovation for his work, which has led to this bill being introduced. An important role of Government is to ensure that legislation remains up to date and that provisions are still fit for purpose and in line with the original policy intent. This bill does just that. It makes changes that clarify legal requirements and corrects drafting anomalies in legislation to reduce the potential for misunderstandings and disputes.

The bill makes amendments to a number of Acts, including providing a new regulation-making power in the Retirement Villages Act 1999 to provide for the inclusion of additional information in a valuer's determination; requiring any surplus to the annual accounts of retirement villages to be distributed to each residence, not resident; providing for more equitable distribution of funds; and harmonising the definitions of persons considered to be qualified auditors across Fair Trading legislation. The bill delivers on the New South Wales Government's commitment to implementing transformational reforms to New South Wales building regulation as part of its ongoing work to secure behavioural change in the industry. This comprehensive reform agenda is focused on improving building quality and restoring consumer confidence in the New South Wales' construction industry.

The Government's reforms since the election are part of its response to the 2019 *Building Confidence: Building Ministers' Forum Expert Assessment*, authored by Professor Peter Shergold, AC, and Ms Bronwyn Weir. These reforms include the establishment of the Office of the Building Commissioner and the introduction of the Residential Apartment Buildings (Compliance and Enforcement Powers) Act 2020, known as the RAB Act, and the Design and Building Practitioner Act 2020. These Acts support the work of the Building Commissioner and NSW Fair Trading by ensuring the building regulator has the right suite of capabilities and powers to meet the Government's commitments in this space.

The amendments contained in this bill will enhance compliance and enforcement powers of the regulator, ensure industry contributes to the cost of administering the new Design and Building Practitioner Act compliance declaration scheme, and make minor machinery changes to other building legislation. The building and construction industry is a vital contributor to the growth of the State's economy. The industry employs more than 300,000 people, representing more than 8 per cent of New South Wales' workforce and accounts for nearly 10 per cent of the State's industry output.

While the Government continues to be a steadfast supporter of continual growth of the building and construction industry, particularly as part of the New South Wales Government response to COVID, it is critical that this growth is supported by quality and safe buildings. This can only be achieved through effective regulation

and enforcement. Since introducing the RAB Act, we have already started to see a shift in the way industry operates, in part because of the work of the Building Commissioner and his team calling out substandard building work and supporting industry to understand how it can do better. It has been particularly encouraging and great to see industry's willingness to come to the table, taking responsibility for past failures and co-designing new rules that will lift building standards across the industry.

The next step in this important journey will be the commencement of the Design and Building Practitioner Act and supporting scheme, which imposes a suite of new obligations on design and building practitioners that will be critical to improving the quality of design documentation and building work. The new scheme will ensure that New South Wales leads the nation in regulating building and construction. The effect of these Acts is that the Building Commissioner and officers from NSW Fair Trading have the compliance and enforcement powers necessary to detect, investigate and require the rectification of serious building defects for the benefit of consumers in New South Wales. We are doing this by holding design and building practitioners, professional engineers and developers accountable for their work throughout the building process.

While the changes in this bill are predominantly focused on enhancing existing measures, I highlight one of the key reforms included in the bill, which is the introduction of a levy on developers and owners of the building to support the oversight of these two new schemes. The Design and Building Practitioner Act, or the DBP Act, introduces new requirements on design and building practitioners to design and build in accordance with the building code of Australia and other prescribed standards. The new scheme provides that only registered design and building practitioners can sign off that the design and building work meets these standards to ensure that the critical parts of the building are compliant with the building code and are safe. This is crucially important to protect consumers and ensure a return of confidence to the market.

While the Government has ensured that the building regulator has sufficient resources to support this scheme—including setting up new licensing systems and online portal for the lodgement of plans and compliance declarations and increased capacity within government to audit plans—it is wholly appropriate that industry contribute to the costs of administering the scheme. The bill proposes that a levy is imposed on developers to contribute to the ongoing costs of the new scheme, including the ongoing costs associated with risk-based audits of designs and building work captured by the DBP Act and the RAB Act and the licensing of practitioners to carry out this design and building work. The Government recognises that construction of buildings already comes with significant costs and risks. It is not seeking to impose the proposed levy with the intention of adding unduly to these costs. Rather, the proposed levy is intended to ensure that design and building work complies with the relevant standards from the start of the design and building process, not when it is too late.

We have seen time and time again that when construction projects do not have good quality plans in place at the start of a project or when designs are not followed, defects occur all too frequently. This imposes expensive rectification work on the developer if it is picked up early or, what happens all too often, the cost is passed on to the end customer. The building regulator is increasingly picking up these defects before the keys are handed over, but the new levy will contribute to the regulator's work with industry to prevent these defects from occurring at all. We will achieve this by requiring comprehensive designs for critical building elements to be prepared by only competent design practitioners and imposing an obligation on the builder to stick to these designs.

The levy will allow for processes developed by the Building Commissioner to work with developers and practitioners to rectify work that falls short of required standards and support the standards of the building and construction industry in New South Wales. The Government supports the concept that those who benefit financially from this regulatory effort make a proportionate contribution to its cost. Targeted consultation with the development industry has also shown it is largely supportive of the introduction of this levy, again showing that industry is committing to coming along for the transformation journey, which is very encouraging.

I now turn to the substance of the changes proposed by the bill. Schedule 1 to the bill proposes amendments to the Design and Building Practitioners Act. Items [1] and [2] seek to amend section 20 of the Act to provide that the regulation can require the lodgement of variations to regulated designs to be lodged on the NSW Planning portal before building work on that variation can commence. This remedies an inconsistency between the initial regulated design, which must be lodged before building work can commence, and variations, which currently can be lodged after building work commences. Items [3] and [4] seek to broaden the scope of power available to regulate the recognition or registration conducted by approved professional engineering bodies by allowing the regulation to prescribe requirements that professional engineering bodies must meet to be eligible for approval and to maintain that registration.

The proposed changes to section 55 come following extensive consultation by the Government on the Design and Building Practitioners Regulation 2021, which, amongst other things, establishes pathways for professional engineers to become registered. The pathways include investing responsibilities in approved professional engineering bodies to assess professional engineers' competency to do professional engineering work

across prescribed classes of engineering. Following consultation, it became clear that new regulation-making powers were required to ensure that the assessment process for professional engineering bodies would be able to appropriately deal with a body's competency to undertake assessments of professional engineers, as well as impose conditions on that registration to ensure that they continue to meet the exacting standards required to carry out this function.

To ensure that this new process is still subject to appropriate procedural fairness guarantees, schedule 1 [5] proposes the insertion of section 55A to provide that a person aggrieved by certain decisions of the Secretary of the Department of Customer Service may apply to the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal for a review of the decision. These will include a refusal to grant recognition as a professional engineering body, to suspend or cancel recognition, to impose any condition on the grant of recognition or the suspension or cancellation of recognition, or to vary recognition as a professional engineering body. I commend the bill to the House. [*Time expired.*]

Mr KEVIN ANDERSON (Tamworth—Minister for Better Regulation and Innovation) (16:05): In reply: I thank members for their contributions to debate on the Building Legislation Amendment Bill 2021. I particularly thank the following members for their contributions to debate on this bill: the member for Granville, the member for Miranda, the member for Sydney, the member for Wollondilly, the member for Swansea and the member for East Hills. I acknowledge the contributions of the New South Wales Building Commissioner, David Chandler, and NSW Fair Trading for driving the projects and initiatives underpinning the Government's building reform agenda. In his capacity as Building Commissioner, Mr Chandler is improving the quality of construction and restoring trust in the industry by leading the delivery of the New South Wales Government's Construct NSW strategy in collaboration with the sector.

The New South Wales Government is leading a once-in-a-generation reform of the building and construction industry to establish new benchmarks of excellence and restore confidence in the residential construction industry by strengthening standards around who can do what work and the standard they need to meet. Built on six pillars, Construct NSW focuses on introducing customer-focused regulations, a risk-based approach to a rating system, lifting skills and capability, strengthening standards and contracts, data and research, and a digital platform to drive accountability.

Construct NSW has already begun to create change in the residential building industry as part of the New South Wales Government's response to the Shergold *Building Confidence* report. That response committed to strengthening compliance in the building sector, including through the introduction of the Residential Apartment Buildings (Compliance and Enforcement Powers) Act 2020, which is known as the RAB Act, and the Design and Building Practitioners Act 2020. The two new Acts support the New South Wales Building Commissioner's comprehensive work program, which will transform the building sector into a customer-centric industry focused on the quality of construction.

Since introducing the RAB Act, the past nine months have provided insight on the benefits of enhanced enforcement powers to ensure that designers, builders and engineers are responsible for the work they do. With regulatory officers able to respond to defects identified in buildings nearing completion and existing buildings being completed within 10 years of the issuance of the construction certificate, we are ensuring that where defects occur, the person who causes them is sent the bill. The Design and Building Practitioners Act will commence to operate in a few weeks. It is targeted at lifting capabilities in the design and construction of residential buildings so that defects do not occur in the first place. The Act was developed through extensive consultation with the public and industry stakeholders and will strengthen accountability in the design, building and construction sector.

I will highlight some of the key reforms included in the Building Legislation Amendment Bill 2021. The bill supports the ongoing oversight of the construction industry by amending the Design and Building Practitioners Act, the RAB Act, the Home Building Act 1989, the Electricity Supply Act 1995 and the Gas and Electricity (Consumer Safety) Act 2017. The reforms will enhance the compliance and enforcement powers of the building regulator. The proposed introduction of a levy on developers will ensure that industry contributes to the cost of administering the new Design and Building Practitioners Act Regulation and Compliance Declaration schemes. The levy will be paid into the Home Building Administration Fund to pay for the ongoing costs of compliance, auditing of declared plans and new licensing measures that support lifting standards in the building and construction industry.

We are not seeking to impose the proposed levy with the intention of adding unduly to these costs. Rather, the proposed levy is intended to ensure that design work and building work comply with the relevant standards from the start of the process. With developers benefiting from projects that run to time and not having to deal with costly defects, it is wholly appropriate that they contribute to the cost of the regulatory framework targeted at ensuring that this occurs. Where these defects are picked up early, the entire construction process is enhanced and the cost to the end consumer is lower.

Also proposed is that the Design and Building Practitioners Act be amended to broaden the regulation-making power, giving effect to the registration scheme for a range of construction professionals, including engineers, in one consolidated framework. We want industry to be an active participant in lifting standards among practitioners. To ensure this, we need a well-regulated, co-regulatory framework that allows Government to clearly define the roles and responsibilities of professional engineering bodies. The proposed amendments in this bill will allow these additional controls to be developed in consultation with professional engineering bodies over the coming months.

Beyond these key reforms, the bill proposes further amendments to: transfer responsibilities relating to electricity metering to the Minister for Better Regulation and Innovation to reflect current administrative responsibilities; amend the Home Building Act to make clear that the secretary has power to make a legislative instrument about the necessary qualifications, examinations, practical tests and experience required for holders of certificates and licences; allow the secretary to make an order prohibiting the issue of an occupation certificate or registration of a strata plan for a strata scheme if a developer fails to comply with a direction under the Residential Apartment Building Act or in other circumstances prescribed by the regulation; introduce new continuing penalties for offences relating to failure to abide by directions or notification requirements under the Residential Apartment Building Act; and allow the Local Court and the Land and Environment Court to require a person to comply with an order or direction made under the Act.

I will briefly comment on a number of issues that have been raised during debate. In response to a question asked by the member for Swansea, from a safety perspective there is an ongoing obligation for electrical work to be overseen by a competent person. The Government believes that safety is critical, which is why the department requires safety management plans to be in place for this work. I note the views of the member for Swansea. The Government will work with the Opposition to further support the Government's work to ensure that electrical work is done competently and safely.

The completion of this bill supports the Government's ongoing work to implement its six-pillar work plan and to regain public confidence in a new customer-facing industry by 2025. Our plan seeks to establish a new regulatory playing field, incentivise financiers taking an active role in construction, and see private insurers returning to the market and public confidence return through a chain of stewardship enabling the observation and enforcement of the design and construction of buildings. I acknowledge the support this reform agenda has received from members on both sides of the House. The Government's reform agenda has received genuine bipartisan support. I look forward to continuing to work with members to restore confidence in the New South Wales construction sector. I commend the bill to the House.

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

Motion agreed to.

Consideration in detail requested by Ms Julia Finn and Mr Alexander Greenwich.

Consideration in Detail

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: By leave: I shall propose the bill in one group of clauses and schedules. We will deal with clauses 1 to 2, and schedules 1 to 4.

Mr ALEX GREENWICH (Sydney) (16:12): By leave: I move my amendments Nos 1 and 2 on sheet c2021-043B in globo:

No. 1 Application of Act

Page 5, Schedule 2. Insert after line 3—

[1A] Section 6 Act applies only to residential apartment building work

Insert ", or is required to be authorised by a construction certificate or complying development certificate" after "1979" in section 6(1)(a).

No. 2 Application of Act

Page 6, Schedule 2. Insert after line 38—

[6A] Schedule 1 Savings, transitional and other provisions

Insert at the end of the Schedule with appropriate Part and clause numbering—

Part Provision consequent on enactment of the Building Legislation Amendment Act 2021

Application of Act to building work

Section 6, as amended by the *Building Legislation Amendment Act 2021*, extends to a function exercised under the Act before the commencement of the amendment.

The Building Legislation Amendment Bill is the result of consultation with industry and the work of the Building Commissioner. As I said in my contribution to debate on the second reading, there is a need for continuous reform because some developers will always try to find ways to frustrate the tools we create to improve their standards and hold them to account. My amendments seek to close a loophole that came to light only in the past few days. I thank the Minister for Better Regulation and Innovation for briefing me on this matter ahead of debate and for working toward better building standards in apartments.

The Residential Apartment Buildings (Compliance and Enforcement) Act 2020 gives the Building Commissioner power to issue a number of orders to prevent defects in a building, including rectification orders and stop work orders. The aim is to ensure any work underway that will result in major defects can be stopped and any defects detected can be fixed by order of the Building Commissioner. Following discussions with the Minister, it has become clear that some developers have sought to challenge such orders by arguing that they can only apply to development lawfully carried out in accordance with the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act. That would mean work that should have required a construction certificate or a complying development certificate but was carried out without one could not be subject to an order by the Building Commissioner. In other words, the argument is that unlawful building work is exempt from the Building Commissioner's remit.

Amendment No. 1 clarifies section 6 of the Residential Apartment Buildings (Compliance and Enforcement Powers) Act to ensure that powers under the Act can be exercised both when a construction certificate or complying development certificate has been issued and when such certificates have not been issued but were required to be. The effect is to clarify that orders under the Act apply to not only residential apartment building developments authorised by the Environmental Planning and Assessment [EPA] Act but also those developments that are underway or completed but have not complied with the requirements of that Act. The amendment will make clear that a breach of the planning law or illegal development is not an excuse for not abiding by an order of the Building Commissioner.

Amendment No. 2 makes clear that all orders issued to date under the Residential Apartment Buildings (Compliance and Enforcement Powers) Act are taken to have been issued in accordance with the amended section 6, that is, any orders issued to date for developments that were not being built or were not already built in accordance with the EPA Act. That will prevent developers seeking to get around complying with an order on a technicality. I believe this is in line with what the Parliament intended when it initially enacted the Building Commissioner's powers. The fact that some developers are claiming that they do not need to comply with an order of the Building Commissioner because they have already broken the law shows how bold some practitioners in the building industry have become in an attempt to avoid oversight and transparency. The Parliament knows that building standards must lift and we have worked together to give the building regulator the power needed to achieve this. I commend the amendments to the House.

Mr KEVIN ANDERSON (Tamworth—Minister for Better Regulation and Innovation) (16:16): The Government supports amendments Nos 1 and 2 on sheet c2021-043B moved by the member for Sydney. In the past few weeks, as part of my discussions with the building regulator about its efforts to address defects and unsafe building work in New South Wales residential apartment buildings, I became aware of a concern about the operation of the Residential Apartment Buildings (Compliance and Enforcement Powers) Act 2020, known as the RAB Act. The RAB Act is a critical tool in the Government's efforts to lift standards in apartment buildings, particularly through the use of orders to stop work, rectify work or prevent the issue of an occupation certificate.

An issue with one of those orders is a clear signal that work is falling well short of the expected standards, whether that is build quality or safety. The regulator does not use the orders lightly, but when they are issued it is critical that it secures the desired outcome. I sincerely thank the member for Sydney for working collaboratively with the Government in moving these amendments, which will ensure the smooth running of the legislation. While the issue has only come to light in the past few weeks, the amendments will have a long-term impact on ensuring that orders in relation to residential apartment construction are effective, irrespective of whether there is development consent for construction.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr Alex Greenwich has moved amendments Nos 1 and 2 on sheet c2021-043B. The question is that the amendments be agreed to.

Amendments agreed to.

Ms JULIA FINN (Granville) (16:17): By leave: I move Opposition amendments Nos 1 to 3 on sheet c2021-051 in globo:

No. 1 **Installation of advanced meters**

Page 8, Schedule 4.2[1]. Insert after line 42—

- (3A) A retailer or metering co-ordinator must ensure the Asbestos Management Code of Practice is complied with in the installation, maintenance and replacement of an advanced meter.

No. 2 **Powers of entry—advanced meters**

Page 8, Schedule 4.2[1]. Insert after line 42—

- (3B) For the avoidance of doubt, a person may only enter premises under section 55A for purposes relating to advanced meters if the requirements of this section are met.

No. 3 **Installation of advanced meters**

Page 9, Schedule 4.2[1]. Insert after line 1—

Asbestos Management Code of Practice means the *Code of Practice: How to Manage and Control Asbestos in the Workplace*, published by SafeWork NSW in August 2019.

Earlier I foreshadowed concerns we have in relation to exemptions of persons from the operation of the Design and Building Practitioners Act and said we would move amendments to delete that element of the bill. I understand that Mr David Shoebridge, MLC, will be moving a similar amendment in the other place and that the Government will support that amendment. Accordingly, I will move only one sheet of amendments to the bill, which I understand the Government will support. On that basis, the Opposition will not oppose the bill. Advanced meters record energy usage data in 15-minute intervals and where mobile phone coverage allows, this information is sent daily to the retailer. The union covering workers in this field is the Electrical Trades Union [ETU]. It is concerned that unqualified people will be put at risk working on advanced meters.

I am grateful for the ETU's briefing about the importance of this matter in improving the safety of workers in the electrical trades. In the bill, proposed new section 38AB of the Gas and Electricity (Consumer Safety Act 2017), Installation of advanced meters by retailers and metering co-ordinators, reflects section 71 of the Electricity Supply Amendment (Advanced Meters) Bill 2016, Interim provisions for installation of advanced meters by retailers and metering providers. Proposed new section 55A of the Gas and Electricity (Consumer Safety Act 2017) reflects section 54 of the Electricity Supply Amendment (Advanced Meters) Bill 2016. The then shadow Minister, in his contribution to the second reading debate on the 2016 bill, noted:

This legislation, which has passed through the upper House, will also greatly increase the number of people able to install electricity meters, raising safety concerns about the level of skills that will be required of those performing this work and whether the industry has the capacity and capability to carry this out.

In his second reading speech in the Legislative Council, the then Parliamentary Secretary for Natural Resources and Regional Planning said:

I now turn to who can be authorised to install a smart meter in New South Wales. The bill provides that a qualified electrician, licensed by NSW Fair Trading, is authorised to install a smart meter after having met strict minimum conditions regarding safety. This differs from the current arrangements where meter installers are selected from a small pool of accredited service providers. The accredited service provider scheme was established in New South Wales in 1998 and covers a range of processes that connect customers to their electricity supply. This scheme was introduced well ahead of a more competitive system for installing electricity meters. Given many years of experience with competition in installing electricity meters in New South Wales and throughout the national market, it is timely to ask whether new rules are needed.

A competitive rollout of smart meters should be supported by a competitive market for qualified meter installers—to help meet demand and drive efficiencies in the market.

Safety remains as important now as it was at the time of the passage of the 2016 bill. Fast-forward to now and we have seen the what happens on the ground. Electricity is vital to our economy and our society but it is dangerous. Electric shock is painful and can be deadly. It can be almost impossible to pull away from the circuit when muscles tighten; lungs can constrict, making it hard to breathe; heartbeat can be interrupted and blood vessels tighten; and burns, internal organ damage and death can result. That is why we have strict electrical safety rules in New South Wales.

In the bill, proposed new section 38AB, Installation of advanced meters by retailers and metering co-ordinators, and proposed new section 55A of the Gas and Electricity (Consumer Safety) Act 2017 can be interpreted to give authorised persons the power of entry for the reading, testing, maintaining, inspecting or altering of any meter installed at the premises, as well as replacing metres. We believe any work involving the installation, maintenance or replacement of advanced meters, including the de-energisation and re-energisation of electrical installations, must be done only by persons in accordance with proposed new section 38AB (1), which requires:

- (1) A retailer or metering co-ordinator who provides, installs, maintains or replaces an advanced meter must ensure that—
- (a) a person engaged to install an advanced meter—
 - (i) is a qualified person, and

- (ii) has undertaken appropriate training in the installation of advanced meters, including de-energisation and re-energisation of electrical installations, and
- (b) safety and compliance testing is carried out in relation to each installation as required by the *Gas and Electricity (Consumer Safety) Regulation 2018*, Parts 8 and 9.

To ensure that no-one other than qualified persons may install advanced meters, amendment No. 2 requires:

- (3B) For the avoidance of doubt, a person may only enter premises under section 55A for purposes relating to advanced meters if the requirements of this section are met.

Proposed new section 55A concerns the power of entry for authorised officers for electricity works and meters. The amendment will ensure that only a person who is qualified and has undertaken appropriate training in the installation of advanced meters, including de-energisation and re-energisation of electrical installations, will be able to enter a premises in order to undertake that work. In relation to amendments Nos 1 and 3, there is a growing risk of exposure to asbestos for workers who replace meters. The National Asbestos Profile for Australia, prepared by the Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency, identified more than 3,000 products containing asbestos that were used in Australia before the ban. Some of the most common uses were in electrical switchboard panels, electrical cloths and tapes, and asbestos cement board used as flooring in electrical switch rooms. Electricians were identified as one of five occupations with higher than average rates of mesothelioma and asbestosis. Occupational exposure to asbestos is a real and growing risk for electricians.

Codes of practice issued by the Minister under section 274 of the Work Health and Safety Act 2011 are admissible in a proceeding for an offence against the Act as evidence of whether or not a duty or obligation under this Act has been complied with. The court may, one, have regard to the code as evidence of what is known about a hazard or risk, risk assessment or risk control to which the code relates, and, two, rely on the code in determining what is reasonably practicable in the circumstances to which the code relates. However, it is appropriate that the effect of workplace exposure to asbestos by electricians is more strongly mitigated against. My amendments Nos 1 to 3 insert an additional requirement concerning the installation of advanced meters to ensure compliance with the code of practice on how to manage and control asbestos in the workplace. The code of practice provides practical guidance on how to achieve the standards of work health and safety required under the Work Health and Safety Act and the Work Health and Safety Regulation and effective ways to identify and manage risks.

The code contains specific references to electricians in matters such as ensuring that they are informed about the presence and location of asbestos before they commence work by implementing a permit to work system; that they are aware that wiring in a ceiling space sprayed with material containing friable asbestos may disturb this material; and that risks associated with asbestos-related work are managed by determining whether work can be done without disturbing the asbestos—for example, instead of drilling a hole through an asbestos-contaminated sheeting wall to install electrical wiring, the wiring might be able to be routed over the wall. Safe Work Practice No. 5 relating to working on electrical mounting boards—switchboards—containing asbestos is contained within the code of practice and specifically relates to concerns around asbestos exposure while working on advanced meters. The replacement of meters will expose many workers to asbestos panels. Together, amendments Nos 1 to 3 will help ensure network operators and retailers are protecting their workers from exposure to asbestos fibres. I understand that the Government will be supporting these amendments and I thank Government members for doing so.

Ms YASMIN CATLEY (Swansea) (16:26): I support the amendments put forward by the shadow Minister. As has already been said in this place in many other contributions, section 38AB of this legislation, regarding the installation of advanced meters by retailers and metering coordinators, states:

- (a) a person engaged to install an advanced meter—
 - (i) is a qualified person, and
 - (ii) has undertaken appropriate training in the installation of advanced meters, including de-energisation and re-energisation of electrical installations ...

This amendments goes to the point in section 55A, relating to powers of entry, which states:

- (1) An authorised officer of a retailer may enter the premises of a customer for the following purposes—
 - (a) reading, testing, maintaining, inspecting or altering any meter installed at the premises,
 - (b) calculating or measuring energy supplied or taken at the premises,
 - (c) checking the accuracy of metered consumption at the premises,
 - (d) replacing meters,
 - (e) any other purpose prescribed by the regulations relating to metering.

I am sure that it is an unintended consequence of the drafting of this bill that it does not say specifically that that person must be a qualified person who has undertaken appropriate training in the installation of advanced meters, as is described in section 38AB. As has been said in this place, we want to ensure that safety standards in this State are the highest. I have no doubt that the Minister and everybody in this place share that view. By accepting these amendments to ensure that that person is a qualified person, we definitely would be making sure that the anomaly that exists will be removed and we can have confidence that the person is qualified and has undertaken the appropriate training. I urge the Government to support Labor's amendment.

Mr KEVIN ANDERSON (Tamworth—Minister for Better Regulation and Innovation) (16:28): The Government supports Opposition amendments Nos 1, 2 and 3 on sheet c2021-051. The amendments would require the electricity retailer or metering coordinator to ensure that the Asbestos Management Code of Practice is complied with when installing, maintaining or replacing an advanced meter. Following the Asbestos Management Code of Practice would assist anyone who has a duty of care in the circumstances to achieve compliance with the health and safety duties under the Work Health and Safety Act 2011 (NSW) and supporting regulation. The Government supports the code of practice that puts a worker's safety at the forefront, especially in mitigating any risks from asbestos. The amendments complement the bill in ensuring the industry is transformed, consumers are protected and confidence is restored in the building and construction industry. The amendments support the Government's reforms to ensure the Government has no wrong door when it comes to addressing building issues, enhancing compliance and making buildings safer for consumers.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Ms Julia Finn has moved Opposition amendments Nos 1 to 3 on sheet c2021-051. The question is that the amendments be agreed to.

Amendments agreed to.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is that clauses 1 and 2, and schedules 1 to 4 as amended be agreed to.

Clauses 1 and 2, and schedules 1 to 4 as amended agreed to.

Third Reading

Mr KEVIN ANDERSON: I move:

That this bill be now read a third time.

Motion agreed to.

BETTER REGULATION LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (MISCELLANEOUS) BILL 2021

Second Reading Debate

Debate resumed from 12 May 2021.

Ms JULIA FINN (Granville) (16:30): As shadow Minister for Consumer Protection, it is my pleasure to lead for the Opposition in debate on the Better Regulation Legislation Amendment (Miscellaneous Bill) 2021, which was introduced and second read in the Legislative Assembly on 12 May. The previous time a similar Better Regulation Amendment Bill was second read was 3 March 2020. A lot has happened since then. I state at the outset that the Opposition will not be opposing the bill. However, in consideration in detail we will move several amendments to close significant gaps in the legislation the Government has introduced and to improve several important pieces of legislation within the Better Regulation and Innovation portfolio. I will discuss those amendments later.

I have spoken to many stakeholder groups and several colleagues about this legislation. Not all stakeholder groups have been consulted and several were caught unaware of the proposals within this bill, but I thank the Minister's staff who have briefed us on the bill. Though the bill contains sound measures, Labor intends to move some minor amendments in the Legislative Council to improve it, as well as amendments we will deal with in this place. It is my hope that the Government will support the changes we will suggest, as we believe they uphold the original intent of the bill.

The Better Regulation Legislation Amendment Bill 2020 brings together a number of miscellaneous amendments to 14 Acts across a number of areas, all falling under the umbrella of the Better Regulation and Innovation portfolio. The Government has indicated that the changes involve modernising regulatory schemes and government processes, ensuring laws are relevant and fit for purpose, strengthening consumer protection in the law, and clarifying legal requirements and improving customer outcomes. These are all worthy objectives. However, changes to improve transparency and integrity are sorely lacking in this bill, and I will return to that point later. For the most part, Labor believes that the proposed changes are sensible measures. We feel that most

of these measures make positive changes to the function of the Acts. For example, this bill makes amendments to improve consumer protection, something Labor has always supported.

Fair Trading NSW staff work hard to do their jobs well for the people of New South Wales. During the pandemic their workload increased and the way the New South Wales Government supported them was by opposing a pay rise. The Industrial Relations Commission of New South Wales upheld the Government's wage freeze on 1 October but granted a "notional" 0.3 per cent pay rise. Despite the Government not supporting its hardworking Fair Trading staff, it made it harder for Fair Trading staff to do their jobs. Staff are caught up in the bureaucratic inertia of the Department of Customer Service. Any quick glance at the comments about Fair Trading on the Fair Trading Facebook page and elsewhere leaves one in no doubt about the reputation the agency has garnered. For example, Mark said:

Hey do we have a 100 % unanimous agreement that Fair Trading is the biggest waste of space in Australia? Toothless timewasters who achieve absolutely zilch zero nada nothing. You guys are so close to a big fat zero that the only thing worse is you are in the negatives below zero because the victims here waste time, money and energy lodging complaints with you that always get ignored by offenders. How about the whole department gets sacked and a new body is formed with powers to prosecute scumbags? There are dozens of types of crime where the offenders wear suits, commit crime with impunity and Fair Trading serve no purpose but to entertain them.

James said:

This is the biggest waste of tax payer money in the history of government?!!!!? They put in as little effort as possible on each case, mine was only worth an email to the trader I have issue with and as he didn't reply they told me they had done "everything" they could and closed the case, when confronted about this lack of action I was hung up on as soon as I posed the question. Disgraceful organisation, hang your heads in shame!!! The public deserves better.

Melinda said:

I'm wondering what the point of NSW Fair Trading is. I lodged a complaint about misleading and deceptive conduct by a large retailer, effectively they are not providing what they say they are. I was told NSW Fair Trading was looking into it, after some weeks, the response is that NSW Fair Trading has not been able to get any response from the large retailer and that's it for NSW's Department of Fair Trading, apparently all dodgy retailers need to do is ignore communications from NSW Fair Trading and the complaint goes away. What a waste of time, why even have a means for consumers to lodge complaints.

Janice said:

Fair Trading NSW can't do anything to help you so don't bother wasting your time with them. Take matters into your own hands.

To be clear, I am very sympathetic to the staff who work so hard to help consumers. It is not fair that their hands are tied behind their backs, and it seems that management just does not care. It is not just consumers posting angrily on Facebook. In industries across the State, we are witnessing a spate of unlicensed operators getting away scot free, with no action taken by Fair Trading. At budget estimates, we asked the Minister for Better Regulation and Innovation, the New South Wales Deputy Secretary of the Better Regulation Division and the Commissioner of Fair Trading about unlicensed activities in the real estate industry. The Minister said in an answer to a question on notice:

NSW Fair Trading has a dedicated program team of 16 inspectors providing state-wide regulation to the property industry, including real estate sales and property management, strata and community living management, residential tenancy, residential parks communities, and retirement villages.

Whether that number of inspectors is sufficient for a State the size of New South Wales is another question. At budget estimates we also asked about the concern of industry that without proper training any fly-by-night, corner-cutting, profit-seeking urger can turn up and seek to get paid a commission in this field as real estate is booming, and we asked what sort of licence Daryl Maguire would have required when he did something like this. The Minister replied:

I am not completely aware of what licences he would require. I am happy to take that on notice.

The Secretary of the Better Regulation Division, in answer to a similar question, said:

I think we would have to take that on notice and get some legal advice about interpreting the real estate agents Act, but we can do that.

That was despite the issue being widely reported in the media and despite Fair Trading having legislated authority to investigate without the need for a complaint. If the Minister and the agency do not know who needs a licence and apparently have not investigated high-profile allegations such as this one, then it is time for a new process envisaged by an amendment that we will move in the consideration in detail stage to require the property and stock agents register to include details of investigations back to 2014, especially in relation to unlicensed activity.

I will now summarise our other amendments, all of which are to promote transparency and integrity. We will move an amendment to promote transparency around claims the Government makes about cutting red tape by requiring the Auditor-General to provide a report on savings achieved by better regulation Acts. We will move

an amendment so that new provisions applying to the Contract Cleaning Industry (Portable Long Service Leave Scheme) Act are also applied to the Building and Construction Industry Long Service Leave Scheme Act. These measures relate to power of entry and inspection and power to take possessions of records to be used as evidence in order to improve compliance. We will move an amendment to ensure that the Government delivers on its previous commitment in 2020 to include the Central Coast and Lake Macquarie in the list of local government areas to receive retirement villages exit entitlements within six months rather than 12 months.

We will move amendments to end the generalisation of inspector roles in SafeWork and Fair Trading so that workers and consumers can be assured that the regulator's staff are supported by management through ensuring that they are specially trained and qualified. We will move amendments to promote transparency by ensuring that the SafeWork and Fair Trading service groups report their budget and full-time equivalent staffing in the Department of Customer Service annual report rather than being hidden within a cluster. Our amendments respond to the issues that have been raised with me as shadow Minister and make significant improvements to the operation of the Better Regulation and Innovation portfolio. I trust that the Minister will look favourably on the amendments in the consideration in detail stage.

Ms ELENI PETINOS (Miranda) (16:39): I speak in support of the Better Regulation Legislation Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2021. From the outset, I commend the Minister for Better Regulation and Innovation for bringing this bill before the House and acknowledge the hard work of both him and his team. Several omnibus bills have passed this House in recent years to introduce a range of minor but important amendments to ensure that our laws remain current and responsive to industry and technology developments. The New South Wales Government is committed to keeping legislation responsible, up to date and in accordance with the needs of our State. This includes the constant revision and reformation of legislation to ensure that the law remains relevant and fit for purpose.

This omnibus bill contains 26 miscellaneous reforms seeking to achieve better outcomes for both regulators and consumers. To achieve this, the bill will revise provisions that are no longer suited to our constantly progressing technologies and industries. The reforms are focused on modernising regulatory schemes and government processes, ensuring that laws are relevant and fit for purpose, strengthening consumer protection, clarifying legal requirements and improving customer outcomes. Today I will focus on those amendments in the bill that aim to improve regulatory schemes and government processes.

The bill contains amendments to eight Acts to remove and update outdated provisions, streamline regulatory schemes and reduce unnecessary red tape. Some of the reforms include promoting open access to information across government by recognising online platforms to remove the need for persons to attend a departmental office to physically inspect registers or records, reducing operational barriers for incorporated associations by providing greater flexibility to manage their own assets and governance procedures, facilitating the exchange of information between the Long Service Corporation and other jurisdictions with respect to long service schemes by establishing a new information-sharing arrangement under the Contract Cleaning Industry (Portable Long Service Leave Scheme) Act 2010, incorporating the only substantive provision remaining in the Storage Liens Regulation 2019 into the parent Act to enable repeal of the regulation, and harmonising definitions of metering providers and metering coordinators in the Electricity Supply Act 1995 with the national electricity laws.

I turn first to the proposed amendments that directly relate to modernising existing government practices. The bill identifies three Acts that continue to provide for physical inspection of registers or records in government offices where the information is or may be already available online. In the digital age such provisions are rarely, if ever, used. In many instances the information contained in the registers or records is readily accessible online free of charge. The right to government information is an established right of the constituents and government processes should be simplified to support that access. The Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009, or GIPPA, does just that.

The GIPPA Act was introduced to provide for access to be given to government information based upon a presumption in favour of disclosure unless there is an overriding public interest. The objectives of GIPPA are supported by the Government's open data policy, which assists agencies to release data for use by the community, research, business and industry. This information must be open by default, discoverable and free where appropriate. The bill ensures that legislation within the Better Regulation portfolio is in step with these policies by recognising and encouraging the use of online platforms.

The three Acts to be amended are the Fair Trading Act 1987, the Funeral Funds Act 1979 and the Building Products (Safety) Act 2017. Currently these Acts contain provisions that enable a person to attend an office of the department to inspect registers or records. Information relating to these Acts is already available, or can be made readily available, online and free of charge. For example, section 86B of the Fair Trading Act requires a register of undertakings to be maintained at a departmental office and to be made available for inspection during ordinary

business hours. This information, however, is already freely available on the Fair Trading website. The proposed amendment will promote open access to information by removing this archaic requirement, which has become redundant over time. Similar amendments will be made to the Funeral Funds Act and the Building Products (Safety) Act to support information openness and accessibility. These amendments will increase transparency and public accountability while also significantly reducing administrative burden and cost for government and members of the public.

I also note the amendments proposed to the Storage Liens Act 1935. The bill seeks to replace references to the term "prescribed notice" in the Act with "written notice". There are only two occasions in the Act where the term "prescribed notice" is used: requiring a prescribed notice to be given to a storer by a person claiming to be the owner of the stored goods; or having some affiliated interest. Clause 4 of the Storage Liens Regulation Act explains what a prescribed notice is. The most crucial element of the definition is that a prescribed notice must be in writing. The proposed amendments to the Act will preserve this definition by replacing the term "prescribed notice" with details of what has to be contained in the written notice.

Last year the Better Regulation Legislation Amendment Act 2020 brought more clarity about how unclaimed money from proceeds of sale was to be dealt with. This was achieved by amending section 8 of the Act, and a consequential amendment was made to remove clauses 5 and 6 of the regulation. With the repeal of these clauses, the only substantive provision remaining in the regulation is clause 4. The proposed amendment in this bill to remove the term "prescribed notice" will enable the regulation to be replaced altogether by making clause 4 redundant. This will simplify the legislative scheme for all users and reduce the regulatory burden for government, allowing those resources to be allocated to other priorities.

I finally turn to a minor amendment in the bill relating to the electricity laws in the State. In line with advancements in the sector, recently the rules relating to remote de-energisation and re-energisation of properties were rolled out. During the rollout, it became clear that a number of existing references to "metering providers" in the Act should be in fact references to "metering coordinators" as defined within the national framework. Currently the New South Wales law creates some confusion for stakeholders, as the difference between a metering provider and a metering coordinator is not clarified in the legislation. The proposed amendment will remove this ambiguity by making minor amendments to the Electricity Supply Act 1995 to replace certain references to metering providers with metering coordinators. This will harmonise the Act with the national electricity laws and their current differential use of the two terms. As a result, the potential for misunderstanding and disputes will be minimised and it will become easier for New South Wales individuals and businesses to comply with gas and electricity laws across jurisdictions.

I once again take this opportunity to congratulate the Minister for Better Regulation and Innovation and his staff on bringing such an important bill before the House. By modernising regulatory schemes and improving government processes, the bill will deliver practical results to improve the community's experience in its interactions with government and our law. I am confident that its outcomes and amendments will be in the best interests of the people of New South Wales. I commend the bill to the House.

Mr GURMESH SINGH (Coffs Harbour) (16:47): I support the Better Regulation Legislation Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2021. I commend the Minister for Better Regulation and Innovation for bringing the bill to the House. As the Minister stated in his second reading speech, the Government is working hard to deliver practical reforms to enable NSW Fair Trading and other regulators to administer laws more effectively to provide greater transparency and better protect consumers. The bill supports the work of the Government by introducing a number of reforms to ensure that legislation remains up to date and that provisions are fit for purpose and aligned with the intended policy outcomes. These reforms include: clarifying that disciplinary action can be taken against individual directors, partners and officers under New South Wales building laws; introducing penalty notice provisions to legislation administered by the Long Service Corporation in line with other NSW Fair Trading and SafeWork legislation; and updating membership details of the Biofuels Expert Panel and enabling the Minister to appoint additional industry representatives to the panel as needed to futureproof the panel membership.

First, I turn to the amendments in the bill that strengthen compliance and enforcement measures in the building sector. The building and construction industry makes a vital contribution to the New South Wales economy. According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, as at February 2021 over 1.1 million people were employed in the construction sector across Australia, accounting for 8.9 per cent of the total workforce. Over the past five years, employment in the industry has increased by approximately 10 per cent. The crossover of the building and construction sector with a large proportion of the Australian population reinforces the importance of maintaining a robust regulatory framework to provide New South Wales with a built environment where safety and quality is prioritised. This is in the best interest of our consumers, licensees and the broader New South Wales community.

To this effect, the Design and Building Practitioners Act 2020 was passed by Parliament in June last year. The Act aimed to restore consumer confidence in the residential building industry by introducing new registration schemes for class 2 buildings in New South Wales. Class 2 buildings include multistorey residential apartment buildings as well as mixed-used buildings where an apartment complex is situated above a shopping centre or a shared car park. These types of buildings were identified as being in the most urgent need of reform due to significant failures in their building standards in recent years. In response, the new Act shifted the paradigm by introducing new regulatory measures to ensure that buildings are designed and built in a safe, secure and trustworthy manner. Notably, the Act increases the personal liability of directors of bodies corporate in relation to the affairs of the body corporate, including the performance of registered practitioners.

Section 67 requires directors to report to the secretary any conduct that is, or is suspected to be, a ground for taking disciplinary action against the person under this Act. Failure to comply may attract a maximum penalty of \$33,000. The Act also provides that directors may be prosecuted for breaches of the legislation committed by the body corporate. However, directors cannot be subject to disciplinary proceedings under the Act where the body corporate is found to be in breach of the legislation. The corporate veil can only be lifted by formal prosecution. The current process may cause undue delay in the rectification of defects and prolong the community's exposure to harm as unsuitable practitioners are left to continue practising in the industry. Where the safety of the public is at risk, it is of utmost importance that local regulatory bodies are empowered to respond to and address the risks swiftly and appropriately.

The bill will support this by allowing individual directors of bodies corporate to be subject to disciplinary proceedings where their employees are found to be in breach of their legal obligations. This amendment will effectively treat directors as if they were an individual registered practitioner by allowing the corporate veil to be lifted without the need for prosecution. Disciplinary proceedings will provide a much more efficient and effective response to misconduct. Similarly, the bill will make amendments to the Home Building Act 1989 to clarify that members of a partnership or officers of corporations may be subject to disciplinary action for improper conduct. This amendment will reinforce the high standards to which individuals and directors of building companies are held to account in this sector. By enabling Fair Trading to seek cost-effective and timely enforcement options against a wider ambit of individuals, it is not hyperbole to say that these reforms will support the Government's commitment to strengthen industry accountability and compliance and restore consumer confidence in the building sector.

I now turn to the amendments in the bill relating to legislation administered by the Long Service Corporation. The Building and Construction Industry Long Service Payments Act 1986 and the Contract Cleaning Industry (Portable Long Service Leave Scheme) Act 2010 provide the regulatory framework for long service benefits schemes in the building, construction and contract cleaning industries in New South Wales. These two Acts have recently come into the Better Regulation and Innovation portfolio. Unlike other laws within the portfolio, these legislative schemes currently do not contain any penalty notice provisions.

The bill will support the harmonisation of these Acts with other legislation by introducing the ability to issue penalty notices. I am advised that examples of offences under these Acts where a penalty infringement notice may be appropriate include employers in the contract cleaning industry failing to provide a return within the required period or failing to pay a long service levy in relation to the construction of a building. These amendments will assist workers impacted by breaches of the law by ensuring that efficient enforcement measures are at hand. This will increase public confidence in the industry, leading to flow-on benefits for businesses operating lawfully in the building, construction and contract cleaning sectors.

The bill also makes minor amendments to the Biofuels Act 2007 to ensure provisions remain up to date and fit for purpose. The Biofuels Act and regulation provide the regulatory framework for the sale of biofuels in New South Wales. The primary objective of the scheme is to support the development of a sustainable and competitive biofuels industry in New South Wales. To this effect, the Act establishes a biofuels mandate that prescribes minimum sale requirements for ethanol and biodiesel in New South Wales. Currently the legislative mandate requires at least 6 per cent of all petrol sold by a volume fuel retailer to consist of ethanol and 2 per cent of all diesel sold must also be biodiesel. Any volume fuel retailer failing to comply with those requirements is guilty of an offence and may be subject to penalties of up to \$5,500.

Under the Act, volume fuel sellers may apply to the Minister for an exemption from the minimum sale requirements. An expert panel is established by the Act to advise the Minister on the proposed exemptions from the mandate and the variation or revocation of existing exemptions. The panel also deliberates on decisions to suspend the minimum biofuel requirements and any other matters related to the Act that may be referred by the Minister. The panel is currently constituted by six government officials and three industry representatives. The industry specialists to the panel membership have been appointed by the Minister and have demonstrated recent experience or expertise in the petroleum or biofuels industries.

During a recent statutory review of the Act, some key stakeholders suggested that the panel membership be expanded or reconstituted to provide a greater industry voice. While the review acknowledged the role of industry expertise in ensuring the panel's decisions are relevant and responsive to market developments, the department concluded that there was insufficient evidence to support the immediate need for the appointment of additional industry representatives. Further, the review noted the panel's day-to-day dealings with commercially sensitive information and the likely risks to the panel's impartial role if an individual retailer were to be selected to the panel membership.

However, in light of the evolving market and the emergence of new technologies, the review recommended that the Biofuels Act 2007 be amended to allow the Minister to appoint up to one additional industry representative to the panel as needed. The bill seeks to implement this recommendation by providing the Minister with a general discretionary power to appoint an additional industry specialist to the panel. The increased flexibility within the Act will futureproof the panel membership by ensuring decisions of the panel are in line with the latest industry developments and demands. To ensure the continuity of government leadership and control over the administration of the panel, any new industry appointments will be subject to established governance procedures, including prior Cabinet approval.

Once appointed, any member who becomes aware of a direct or indirect pecuniary interest in a matter being considered by the panel will be required to disclose the nature of the interest at the next panel meeting. Maintaining this level of government oversight will ensure that the integrity of the panel and its decision-making process are not compromised by increasing industry representation in the panel membership. The bill will also update existing references to departments and agencies on the panel to ensure they align with latest machinery-of-government changes. The minor amendments will remove any ambiguity about the panel membership and allow the individual representatives to be subjected to appropriate public scrutiny. I am confident that the reforms contained in the bill will deliver useful, purposive improvements to the law. The amendments will remove outdated provisions, provide greater clarity about roles and responsibilities and strengthen community confidence in the law. I commend the bill to the House.

Debate interrupted.

Public Interest Debate

STATE ECONOMY

Mr JAMES GRIFFIN (Manly) (16:57): I move:

That this House acknowledges that the Government continues to build a strong economy as we recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

At more than half a trillion dollars, the New South Wales economy is the country's largest State economy. New South Wales accounts for around a third of the nation's economic output and is home to nearly a third of all Australians. However, as was the case for economies across the world, New South Wales faced significant health and economic challenges for most of 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It is against that backdrop that on Tuesday 22 June the budget will be handed down, returning to its traditional timing of mid-June after last year's budget was deferred until November due to COVID-19. I know that the Treasurer is looking forward to delivering the 2021-22 budget—with good reason. In his own words:

Twelve months ago we were taking the first tentative steps out of lockdown and at the same time facing forecasts by the Commonwealth of unemployment as high as 15 per cent and predictions of economic Armageddon.

When the citizens of this State needed the help of their Government, we certainly responded. We did that through an unparalleled package of measures including tax relief worth billions of dollars, grants of up to \$10,000 to assist small businesses and a focus on continued infrastructure investment and job creation. We approached the pandemic with the dual focus of keeping people safe and keeping the economy and New South Wales borders open. We have committed \$29 billion towards health as well as economic and social support measures since the pandemic began, and we have continued to invest in supporting people and creating jobs through our \$107 billion infrastructure program. Unemployment in New South Wales is currently at 5.4 per cent, down from a high of 7.2 per cent last year, as more than 270,000 people returned to work. At the same time, consumer confidence is at its highest level in 10 years, while the recent NAB Business Survey recorded its highest business confidence reading ever in New South Wales.

This is a simply staggering turnaround from what has been a period like no other in recent history. The foundations of this recovery were laid in the announcement of our COVID-19 recovery plan, which focused on six key areas. The first was infrastructure, where we have demonstrated our global leadership and ability to deliver. The second was planning and precincts, which means growing world-leading industries. The third was education and skills, which are equipping our students for the jobs of the future. The fourth was digitisation, which means accelerating the recovery. We are doing that across the board and we particularly see it with the Service NSW

app, which has been downloaded by millions of people across New South Wales. The fifth is advanced manufacturing and local supply chains, building a self-sufficient economy. The sixth is Federal-State relations, recognising that the time for national reform is now.

Since the release of that recovery plan, and as members are about to see in the upcoming 2021-22 budget, we are pushing ahead with other major announcements that will support economic growth across New South Wales. I know firsthand from speaking to businesses and the chamber of commerce in my community that they believe and appreciate that we have worked hand in glove every step of the way with the business community and people across New South Wales, and we will continue to do so.

Let us consider three visionary documents that clearly demonstrate that this Government continues to build a strong economy as we recover from COVID. The first is the recently released NSW Productivity Commission white paper, which represents three years of hard work and identifies 60 opportunities to increase productivity, focusing on talent, innovation, housing and infrastructure, and natural resources. Second is the NSW Intergenerational Report, which provides a blueprint and economic opportunities over the next 40 years. Third and finally, the COVID-19 recovery plan set in train the astounding economic recovery that has got us to this point today. Before those opposite embark upon what they normally do—one of their parallel universe rants where they recycle their constant negativity, which I understand from their new leader—

Mr Stephen Kamper: You have recycled this motion.

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

Mr JAMES GRIFFIN: I understand from their new leader, it is not the go anymore. They have to be positive and optimistic—no more negativity. They are unable to reconcile what is actually happening in their high streets and their communities, out there in Martin Place and in communities across regional and rural New South Wales. They manufacture a perverse narrative that the sky is falling in. We have heard it all before. It will be along the lines of "You've sold everything", noting that the net worth of our State is more than it has ever been. It will probably be something along the lines of tolls, forgetting the toll rebate scheme or the time saved for people able to get home by using the road network that we have invested in. There will probably be a discussion about wages or some mixture of all three of those. It is like *Groundhog Day*, where Bill Murray is stuck in a time warp and just keeps recycling the same old stuff.

In fact, I have found an interesting article. Thirteen years ago, nearly to the day, there was an article in *The Sydney Morning Herald* talking about a gentleman named Michael Costa who was having a fight with the unions about a cap on wages. It is groundhog day. All they do is recycle old, negative stuff. I suggest those opposite listen from the top. The key is optimism and positivity; that is what their leader is looking for. I welcome that as they respond to this public interest debate and I commend the motion to the House.

[*Opposition members interjected.*]

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Mark Coure): Order! The member for Manly has not finished.

Mr JAMES GRIFFIN: I am so enthusiastic to hear what the Opposition has to say. I am looking for the optimism and the positivity that is going to come from on high. It is pretty simple to support acknowledging that the New South Wales Government continues to build a strong economy as we recover from COVID-19.

Mr Stephen Kamper: Bring it home.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Mark Coure): Order! The member for Macquarie Fields will come to order. The member for Rockdale will come to order.

Mr JAMES GRIFFIN: Let us see what they come up with. I have given those opposite the three clues: recycled negativity, angry about selling things and angry about tolls. There is no positivity, no ideas, no nothing.

Mr ANOULACK CHANTHIVONG (Macquarie Fields) (17:04): I thank the Government and the member for Manly for bringing to the House this public interest debate [PID] on building a strong economy. It looks very similar to a public interest debate that was brought to the House on 11 May by the member for Hawkesbury. I have that motion right here. The motion on 11 May includes the words, "building for a post-COVID economy". Today's motion from the member for Manly has the words, "build a strong economy". Uh-oh, it looks like someone has not been doing their homework and has brought the same public interest debate, using the same talking points and the same spin. My goodness.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Mark Coure): Members will come to order. I cannot hear the member for Macquarie Fields.

Mr ANOULACK CHANTHIVONG: The best and the brightest economic sparks in the Liberal Party thought they could build a better economy in response to a pandemic by deleting three words and replacing them with one. This is a really bad economic episode of the Liberal Party's groundhog day. Government members speaking on this issue are not economic policymakers, they are political plagiarists—and very bad ones at that. Since this matter was last debated last month, there have been many factors that could hinder our economic recovery.

Those factors are the arrival of the extremely infectious delta variant, which could wreak significant havoc on our economic activity; worries about potential inflation, given the global liquidity being pumped; ongoing strained relations with our biggest export market; pressure on the university sector, which is one of the major parts of our economy; flat wages reducing domestic spending; rampant housing prices; and, of course, the national accounts showing a patchy recovery in New South Wales household spending on private sector dwellings, food and cafes. What is the Government's answer to all these challenges? Plagiarise last month's PID with a few word changes and hope no-one notices.

The member for Hawkesbury, who is in the Chamber, has super spread the economic plagiarism virus to the member for Manly. The economic brains trust is at work. Someone tell the Premier to send a diplomatic cable pronto to Sweden's central bank for a Nobel prize to be awarded to Government members, who believe economic theory on plagiarism is the panacea for all our economic challenges from the pandemic. I know that the Treasurer has given those talking points to all Government members who are speaking on this motion. We all know his strong US links, given he used public money to hire a public operative in his office. Rather than seek thoughtful analysis from local, credible think tanks, economics professors and industry intelligence, the Treasurer has been seeking economic guidance from this guy.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Mark Coure): I remind members not to use props in the Chamber.

Mr ANOULACK CHANTHIVONG: This Liberals' economics shaman has advised there are no economic challenges, so just plagiarise last month's speaking notes. I have the Government members' speaking notes and I have highlighted them. They had better not recycle and repeat those lines because they do not want to get caught cheating, do they? That is not very nice. It is also in *Hansard*, so we all know what members have said. Our economic wellbeing impacts every aspect of our quality of life now and for future generations. As a humble, working-class economist—as is my colleague the member for Wollongong—I offered bipartisanship last month with some thoughtful suggestions. It is obvious that on that occasion the Government members did not listen to all the great ideas coming from our side of the Chamber. I hope this time they are actually paying attention. Here we go again.

Quite frankly, this Government is totally clueless on how to grow a strong economy. I refer to question time today where the responses to questions on low wages for paramedics show that the importance of linking better wages with domestic spending and increasing economic activity does not resonate with the Government. Given those opposite were not even listening the first time, perhaps the best way to address today's PID—which, of course, was last month's PID and probably will be next month's PID—is to note what not to do when building a stronger economy. Do not cut frontline workers' wages. Do not pander to tolling giants by introducing a new toll on an old road, which strangles household budgets. Do not introduce a never-ending land tax on the family home masquerading as some economic unicorn for housing affordability. And stop blowing billions of dollars on infrastructure projects. [*Extension of time not granted.*]

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Mark Coure): I thank the member for Macquarie Fields for that entertaining contribution. Order! I call the member for Macquarie Fields to order for the first time. I call the member for Lakemba to order for the first time. I call the member for Lakemba to order for the second time. I call the member for Mulgoa to order for the first time. The member for Hawkesbury will be heard in silence

Ms ROBYN PRESTON (Hawkesbury) (17:10): It does not matter what insults the Opposition throws at me today because I am feeling very resilient. I stood in Hanna Park at North Richmond yesterday with the Prime Minister, the Premier, Minister Constance, Federal Minister Fletcher and very important residents from the area, where we announced a \$500 million infrastructure project to provide traffic solutions, including a new bridge for Richmond and a bypass. Solutions! The Opposition is not delivering a single dollar's worth. That is \$500 million for Hawkesbury, and I am feeling invincible today. Throw it at me because you have nothing for Hawkesbury.

The 2020-21 year was a challenging time for New South Wales and for my electorate, given the bushfires, the ongoing drought, floods, and COVID-19. We got it all. Rather than just repairing our economy, the Government wants to ensure it is rebuilt to be even more resilient and self-sufficient in the future. The New South Wales Government is committing to a guaranteed \$100 billion infrastructure pipeline over four years—Opposition members should remember these statistics because they forget very quickly—to drive employment growth and

help create 88,000 direct jobs. This includes a \$3 billion accelerator fund. New South Wales is a global leader in delivering infrastructure projects. We have proven that. I was part of that announcement yesterday. A very proud Hawkesbury girl I am. This has led to the successful construction of projects of great magnitude and importance such as NorthConnex and the Wynyard Place upgrade.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Mark Coure): Members will come to order or they will be removed from the Chamber. The member for Rockdale will come to order.

Ms ROBYN PRESTON: Asset recycling has played a role in funding some of the biggest projects in the State, including WestConnex and the Sydney Metro City & Southwest project. In 10 years under Bob Carr the Labor Party did not build one piece of infrastructure. Shame on those opposite. The New South Wales Government has invested record amounts towards regional infrastructure. Some of those opposite have never been outside of the City Circle. They should get out in the regions now and again. There is the Pacific Highway upgrade, the South Australia-New South Wales interconnector and the construction of the first new dam in New South Wales in more than 30 years. This Government is delivering.

Overall the New South Wales Government's record infrastructure investment will bring many economic benefits, including job creation and a 0.5 percentage point per annum contribution to economic growth over the next two years. Yesterday I had the pleasure of welcoming those very special guests to Hawkesbury. This is not an on-off thing. This is a serious investment. It will happen. We are going to start shovels in the ground, following further community consultation next year. This is a \$500 million investment—and no tolls. Put that on the record. There you go. You can't argue with that either.

[Opposition members interjected.]

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER: Order! The Clerk will stop the clock. The member for Hawkesbury will be heard in silence. Opposition members should not push their luck or they will be removed from the Chamber.

Ms ROBYN PRESTON: Our Planning System Acceleration Program brings forward immediate reforms to support productivity, investment and jobs during COVID-19, with a delivery unit that is focused on unblocking programs caught up in the system. So far 49 projects have been approved, including the Snowy 2.0 - Main Works, the Mount Druitt CBD amendment No. 10, the Sydney Fish Market redevelopment and the Tweed Valley Hospital stage two. Those opposite should not shake their heads. These projects are happening. Our precincts, which incorporate industries such as technology, defence, food and agribusiness, are attracting investment from businesses around the world. Sydney's Tech Central, a world-class technology and innovation precinct, will create 25,000 innovation jobs and host startups—

Dr Hugh McDermott: No, it won't.

Ms ROBYN PRESTON: You should listen more often. It will create scale-ups and innovation partners. Atlassian has committed to becoming an anchor tenant, creating 4,000 local Atlassian research and product development jobs while helping Tech Central become the biggest technology hub of its kind in Australia. As for the Western Sydney Aerotropolis, need I say which government is delivering on that? It is this Government. The aerotropolis will further boost New South Wales' innovation credentials. The member for Mulgoa is very supportive of the project. The CSIRO is planning for up to 450 of its researchers and other staff to be based in a new, state-of-the-art facility at the aerotropolis. I could go on but I am constrained by the clock. I have educated Opposition members enough so that they do not forget the brilliant job that this Government is doing for the State.

Mr CLAYTON BARR (Cessnock) (17:16): I am happy to contribute to this public interest debate because it gives me another chance to correct the drivel that comes from those opposite about the state of the New South Wales economy and the condition of the New South Wales budget. Members opposite should not trust my words; they should have a look at their own budget. I refer them to Budget Paper No. 1, page D-3, written by their Treasurer. I will refer to that extensively, so if any members opposite want to question any of the numbers I put forward, they can look at their own budget for proof. The member for Hawkesbury mentioned "budget repair". I think that was the phrase she used. I stand corrected if I am wrong. But I am wondering what part of the budget was repaired.

When members opposite came to government, total borrowings—or debt—were \$22 billion. At the end of this term, borrowings will be \$157 billion. What part of that is repair? When they came to government, long-term growth in income was 6.5 per cent. Over the coming 12 months, growth in expenses will be 11.9 per cent. What part of that is repair? When they came to government, the public sector could enjoy a meaningful and reasonable pay increase for the incredible work they do. Instead, this Government has put in place a pay cut, a pay freeze. What part of that is budget repair? The Government has sold assets that used to make money and return a profit to the State. What part of that is budget repair? It has sold property that we used to own and did not have to pay

rent on. Now we rent it back, so that cost is built into our expenses going forward. Instead of being owners, we are now renters. What part of that is budget repair?

The problem that is built into this budget and into the New South Wales economy has been put in place systematically, deliberately and purposely by this Government. It is not as if previous Governments have not had to face a financial crisis. Members might have heard of the global financial crisis that occurred when Labor was in government. Did that Labor Government have to max out the credit card? No. It undertook genuine budget repair to save our triple-A credit rating—a credit rating that will be lost to this State in the next two to three years because unfunded superannuation liabilities plus our net debt will exceed 120 per cent of our income. What part of that is budget repair? Those opposite want to talk about the incredible impacts of the drought. Here is a fact: For the southern part of New South Wales, the millennium drought, which occurred during the previous Labor Government, is the worst drought on record. So, yes, we faced drought, bushfire, flood and financial crisis. We did all of that while maintaining our triple-A credit rating. We not only maintained, we also improved it with the major contributors. We did all of that. We did budget repair.

Here is another tip for members: Read Mike Baird's first budget and the criticisms he made of the previous Government for investing too much money in infrastructure. Those opposite who suggest that money was not spent by the previous Government should read their Government's first term budget. I know that members opposite have not enjoyed my speech because it is too truthful, too honest, and based on fact. But they should consider how much money we will have borrowed and the interest we will pay on that. If members opposite had listened to this speech back in 2011 when they first took power, these five minutes would have cost the State only \$15,000. But guess how much they will cost at the end of this term of Government? It will cost \$28,000 for them to listen to a few facts about the budget, which they have destroyed. Members should not stand in this place and talk about putting the shoulder to the wheel when they are ensuring that everyone in this Government has their snout in the trough, that private industry has its snout in the public sector trough and that people are getting payments and wage increases while frontline public sector workers are being forced to take pay cuts.

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER: The member for Myall Lakes. He will be heard in silence. Members who do not come to order will be removed from the Chamber.

Mr STEPHEN BROMHEAD (Myall Lakes) (17:21): It gives me great pleasure to contribute to this public interest debate. We just heard from the member for Cessnock. I think his speech was plagiarised from Graham Richardson's book *Whatever it Takes* because that was the greatest piece of fiction one could ever hear. I am proud of what our Government has been able to do during this pandemic. In fact, it is agreed that New South Wales is the gold standard in managing the pandemic. Imagine putting up with living in Queensland or Victoria under those Labor governments. Every time there is a cough or sneeze in Victoria they go into lockdown, whereas in New South Wales we manage it because we support our staff and frontline workers. We will recover economically because of the way we have looked after New South Wales over the past 10 years. To put that into context, members should remember what it was like under Labor. First, there was the \$7 billion budget black hole over a four-year period. Second, there was \$4.1 billion workers compensation unfunded liability.

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER: Order! Members will cease interjecting. I cannot hear the member for Myall Lakes.

Mr STEPHEN BROMHEAD: Members should not take my word for it. Greg McCarthy, who was in charge of workers compensation, said that after Della Bosca nobody had their hands on the levers. He was referring to Tripodi and the member for Maroubra. They did not have their hands on the levers. They left behind \$2.1 billion in unfunded liabilities in the NSW Police Force death and disability scheme. For the last 10 years of the Labor Government outgoings were greater than income. The other lie is that we reduced frontline workers' wages. Nobody has had a pay cut. In fact, when we brought in the 2.5 per cent wage increase, compounding year on year, public servants were getting an increase year in, year out until all of us throughout New South Wales, public and private, had to tighten our belts because of this pandemic. It is for 12 months only. That is the reality.

New South Wales is the State that is propping up the rest of Australia economically. It is the New South Wales Government that is looking after the people in New South Wales, and the people know it. How do we know that the people in New South Wales know we are doing it, and not Labor? Just have a look at the by-election—a swing to the Government. It was a historic swing in a by-election to the Government, with an increased majority. That is what those opposite have to put up with. The people out there have stopped listening to Labor because they have heard it all before. They have heard the lies and they have heard the rhetoric but Labor does not deliver. Every economic measure that the Government has tried to introduce, Labor has opposed. Members must remember that infrastructure creates jobs. Infrastructure needs workers and it is workers who build the infrastructure.

Mr Edmond Atalla: Wastage! Blowouts!

Mr STEPHEN BROMHEAD: Forget about that.

Mr Edmond Atalla: Forget about the blowouts?

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER: Order! The member for Mount Druitt will come to order. The member for Lakemba will resume his seat. Members will come to order. I cannot hear the member for Myall Lakes.

Mr STEPHEN BROMHEAD: The member for Macquarie Fields said the mover's speech was plagiarism. Sir Winston Churchill said, "If you have a message, tell them once, tell them twice, and tell them the message a third time. When you think they have got it, hit them between the eyes with it." The message is that only New South Wales is managing the pandemic properly; only New South Wales is looking after the economy. We are not the ones who are locking everything up. We are backing small business and the employers. More people are employed in small business than in any other area.

Throughout this pandemic and before that the fires and before that the drought, we have been the ones who have been backing small businesses and giving them the grants to help them through and to keep them going. They appreciate it and their employees, who are working in those small businesses, appreciate it. They know it is the Coalition that is delivering for them. No matter what those opposite say, the people out there—the ones that they have forgotten about; the ones that deserted them in droves 10 years ago and still desert them, as was shown a couple of weeks ago—still do not believe what they are saying. They know that Labor does not represent them. They know that the Coalition is the party for the workers. They know that the Coalition is looking after them. They know that Labor never will look after them and never has.

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER (Rockdale) (17:27): It is quite bizarre. I cannot believe that the member for Manly—a young fellow, picture perfect, a sweet guy—has been brought out to spin the garbage that we heard from him today. The member for Myall Lakes talked about a gold standard. "Gold standard" does not mean being ranked seventh. Thank God for the Northern Territory, otherwise New South Wales would have come last. Everything the Government members have said today has come from a script. I do not know whether it is Dom Perrottet who has designed all this continuous rubbish for them to run. This is the mob that in 2015 produced budget papers that inflated budget surpluses by 100 per cent. It is the same mob. The State was actually in structural deficit, if we took out the Transport Asset Holding Entity of New South Wales [TAHE] component. Government members are praising themselves for the great job they have done and for the great economic performance of this State—ranked seventh! They should be ashamed of themselves. They should be sitting down having a conversation about how they are going to do better—not praising their ranking of seventh.

Mr James Griffin: What ranking is this?

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: You are ahead of the Northern Territory though, James. It is fitting because when the Australian Bureau of Statistics told the Government at the time Mike Baird was Premier, "You can't continue to do this. The TAHE rort has to stop. The entity that you have used can only have a two-year life," what did Mike Baird do? He took straight off; that is what he did. Do you know what else he did? He put James Griffin in to carry the load, and he is in the Chamber today pushing all this propaganda and garbage. The truth is that Mike Baird took off and the first bill that Minister Constance came in with was a new TAHE, so that he could continue it for another two years. The Government has been running this rort; it has been trying to con the people. But it is ranked seventh and it is not working.

The other issue we need to look at is housing supply. From 2011 we have seen absolute rubbish from this Government. From 2011 the State has fallen behind consistently. The only time they stepped it up a little bit was when Anthony Roberts was the Minister pushing the planning. He was too good, so the Government got rid of him. The current planning Minister is a wonderful human being. I love Minister Stokes, I really love him, but there is too much planning to plan for planning. Let's get on and do it. We have to supply housing for our children. We have to provide housing. If we want a strong economy and we want to boost economic activity, we need to push the housing market. We need construction jobs. We need to support local manufacturing and give our infrastructure projects to local industry. That is what we need to be doing, and that is what Labor members are all about.

Labor is all about a strong economy, not crappy words across the floor and seventh position in the country. That is not what it is about. There has been \$22 billion worth of cost blowouts. If the Government wants a stronger economy, it has to manage the economy properly. It cannot embark on a project, budget a certain amount and blow out by \$22 billion. That is just reckless management. And then the Government rolls it into dodgy toll roads that are built on some type of economic model it has created. Someone is paying for it, and it is the people of New South Wales. They work hard but they cannot afford to get to work. It is terrible. The Government will be tolling pedestrian strips soon. This is the mess that the Government has gotten us in. It is time to listen to what

Labor members are saying. Listen to us. We want to move forward. We want a strong economy. The picture of this economy is a dodgy set of numbers.

Mr JAMES GRIFFIN (Manly) (17:32): In reply: I thought that was pretty good. All members are in furious agreement that this motion is correct. That was going really well for about 30 seconds, until the member for Macquarie Fields pulled out the QAnon guy.

Mr Paul Scully: Your chief adviser.

Mr JAMES GRIFFIN: The chief adviser?

Mr Anoulack Chanthivong: Your economic adviser.

Mr JAMES GRIFFIN: That is interesting. I have not seen that one before.

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER: Order! Members will not use props in the Chamber.

Mr JAMES GRIFFIN: Then we went on a world tour, from QAnon to Swedish diplomatic cables. We had a whole global tour with the member for Macquarie Fields. The member for Hawkesbury gave a great and genuine recount of some wonderful investments that she is seeing around New South Wales, including the aerotropolis. My friend the member for Cessnock did exactly what we thought he would: He reverted to type. He was the merchant of doom. His contribution was completely confusing and misleading. He fundamentally confused two different things. Equating the global financial crisis to the pandemic is like comparing oranges to apples. But that is okay; the passion was there, and I love it. The member for Myall Lakes, who has just come back into the Chamber, gave an impassioned response, coming in second to the member for Rockdale. Where has he gone? He has gone to have a lie down.

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER: The member for Rockdale has stepped outside the Chamber for a minute.

Mr JAMES GRIFFIN: The member for Rockdale obviously is not a fan of Mike Baird, which is a shame. I will send him a text. He gave Robbo top marks though, which was good to know, and he was very enthusiastic about the Northern Territory. In Rockdale's rankings, we were somehow coming seventh. I said earlier that we would hear a false narrative from those opposite, constructing a story that completely defies the truth and reality of the economic environment across the State. As the member for Macquarie Fields said, this is not a dissimilar pitch to one that has been raised before. I thank members for reinforcing the motion for which notice was given today. I look forward to their support of it. It was a passionate debate to bring to the fore the fact that the New South Wales Government continues to build a strong economy as we recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. I commend the motion to the House.

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

Motion agreed to.

Community Recognition Statements

ANNABELLE RODGERS

Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal) (17:35): In April Central Coast local Annabelle Rodgers had great success at the 2021 Australian Track and Field Championships at Sydney Olympic Park Athletics Centre. Annabelle placed first in the under 20s para javelin with a 25.42 metre throw. This beat her existing Australian record. Annabelle also placed second in the under 20s para shot put and discus, third in the open para javelin with a 24.74 metre throw—setting a new under 20s record—sixth in the open para shot put and seventh in the open para discus. These are all incredibly impressive feats. I extend my congratulations to Annabelle, her coach and president of Gosford Little Athletics, Stuart Farrant, and the rest of the athletes from Gosford Senior Athletics Club who competed at the Australian Track and Field Championships. I again thank Annabelle for her great commitment to sport and wish her all the best for the future.

PUBLIC SECTOR WAGES

Ms ANNA WATSON (Shellharbour) (17:36): I acknowledge and congratulate every ambulance driver, healthcare worker, teacher, police officer and public servant in the electorate of Shellharbour. I thank them for their service and for all their hard work every day, day in and day out, at the risk to their own health and the health of their families. I put on record my utter disgust at the Liberal-Nationals Government for not ensuring that those workers are properly compensated. There are to be no pay increases. On their behalf I say they do not want thanks or platitudes, they want their money. They want to be fairly compensated to provide for the health and wellbeing of their families.

JOHN KNOX

Mr STEPHEN BROMHEAD (Myall Lakes) (17:37): I recognise John Knox, the deputy captain of Tuncurry Rural Fire Service [RFS]. John was recognised with a Long Service Medal 5th Clasp at the first medal presentation for the Mid Coast District. John has served in the RFS for 61 years, after joining Luddenham brigade in April 1960. During his time as a volunteer, he has been appointed as a senior deputy captain for 15 years, then captain for 17 years. In 2004 John moved to Forster and joined the Tuncurry brigade. He again moved up the ranks, becoming captain in 2012 and in 2015 elected deputy captain, a position he still holds today. John has also been a driving force behind the Tuncurry brigade's fundraising activities as treasurer, while continuing to serve on the front line. I congratulate John and thank him for his incredible service for more than six decades.

ITALIAN REPUBLIC DAY

Mr GUY ZANGARI (Fairfield) (17:38): The Italian community came together to celebrate the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Italian Republic at the Carnes Hill Community Centre. The festival was hosted by CNA Multicultural Services and was well attended by the local community. On behalf of the community I acknowledge the work undertaken by the volunteers and committee members of CNA in the promotion of the Italian language and culture. Special thanks go to the president, Mr Giovanni Testa; Ms Maria-Grazia Stornio; Mr Marco Testa; Ms Maria Laguzza; and *The Allora Advertiser* editor, Mr Franco Baldi.

During the day the community was treated to all things Italian, with music from Joe Zappia and Tony Gagliano, traditional performances from the local Italian dancing group and delicious food. Italian motor cars were on display. In his first official outing as New South Wales Labor leader, I was delighted to be in the company of Chris Minns, MP, as he enjoyed the warm hospitality of the Italian community of south-west Sydney. Also in attendance was the member for Liverpool, Paul Lynch, MP, and Liverpool City Councillor Nathan Hagarty. I congratulate all involved on a successful event.

BHUTANESE AUSTRALIAN COMMUNITY SUPPORT GROUP ALBURY-WODONGA INC

Mr JUSTIN CLANCY (Albury) (17:39): I congratulate the Bhutanese Australian Community Support Group Albury-Wodonga on their COVID-19 seniors support program and their efforts to make these times less stressful for their members and community. The program has aided many seniors in getting their COVID-19 vaccinations, having enlisted the help of Albury Wodonga Health and Albury-Wodonga Ethnic Communities Council. Important topics such as mental health, wellbeing and COVID-19 questions have been addressed in the seniors sessions program. By running events such as their youth and volunteer picnic, this organisation has demonstrated a genuine commitment to helping others. I acknowledge the ongoing support and dedication that the volunteers of the Bhutanese Australian Community Support Group Albury Wodonga are providing, establishing for our Bhutanese a place to come together in an environment where help is always available.

CAMDEN SOUTH PUBLIC SCHOOL

Mr PETER SIDGREAVES (Camden) (17:40): I recognise the hard work of students and families of Camden South Public School who have currently raised \$14,292 for the Heart Foundation through the Jump Rope For Heart, which is a skipping fundraising program running in schools throughout the year. It encourages young children to have a positive attitude towards exercise, healthy eating and heart health while raising vital funds to fight heart disease. Camden South Public School has currently secured first place as the most successful school in Australia for 2021. I congratulate the school on its incredible efforts in achieving such proud and astonishing numbers. I also thank the school, students and families for donating and participating in an inspiring program.

LISMORE ELECTORATE YOUTH COUNCILS

Ms JANELLE SAFFIN (Lismore) (17:41): I am making it a priority to meet with the various youth councils across my electorate of Lismore and I have been mightily impressed by the calibre of their members, who are very much the leaders of the future. We are certainly in safe hands. I was honoured to be invited to the Tweed Shire Youth Council's term two meeting in Tweed Heads recently, where they discussed issues important to them, including safety and community, safety on public transport—where we have it—and mental health and wellbeing. I commend Murwillumbah High School students Daniel Daley and Logan Wright, vice chair, and Wollumbin High School's Madison Bambach and Julia Wilder-Donvito, whose schools sit in the Lismore electorate. Also on the youth council are Oska Progetto and Imogene Pain from Banora Point High School, Montana Markland, chair, Pacific Coast Christian School, Dawn Cosham and Tom Nguyen from St Joseph's College and Rykah Ross and Jorja Campbell from Tweed River High School. I commend them for their great work.

CARROLL PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

Mr KEVIN ANDERSON (Tamworth—Minister for Better Regulation and Innovation) (17:42): I congratulate the Carroll Progress Association on the official opening of the Carroll community ground. The weather gods really turned it on over the weekend for the official opening of the Carroll community ground. It was great to see so many families out enjoying the ground, which was an empty paddock not too long ago. Now it has a beautiful white picket fence around it. The Carroll First XI took on the Gunnedah Mayor's First XI, with the Carroll first XI winning the match. A huge thanks to George Hoddle of the Carroll Progress Association and to Chop Elphick, our volunteer greenkeeper, for their work for the community. This project was funded by all three levels of government. It is great to see a community asset like this in Carroll in full swing.

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER MAX MITCHELL, APM

Mr TIM CRAKANTHORP (Newcastle) (17:43): Last month, after 40 years in uniform, Northern Region Assistant Commissioner Max Mitchell retired from the NSW Police Force. Max served our community from Port Stephens down to the Brisbane Water command. But he was not just a fantastic local leader, he was instrumental in the development of the Police Transport Command, the creation of Aged Crime Prevention officers and the implementation of the Command Performance Assessment and Accountability process. His skills were recognised beyond State lines too, deploying to New Zealand in the aftermath of the 2011 Christchurch earthquake to lead a 130-person team, before being seconded to the Australia New Zealand Police Advisory Agency. Max has been a true asset to the NSW Police Service. He will leave very big shoes to fill and will be sorely missed in the Newcastle-Hunter region.

MOOREBANK RAMS RUGBY LEAGUE FOOTBALL CLUB

Ms MELANIE GIBBONS (Holsworthy) (17:44): Today I recognise Moorebank Rams Rugby League Football Club for gaining recognition as a Blue Shield club. Clubs that achieve this recognition are monitored in their performance in six key areas, including governance and accreditation, finance, media and marketing, facilities, community and wellbeing, and on-field football operations. At present 50 clubs in New South Wales are recognised by this program. Being club No. 28 demonstrates that Moorebank Rams Rugby League Football Club strives for excellence both on and off the sporting field. This recognition will assist the Moorebank Rams to retain rugby league members, increase its funding opportunities and create a healthy environment for all members and its community. It is an impressive club with lots happening, including the recent switching on of its new lights and the planning for an upgrade of the clubhouse. The club's future is bright.

TRIBUTE TO LOIS HAGAN

Mr RYAN PARK (Keira) (17:45): Today I pay tribute to a giant of the Labor Party in the Illawarra who sadly passed away recently, Lois Hagan. Lois joined the Australian Labor Party in 1954. On 7 November 1966 she joined the mighty Thirroul Labor branch, which is currently in the electorate of Keira. She was made a life member of our great party in 1999 and was the longest serving secretary for the Thirroul branch, spanning 1980 to 1997. She has made an incredible contribution. We are better off because of the efforts, the advocacy and the determination of Lois. On behalf of the entire Labor community from the Keira electorate and more broadly across the Illawarra I say vale, Lois Hogan.

TAREN POINT TITANS JUNIOR RUGBY LEAGUE FOOTBALL CLUB

Ms ELENI PETINOS (Miranda) (17:45): I congratulate the Taren Point Titans Junior Rugby League Football Club on securing \$2,000 from the New South Wales Government's 2021 Local Sport Grant Program. Established in 2004, the Titans pride themselves on their strong, inclusive culture and outstanding volunteer body. Through this funding, the Titans will be able to cover the cost of accreditation for club volunteers including coaches, managers and referees who dedicate their time to supporting the players. We all know that the cost involved in completing the courses can be a heavy financial burden on volunteers and volunteer organisations, so I am pleased that this funding will be invested in the people who support community sport. Of course, none of this would be possible without the wonderful executive committee, who continue to advocate for the Titans. I acknowledge President Brett Robinson, Senior Vice-President Jay Te Wao, Vice-President Andrew Ross, Treasurer Julie Robinson, Secretary Adam McPherson and Assistant Secretary Joe Pirrello. I commend the Taren Point Titans Junior Rugby League Football Club for investing in the skills of its volunteers.

ETTALONG BEACH

Ms LIESL TESCH (Gosford) (17:47): Ettalong Beach has been titled a top town at the inaugural New South Wales Top Tourism Town Awards for 2021. Our glorious beachside village of Ettalong Beach won the Most Compelling Itinerary honour in the judges' choice award for its three-day program that features ideas for food, fun and relaxation. Thanks to Central Coast Council, the business community and tourism organisations in

Ettalong Beach put together a short video, itinerary and article, which was reviewed by a judging committee of 14 industry experts. Following this, submissions were opened up to the public to vote on which were the top tourism towns for 2021. Ettalong Beach has claimed a Top Tourism Town honour. There is no doubt about Ettalong Beach offering a huge selection of high-quality restaurants, cafes, accommodation and entertainment choices. Ettalong Beach is a "must visit" Central Coast destination. I encourage any Sydneysider looking for a short weekend getaway to come and enjoy what is on offer and spend loads because there is a whole heap to enjoy.

JUNE ELIZA ELLIS

Mrs TANYA DAVIES (Mulgoa) (17:48): I acknowledge June Eliza Ellis for turning 100 years old on Wednesday 26 May. She celebrated with her son, Greg Ellis. It is such a remarkable milestone to accomplish. June was born in 1921 in Berrigan, which is a small town in the New South Wales Riverina. She was the second-youngest of five children and, sadly, is the only one left living out of all of her siblings. June married her husband at the young age of 21 in Marrickville but had to say farewell to him at the start of the Second World War. Mrs Ellis and her husband had their only child, Greg, who still lives at home with her. When they were of working age, they operated their own chicken farm in Dora Creek on the New South Wales Central Coast. Because the family could only afford one shed from which to operate their business, June was required to take up additional work as a driving instructor. Despite her age, she is strong and fit and thrives at doing her everyday housework. I congratulate June on her achievement and wish her all the best and the best of health for the years to come.

ALL COAST SWIM STARS

Mr DAVID HARRIS (Wyong) (17:49): All Coast Swim Stars swim school, which is located at Charmhaven, is honoured to be providing swim classes for the children of the New Zealand Warriors NRL team. The experienced teachers will teach the children water safety and to learn to swim while the NRL team resides with their families on the Central Coast due to the COVID-19 international travel restrictions. Lessons will be provided twice a week for 16 children aged between eight months and 12 years. The school will provide a range of appropriate classes, from baby classes to stroke correction and fitness sessions. The local family-owned swim school opened in January 2020. The swim team is honoured to give these children the regular swim lessons they would be otherwise missing out on. It will be an ongoing arrangement until the NRL team's members can return home to settle back into their regular routines. The first session will be to meet and greet, with experienced swim teachers and the owner, Amanda Blake, providing an introduction to the program. All Coast Swim Stars is excited to meet the kids and teach the long-life skill of water safety.

ELIE AKOURI

Mr MARK COURE (Oatley) (17:50): Today I honour a dear friend of mine, Elie Akouri, who is the leader and founder of the Cedars of Lebanon group. Elie started the Cedars of Lebanon group in 1977, and he has been mentoring young members of our community ever since. The organisation is known for its Lebanese dance classes. Elie plays a crucial role in costume design and leadership. Elie also runs workshops across Australia to teach people about the Lebanese Australian culture. The dance group performs annually at Lebanon Carnival at Darling Harbour. Last year I had the privilege of recognising Elie with a Senior Volunteer Achievement award as part of the 2020 St George Community Awards, which honour some of the many people and organisations who go above and beyond, each and every day, to make our community an even better place to live. His award is thoroughly deserved. I wish Elie all the best as he looks to provide many more years of service to our community.

MONICA MORLIN AND DANA IRVING

Mr DAVID MEHAN (The Entrance) (17:51): I acknowledge Ms Monica Morlin and Ms Dana Irving of Charter Hall for organising Clean Up Australia Day at Bateau Bay Square on 25 May 2021. We spent the morning of 25 May collecting rubbish and retrieving over 50 shopping trolleys from the Crown land reserve behind Bay Village at Bateau Bay. But they have done more than that. They have spent the past 12 months since they have taken over as managers at the shopping centre making sure that there is less rubbish drifting from the shopping centre to the reserve behind. I thank them for that. It means a lot to my constituents. On behalf of our community, I personally thank them both for their efforts in keeping our public spaces clean and doing their bit for civic pride on the Central Coast.

BILL AND CINDY POULOS

Mr ADAM MARSHALL (Northern Tablelands—Minister for Agriculture and Western New South Wales) (17:52): I recognise Bill and Cindy Poulos, owners of Moree's Deluxe Cafe, for their outstanding service and dedication to the Moree community. That is not to mention they serve the best hot chocolate and strawberry milkshakes anywhere in country New South Wales. Bill and Cindy have been in business since 2008 and celebrated their thirteenth anniversary on Anzac Day. Deluxe Cafe is well known for its delicious coffee and fast delivery service and its support of local charities. In 2011 Bill and Cindy started a tip jar, with all proceeds donated

to Moree Hospital. To date \$25,680 has been fundraised for the hospital and other charities, such as Relay for Life events. Bill and Cindy also support other causes through raffles, prize donations and sponsorship. I congratulate Bill and Cindy on establishing such a successful business and being recognised through the Moree Thumbs Up Thumbs Down Business Appreciation Award for the third time running. I commend Bill and Cindy for their strong work ethic and support of the local community.

TRIBUTE TO DAVID DUSHMAN

Mr RON HOENIG (Heffron) (17:53): I recognise the passing of David Aleksandrovich Dushman, the Hero of Auschwitz, who died on 4 June this year at the age of 98. Dushman was the last living liberator of the Auschwitz concentration camp and a legendary fencing coach. As a young Soviet soldier, he drove his tank through the barbed wire fences of Auschwitz on the afternoon of 27 January 1945, liberating the survivors of the most notorious Nazi death camp. More than a million people, most of them Jews, were murdered by the Nazis at Auschwitz-Birkenau between 1940 and 1945. After distributing food to the starving survivors, Dushman drove on to the west to hunt down the fascists. After the war, Dushman became a champion fencer and an elite fencing coach for the Soviet Union women's national fencing team. He was active in coaching even into his nineties. He was a regular participant in veterans' gatherings and Holocaust remembrance activities and he visited schools to educate the next generation. With his death, one more of the last living links to the horrors of Auschwitz is broken. May David Dushman be remembered among the righteous.

GILL PEDRANA

Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS (Dubbo) (17:54): The annual Art Unlimited event in Dunedoo always attracts a high-quality list of entries in its various categories. This year a Dubbo artist's portrait of a local icon was one of the highlights of the competition. Gill Pedrana took out the ABC Western Plains Prize for her portrayal of Aboriginal elder Frank Doolan. Lovingly known as Riverbank Frank, Mr Doolan works closely with the local Aboriginal community, particularly our youth, to reconcile and find a better path forward. Gill used a number of sketches and photos to help inform the final charcoal portrait, which is astonishing in its detail, and the prize is a fitting reward for a wonderful artist. When I spoke to her earlier today, she told me it took her a couple of days to complete and she is thrilled to have won the award. I congratulate Gill and the winners of all the other categories.

BONNYRIGG SENSORY GARDEN

Mr NICK LALICH (Cabramatta) (17:55): On Tuesday 25 May I had the great pleasure of opening the brand-new Bonnyrigg Sensory Garden, designed by St George Community Housing and voted for by local residents. This new sensory garden will prove to be a wonderful place for locals to gather, relax and explore, with some special sections created to cater to those with disabilities and complex sensory needs. The project was made possible after St George Community Housing secured \$50,000 in funding from the Government's My Community Project grant. I have no doubt this project will be of tremendous benefit to our local community and I commend everyone from St George Community Housing and congratulate them on their hard work, dedication and ongoing commitment to make this project a reality.

AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES COUNCIL OF NSW FINALISTS

Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra) (17:56): I congratulate two members of the West Wyalong Show Society on being selected as New South Wales State Finalists with the Agricultural Societies Council of NSW. First, I congratulate Mr Lyall Wilkinson, who is a finalist in the Excellence Awards Category, on his 50-plus years of active service with the local show society and his support in encouraging youth to be involved in both the show society and the agricultural sector. Secondly, I congratulate Mrs Leonie Campbell, who is a finalist in the Show Dedication Category, on her dedication and leadership as chief steward of the flower section for over 30 years and on being a great supporter of youth and novices. Both these finalists are perfect examples of the dedication and commitment needed in the running and organising of regional shows. Without continued support, local shows like the West Wyalong Show would not be able to continue. I wish Mr Wilkinson and Mrs Campbell all the very best of luck at the Agricultural Societies Council State Conference.

NATIONAL PALLIATIVE CARE WEEK

Mr GUY ZANGARI (Fairfield) (17:57): The theme for the 2021 National Palliative Care Week was "Palliative Care: It's more than you think". The onus this year is on not only raising awareness about the benefits of palliative care but also challenging the perception that palliative care is just for end-of-life care. To celebrate National Palliative Care Week, I had the pleasure of attending a morning tea with the friends of HammondCare Braeside Hospital's palliative care ward, which is situated in the Fairfield local government area. Several awards were presented on the day and I congratulate the following recipients on their commitment to palliative care: Sinilia Radivojevic, who received a certificate of recognition for her volunteer work; and David Nguyen, who received a certificate of appreciation on behalf of Peter Warren Automotive. I also thank Ms Amanda O'Farrell,

fundraising coordinator at HammondCare, for welcoming me to the event and for her commitment to Braeside. I commend all involved on a very successful event.

MS DOROTHY MCGILLIVRAY

Ms MELANIE GIBBONS (Holsworthy) (17:58): Today I acknowledge Ms Dorothy McGillivray, who has borrowed and read 14,000 books from Liverpool City Library since becoming a member in 1952. Mrs McGillivray moved to Liverpool from England in the 1950s and has been borrowing books from the library weekly since then. Now aged 96, Mrs McGillivray lives in a nursing home in Liverpool, and still continues to read books consistently. Ms Mary Bush, a librarian, delivers books for her to read, whilst collecting the ones she read the week before. Mrs McGillivray recalls her love for reading started at a very young age, and it is fantastic to see that she is still enjoying it. She is an inspiration to young people and I hope her story encourages local students to continue to love reading and to borrow from Liverpool City Library. I commend Mrs McGillivray for borrowing and reading 14,000 books from the library. I wish her all the best.

ZOE HAUPTMANN AND CHRYSYAL LYNCH

Ms LIESL TESCH (Gosford) (17:59): How amazing are Zoe Hauptmann and Chrystal Lynch, two local surfing mums from our community? On Monday 10 May the pair were out surfing at the spectacular Umina Beach when pleas for help were heard coming from the water. The two mothers learnt quickly that a family from Sydney, who had been staying at the NRMA Ocean Beach Holiday Resort, had run into some trouble and were stuck in a rip. The two mums sprang into action and leapt to the rescue of the family. They used their boards to collect and ferry the family members out of danger and back to shore. All members of the family were able to be rescued and the dad, after being flown to Gosford Hospital and being treated by the exceptional staff there, was discharged later that evening. Zoe and Chrystal both showed immense strength and courage undertaking this rescue. I am proud of their efforts and appreciative that they were so selfless and determined in this life-threatening circumstance. This is an incredible story of humanity and community, and I send my most heartfelt thanks to Zoe and Chrystal. Go women surfers!

JANNALI EAST PUBLIC SCHOOL

Ms ELENI PETINOS (Miranda) (18:00): I congratulate the 2021 leadership team of Jannali East Public School on their appointment. Jannali East Public School is a wonderful community, guided by dynamic principal Katherine Horner. With a focus on academics and technology, the school motto, "Inspiring Excellence—Achieving Personal Best", is upheld by the outstanding student body, who give their best in every opportunity they pursue. The 2021 leadership team are a group of amazing students who embody the values of Jannali East Public School. Recently I attended the Sutherland Anzac Day Dawn Service with the 2021 student leaders and was highly impressed with the way they represented their school and gave out freshly baked Anzac biscuits to community members. I congratulate Jasper Mah Chut, Annalise Fisher, Mason Stewart, Evie Butler, Cooper Moran and Melissa Attwells on their successful appointment for 2021. These students are outstanding and I look forward to seeing them lead their peers through this exciting year filled with new opportunities and learning experiences. I extend my best wishes to the student leaders of Jannali East Public School.

KING PARK PUBLIC SCHOOL

Mr GUY ZANGARI (Fairfield) (18:01): I was delighted to join in the fun at King Park Public School for its Colour Explosion School Fun Run. The air was absolutely electric as I, along with Mayor of Fairfield Frank Carbone, cut the ribbon to start the festivities. The children were excited and eager to begin the festivities, with their colourful headgear and sunglasses. I commend Mrs Kathy Botic, president of the King Park Public School P&C, and all P&C members, as well as the teachers and staff for organising this wonderful event. All funds raised will go towards equipment for the new soccer facilities secured with Community Building Partnership funds. I also thank King Park Public School for welcoming me with such enthusiasm.

CEREBRAL PALSY ALLIANCE

Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal) (18:01): I was delighted recently to be invited to visit the Cerebral Palsy Alliance's newly opened therapy centre at Erina. This centre will support the wonderful work of the organisation, whose existing centre at Tuggerah has been operating at capacity for some time. Cerebral palsy is the most common disability in childhood. It affects movement, posture and speech. It places an emotional as well as economic weight on individuals and their families, including in our Central Coast community. Earlier this year I was pleased to provide \$15,841 on behalf of the New South Wales Government to the new centre to install a ceiling joist system in the facility's two therapy rooms, plaster room and bathroom. The care and services provided by the Cerebral Palsy Alliance are essential, and an existing 180 families from the southern end of the Central Coast will now be able to transfer to the new Erina facility from Tuggerah. That will increase access to therapists

and reduce travel times. I also acknowledge local accountancy firm AdviceCo. and its partner, the Count Charitable Foundation, for financially supporting this fantastic facility.

VINCE GORDON

Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS (Dubbo) (18:02): It takes someone special to turn their own misfortune into something that can help others, and that certainly applies to Dubbo Turf Club general manager Vince Gordon. Late last year Vince was diagnosed with an aggressive form of brain cancer. Vince is fighting hard and is determined to leave a legacy. As part of that, last Friday 4 June the turf club hosted its inaugural Mark Hughes Foundation race day. About \$8,000 was raised on the day for the foundation, which was established in 2014 by former Newcastle Knights player Mark Hughes to help research into brain cancer. The plan is for this race meet to now be an annual event. I say well done to Vince. The community is backing him in this fight, and I congratulate the Dubbo Turf Club on its support

FAIRFIELD NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK FLAG-RAISING CEREMONY

Mr GUY ZANGARI (Fairfield) (18:03): Recently I attended a flag-raising ceremony hosted by Fairfield City Council in celebration of National Reconciliation Week. The event was well attended by the community, and we were joined by Elders and members of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community, including Uncle Harry Callaghan, Uncle Tony Scholes and Mr Brendan Loizou. Together we paid respect to the Cabrogal people of the Darug nation and to Elders past, present and emerging. Before the event a smoking ceremony took place, traditionally performed to cleanse the spirits before any event. Relations between Australians and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community are part of our history. Unfortunately, these relations have not always been favourable towards our Indigenous community and many injustices were committed against them throughout our history. This flag-raising ceremony is symbolic in that it shows our commitment as a local community to never allow these injustices to occur again, and to reflect on the part we can all play on the path towards true reconciliation. I commend Fairfield City Council on a successful event.

TRIBUTE TO LOLA SHEARER

Mr ADAM MARSHALL (Northern Tablelands—Minister for Agriculture and Western New South Wales) (18:04): The Moree Renal Support Group and wider community have been left saddened by the loss of a well-known community champion, Mrs Lola Shearer, who sadly passed away on Friday 21 May this year. I recognise the life of Mrs Lola Shearer, a long-time healthcare advocate in the community. She was one of the founding members of the Moree Renal Support Committee, a group which, through raffles and concerts, has raised in excess of \$30,000 since its formation in 2001 for renal support activities in Moree. Through the hard work of Lola and the other committee members, patients around the region now have access to a wide variety of treatment and support that would not have been available previously in Moree. In 2017 Lola was formally recognised by the State Government for her decades-long commitment to the community by being added to the New South Wales Hidden Treasures Honour Roll. I visited Lola in her Moree home to congratulate her on her success and, in her typical style, she was incredibly humbled. I thank Lola for everything she has done. She will be sadly missed and I pass on my condolences to Lola's family.

Community Recognition Notices

DEE WHY RSL AWARD

Mr JONATHAN O'DEA (Davidson)—I am pleased to acknowledge that Dee Why RSL, which services many people in my electorate of Davidson, recently won in the Health and Wellbeing category at the Clubs and Community Awards. The awards recognise the outstanding social contributions made by clubs across NSW in their local communities, and the Health and Wellbeing category recognises approaches to sustain and improve quality health and wellbeing in the community. Dee Why RSL's initiative, called 'My Life Has Been Saved', won for their support of the Veteran's Centre Sydney Northern Beaches since 2015. The centre importantly provides advocacy services for young and older veterans. The award was accepted by President Graeme Liddell and Veterans Centre Manager Nikki Noakes. I was pleased to attend the event last month at the International Convention Centre. So, congratulations to Dee Why RSL and the Veteran's Centre on receiving the award, and for their important service to veterans from my local community and across the Northern Beaches.

WILLIAM SANDRAL ON STUDENT COUNCIL

Mr JONATHAN O'DEA (Davidson)—I acknowledge William Sandral, a student at St Ives High School in my electorate of Davidson, who has been selected to join the first Minister's Student Council in NSW. William is one of 28 selected students across the state. I'm sure he will represent my local and the broader community well and make a positive difference. The state-wide representative council helps to shape education policy, with a direct line to the NSW Education Minister and the Department of Education. It includes discussions and

consultations where students can provide opinions, feedback, ideas, and advocate for issues that are important to them. I congratulate William and the other student representatives for taking on this important responsibility and providing a voice for the valuable perspective of students. I had the privilege of meeting William in Parliament last month, and am sure he has a bright future.

CIARA SAUNBY

Mrs TANYA DAVIES (Mulgoa)—Local Glenmore Park resident, Ciara Saunby is the latest recipient of the Penrith Valley Sports Foundation Junior Sports Star Award. She has been a Penrith City Softball representative player since the age of 7 and represented Penrith City in the U13's, U14's, U15's, U16's and U18's age groups. Ciara has had the opportunity to play representative softball at the state and national level. These include representing Sydney West in 2017 and 2018 along with winning the competition in 2017. She was also selected for the NSW U12 Invitational team in 2018 who travelled to Japan and played in the local school competition. Furthermore in 2019, she was selected to attend the Hills Sports High School talented sports program for softball as well as the Blacktown International Sports Challenge, playing against teams from Japan and New Zealand. Ciara was selected last year to compete, but unfortunately due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the event was cancelled for 2020. Since 2019, Ciara has also been a highly regarded member of the Western Sydney Academy of Sport (WSAS). Congratulations Ciara!

JACKSON O'MARA

Mrs TANYA DAVIES (Mulgoa)—Local Glenmore Park resident, Jackson O'Mara is back on track in achieving his dream of participating in the wood-chopping competition at the Sydney Royal Easter Show despite dealing with Perthes' disease. This disease is described to disrupt blood flow to the hip bone causing the femur to deteriorate and chip away, causing Jackson to utilise a wheelchair for mobility and undergo a hip replacement operation. The doctors are very hopeful in restoring Jackson's full movement of the femur so he can continue in competitive wood-chopping. Jackson is eager to achieve his dream of competing at the Sydney Royal Easter Show in 2023 when he reaches the entry age. He has started full-time training and practices weekly with his Father who has a background in wood-chopping. Jackson and his family are looking for local businesses to sponsor him to help cover the cost for the equipment and competing. I wish Jackson all the best as he trains to compete in 2023 and I look forward to hearing of his future success.

BANKSTOWN SPORTS ATHLETICS CLUB

Ms TANIA MIHAILUK (Bankstown)—I am delighted to congratulate the new life members of the Bankstown Sports Athletics Club (BSAC), who were announced on Friday, 21 May 2021 at the Annual General Meeting of the BSAC. I take this opportunity to recognise the Club's President Colin Whitbread, Vice President Lindsay Watson, and Secretary Matthew Whitbread on this terrific achievement. It is an incredible milestone and one certainly to be proud of! Colin, Lindsay, and Matthew have each served 13 years on the Executive of the Bankstown Sports Athletics Club together, making them the longest-serving members in each of their respective positions. They have been essential in diligently leading the club to continually provide more opportunities for its members, including its recent \$20,000 Community Building Partnership Grant to refurbish its senior athletics clubhouse and install a strength and conditioning gymnasium to help its athletes with training. I thank the Executive for their tireless efforts in promoting sports in my electorate of Bankstown, and supporting local athletes in their sporting endeavours. I am proud to support the Bankstown Sports Athletics Club, and I wish the Executive and the Club's members the best of luck for the remaining season.

HEALTH SERVICES UNION RALLY

Ms TANIA MIHAILUK (Bankstown)—I was pleased to join representatives from the Health Services Union (HSU), local HSU delegates, and members of Bankstown-Lidcombe Hospital staff for a rally outside Bankstown-Lidcombe Hospital on 14th May, 2021. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the health services staff at Bankstown-Lidcombe Hospital have worked tirelessly to protect the safety and health of the residents in my Electorate of Bankstown. With the support and dedication of these healthcare heroes, our community has managed to overcome the worst impacts of the pandemic. These diligent hospital workers are also essential for ensuring the safety of our community throughout the everyday. I was delighted to meet with some of these workers to thank them for their hard work and assist them in their campaign to improve their working conditions. Thank you to the HSU's Secretary Gerard Hayes for his leadership and his efforts in supporting the hard-working health services staff at Bankstown-Lidcombe Hospital and throughout the state.

CLANCY PRIZE AWARD RECIPIENTS

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla—Attorney General, and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence)—I congratulate Sean Maquiran, Lily McAdam and Christina Stambolziowska from De La Salle Catholic College at Cronulla on their success at the recent Clancy Prize presentation. The Clancy Prize,

presented annually, is open to all secondary students in Sydney Catholic Schools and recognises artworks with a religious theme. Sean, Lily and Christina won one of six Br Kelvin Canavan Awards for a vibrant triptych titled, Madonna and Child with Angels. The students' piece used glazing – a typical Venetian technique used by artists during the Italian Renaissance. This is an outstanding achievement and I wish the students well for their future artistic and academic endeavours.

SUPPORT OF THE JETS

Mr PETER SIDGREAVES (Camden)—I recognise Narellan Jets Rugby League Football Club for the ongoing support to Mr Bryce Crane's recovery. Unfortunately, last August, Bryce suffered a tackle that left his right arm permanently paralysed. The Narellan Jets Treasurer, Janette Coleman said "the club wanted to support his recovery throughout his life-changing injury". The Club started a fundraising auction via BidsOnline to support Bryce, where locals can bid on prices such as NRL tickets, jerseys and more. I thank the Narellan Jets Club for their overwhelming support and effort they have provided for Bryce and his life changing injury.

JAXSON AND HIS JUMP ROPE FOR HEART

Mr PETER SIDGREAVES (Camden)—Today I recognise young Jaxson of St Clare's Catholic Primary School for his devoted selfless act. Jaxson raised \$4,500 to the Jump Rope for Heart on behalf of his school. All the money raised will go towards the Heart Foundation. The Jump Rope for Heart is a fundraising and physical activity based around skipping. It teaches adolescents how to keep fit and healthy, whilst having fun and raising vital funds for heart disease research and education. Six year old Jaxson has been skipping around some of Sydney's famous landmarks such as ANZ stadium, Sydney Harbour Bridge, Sydney Airport, Luna Park, and Sydney Opera House to raise funds. Thank you Jaxson for inspiring and supporting such an incredible cause.

MELVA HANCOCK

Ms SONIA HORNER (Wallsend)—The Wallsend electorate has lost a pioneer of women's sport and an absolute sporting icon. Tarro resident and basketball legend, Melva Hancock, passed away recently. Melva led a long and illustrious career, both on and off the court, playing in the Australian Women's basketball team that participated in the second World Women's Championships in Brazil in 1957, and managing the first NSW Women's team to participate in the 1955 Australian Women's Championships – repeating this feat in 1956, 1960 and 1962. Melva was an advocate for women's basketball, becoming the first secretary of the ABA's Women's Council and remaining as such for a decade. She organised the Australian Women's Championships in 1961 when the event was held in Newcastle. In 1958, she was instrumental in promoting women's sport via a very successful radio show on local radio 2NX, running for a historic 13 years. In addition to the rest of her achievements, she also played and became an administrator for netball, golf and lawn bowls and was awarded life membership of the Newcastle Netball Association. While Melva will be sorely missed, she has left behind a legacy that will not soon be forgotten.

VALE IAN SMITH

Ms SONIA HORNER (Wallsend)—Our firefighters put themselves in harm's way each time they are called out for duty. We acknowledge that it is a difficult and crucial task that takes its toll on those who do it. Captain Ian Smith, 454011, of NSW Fire and Rescue Tarro 454, recently passed away at home. He was a veteran firefighter, joining the service in 1982 and holding a number of positions throughout his career. He served as engine keeper from 1998 to 2004, was the deputy captain from 2004 to 2017, and was captain from 2017 until his passing. His dedication to our community is demonstrated in the many firefighting awards he achieved – the National Medal Second Clasp, the Long Service Medal, and the Union 25 Year Medal. He was well-respected and liked as both a leader and a mate by his fellow firefighters and will be missed by both his colleagues and his family. Let us pay tribute to Ian Smith for his contribution to the Tarro community.

MARK MILLIGAN

Mr GREG WARREN (Campbelltown)—At the start of the year, the A-League's newest club Macarthur Bulls FC weren't considered genuine title contenders. It would take time for the new boys on the block to build chemistry and lay those title winning foundations, the naysayers said. But those critics underestimated two things. The first being the spirit of Campbelltown and the entire Macarthur region. The second being inspirational leadership of Campbelltown Mark Milligan. A Socceroo captain and internationally recognised talent, Milligan was certainly the ideal candidate to captain our Bulls. And no one could argue that he has done a tremendous job during the 2020/21 season. Unfortunately the 2020/21 season will be Mark's first and last season captaining Macarthur, will the champion footballer set to call time on an impressive career that has spanned the globe. There have obviously been many highlights for Mark during his successful career but I dare say that captaining the Bulls during their inaugural season will be right up there. He certainly did the club and our community proud.

Thank you Mark for being such a great ambassador the Bulls and our region and both I and the Campbelltown community wish you well in retirement.

RYLAN HALLSWORTH

Mr GREG WARREN (Campbelltown)—It is always devastating when someone suffers a serious illness or injury. But when it's a child, it is particularly heart breaking. Recently the Campbelltown Macarthur Advertiser highlighted the battle faced by four-year-old Rylan Hallsworth. Only months ago Rylan was a typical four year old. However, at the start of the year his parents Natasha and Trent noticed changes that were 'out of character'. Rylan was eventually diagnosed with a rare terminal genetic condition called Metachromatic Leukodystrophy. Rylan is now unable to walk unassisted. Soon he will require a feeding tube and will be non-verbal. Rylan has also been given between two and five years to live following the diagnosis. As a parent, I can't even imagine what Natasha and Trent are going through. It is truly a parent's worst nightmare. It is heartening to see the support from the community though. Already a go fund me page designed to help cover the purchase of wheelchairs and a van has reached the half way mark. It's another example of the Campbelltown community digging deep. To Natasha, Trent, Rylan and all your friends and family, both I and the entire Campbelltown community are behind you and thinking of you.

CRONULLA JAZZ AND BLUES FESTIVAL

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla—Attorney General, and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence)—The inaugural Cronulla Jazz and Blues Festival, held from 4-6 June, was a swinging success with residents enjoying more than 100 performances taking place on 12 stages. Headline acts included Ray Beadle, Mahalia Barnes, Foreday Riders and Jade Macrae. Presented by Code One Music, Cronulla Chamber of Commerce and the Brass Monkey, the event offered a much-needed platform for artists as well as a boost for local businesses. The creative industries have been among the hardest hit during the COVID-19 pandemic and it is terrific to see local organisations making such a significant effort to support the sector's recovery. The NSW Government was proud to support the festival. I also commend the event organisers on partnering with Plastic Free Cronulla to bring us a single-use plastic free event. Congratulations to Mark Aprilovic from the Chamber of Commerce, Brass Monkey owners Geoff Trio and Jad Nakhle, event organiser Robyn Adamski and all the performers on a wonderful festival.

LIVERPOOL CATHOLIC CLUB

Mr PAUL LYNCH (Liverpool)—I recognise the Liverpool Catholic Club. On 16 May the Club celebrated its 50th Annual Members Luncheon following a mass at All Saints Catholic Church at Liverpool. The event featured Father Paul Monkerud and other priests from the area. It also heard speeches from current Club President Greg Richardson and the inaugural Club President Warren Williams. Over 5 decades the Club has played an important role in the Liverpool community. It has redirected proceeds from the Club back into the community at an impressive level. Its donations have always been very substantial. The Club has physically grown and developed over this time to the large and impressive complex that it currently is. That's been a credit to the members and especially the successive boards of directors.

VALE PHILLIP PENWRIGHT

Ms JANELLE SAFFIN (Lismore)—I pay tribute to and celebrate the life of Phillip Penwright of Modanville. Phillip passed away in May. He was only 65 years. Phillip was a dear friend to many; a passionate social justice advocate and was always the life of the party. He was a larger than life figure who was much loved by so many in our community. The love of Phillip's life, Brett O'Rourke, his husband of 37 years was always by his side. They had an enduring relationship and their love for each other was deep and clear to everyone around them. Phillip's sister Jane Petterson, his nieces and nephews Connor, Jett and Ronnie were a major part of Phillip's life and they loved their brother and uncle. Phillip spent his life standing up and fighting for equality, fairness, social justice issues and the Labor Party. He was a passionate campaigner for me, Tanya Plibersek and for a fairer society particularly LGBTIQ rights and marriage equality. Phillip lived his values through his endless community volunteering with groups such as Friends of the Lismore Gallery, The Lismore Showground, Northern Rivers Community Gateway and the Lismore Lantern Parade. Vale Phillip. We will miss you dearly.

CONGRATULATIONS CASINO BEEF WEEK AND PRIMEX

Ms JANELLE SAFFIN (Lismore)—It's been a great couple of weeks in Australia's true beef capital Casino, with Beef Week and PRIMEX. Two of the biggest events on the primary industries calendar every year. Beef Week occurred from the 22nd of May until the 1st of June and was a wonderful celebration and acknowledgement of the incredible contribution our beef industry makes to our economy and community. Many farmers from the Lismore Electorate were actively involved. I was privileged to attend the annual Beef Week Ball on Saturday 22 June. Congratulations to the 2021 Beef Week Queen Brooklyn Handford, runner up Margaret

Magner and contestants Phoebe Mcmillan and Macie Virtue. They represented their community with great distinction. I thank President Frank McKay and 2021 committee members Grant Shedden, Raelene Bodsworth, Jenna Bailey, Brody Lisha, Navanka Fletcher and Sandra Humphrys for all their hard work in bringing Beef Week back better than ever. PRIMEX was on May 20-22 in Casino and NORCO was the major sponsor. It was a roaring success with over 300 exhibitors, 1000 different companies and 25,000 visitors. Congratulations to Bruce Wright and the entire team on a successful PRIMEX that's important to our local economy.

GARIE SLSC RECEIVES VITAL LIFESAVING EQUIPMENT

Mr LEE EVANS (Heathcote)—On the weekend it was fantastic to visit Garie Surf Life Saving Club (SLSC) for the official launch of their new Inflatable Rescue Boat (IRB) and motor which has been dedicated to stalwarts of the club, Alf and Rita Taylor. This vital piece of lifesaving equipment will assist their volunteers with close shore rescues and roving patrols along the coastline. I am pleased my government was able to assist them with their purchase through the Community Building Partnership grant program. Finally, I wish to acknowledge Club President Brad Taylor who was made a life member of the club almost 20 years ago, he plays an active role and works tirelessly to achieve the best outcomes for his club. Additionally, thank you to all the Club volunteers who patrol the beach and continue to keep the community safe in this remote area of the Royal National Park.

PATRICIA HIESBERGER

Mr MARK COURE (Oatley)—I acknowledge Patricia Hiesberger from Sunnyhaven Disability Services, for all of her outstanding work since joining their Board of Directors in 2019. As you would all be aware, the past year has been difficult for many people, young and old and I would like to thank Patricia for her continued commitment to her clients. It is for these reasons that she was put forward by the Chief Executive Officer, Maree Mullins, for an Individual Achievement Award as part of the 10th Anniversary of the St George Community Awards. Every year, these awards honour selfless individuals like Patricia who go above and beyond each and every day to make our community the best that it can be. I would again like to thank Patricia for her ongoing support and compassion for our community through the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the bushfires from 2019 through to 2020. Patricia also incorporates her professional experience from workplaces like Transport for NSW to streamline financial reporting and assist with NDIS funding. Thank you again for all of your hard work Patricia.

WAVERLY'S LOCAL HERO AWARDS 2021

Dr MARJORIE O'NEILL (Coogee)—I acknowledge the winners of the 2021 Waverley Local Hero Awards. Through their courageous action, these volunteers and community heroes help to make Waverley a better place. The Strengthening Community Award went to Louise Mulroney who has volunteered for 43 years in the Beaches Outreach Project. The Community Life Award went to Lynette Smith, secretary of the local history society who volunteers at Waverley War Memorial Hospital. The Community Volunteer Award went to Belinda Head, from WIRES Eastern branch, and the Working Together Award went to the WIRES Eastern Branch. And the Second Nature Champion went to Kit Shepherd, who has volunteered for 10 years with the Transition Australia project. Waverley Council has 200 volunteers that have contributed more than 8000 hours of service. I would like to congratulate these local heroes and thank each and every volunteer for their service to their local community.

TAMARAMA SURF LIFE SAVING AWARDS

Dr MARJORIE O'NEILL (Coogee)—I congratulate the following award winners from glamourama surf lifesaving club for their outstanding contribution to the club this season.

- The EE "Pop" Weir Trophy for Club Member of the Year was awarded to Michelle Cowans
- The Ron Buist Trophy for Club Service, Tim Murray
- Les Lawrence Trophy for Club Spirit went to The Comms Team: Jemima Waddell, Zoe Scott-King, Lisa Bodrero, Marlin Hoppen
- Dave Fryer Trophy for Outstanding Surf Rescue - Will Lenard
- The Rookie of the Year went to Hoa Nguyen
- John Kelly Memorial Trophy for Senior Club Member of the Year - Richard Hamilton
- Sandra Fox Woman of the Year Award - Lisa Bodrero
- David Radford Trophy for Cadet of the Year Award - Allegra McGivern
- The Under 21 Club Member of the Year Award went to The Wills: Will Lenard and Will Forest
- And the Guy Waddell Trophy for Outstanding Dedication and Selfless Service (5+years member) went to Guy Waddell
- Also to Rachel Feakes who received the Top Gun – Most hours in the season

Thank you to all the amazing volunteers this season who have helped ensure our beaches remain safe.

MICHAEL CRUMP

Mrs HELEN DALTON (Murray)—Today I would like to recognise Michael Crump of Griffith. For over 20 years, Michael worked for Griffith City Council as a loyal and respected member of the staff. Since his retirement, Michael has remained active within the community, volunteering his time and energy as a devoted member of the Council's Roads and Traffic Committee, and the Cemetery committee. Well-known in the area for his proactive citizenship, Michael's instinct to put the community above himself has consistently achieved results. His activism over Lake Wyangan, for example, has been an invaluable asset in the public campaign to improve the water quality. I commend Michael for his years of selfless contribution to his town, and thank him for his willingness to stand up for what he believes in, and for the time and effort he has dedicated to the benefit of the whole community.

JADE AULDIST

Mrs HELEN DALTON (Murray)—Today I would like to recognise the continuing community work of Jade Auldism of Hay. Jade has been actively involved in the organisation of the Lions AFL and the Hay Lions Fishing Competition, which, due to her hard work and commitment, was able to attract and host a large crowd while successfully incorporating the COVID-19 restrictions. Jade is also a Hay Cricket volunteer, a Hay Mardi Gras organiser, an advocate for mental health through the Active Farmers Program, and helped to revitalise Landcare, which has brought many valuable workshops to Hay. Jade is a prominent figure within the Hay community and her work is greatly appreciated by many. I congratulate Jade on her continued efforts to better her community and applaud her efforts thus far.

POULTON PARK OPENING

Mr MARK COURE (Oatley)—Poulton Park in Connells Point is now the envy of all other sporting fields in Sydney. Poulton Park is used predominately by the Connells Point Rovers Football Club and it houses a full size field and a training pitch which both utilise a synthetic surface for improved performance in all weather conditions. I would like to thank President Stephen Matthews and Georges River Council, particularly their Mayor Kevin Greene for their advocacy and support right from the start of the project. It used to be disheartening to hear from Stephen that players were moving to other clubs to play on a better surface and that a number of injuries were caused due to poor ground quality. These concerns were waived when the facilities opened for matches last year and it was rewarding to see kids enjoying the premier field. After speaking with Stephen it is promising to note that their players are returning and new talent is already scouting out the club. Well done to everyone involved in this outstanding project.

JOHN KEARNEY

Mr PHILIP DONATO (Orange)—I recognise Mr John Kearney of Trundle, on his 75 years of dedicated service to the St Vincent De Paul Society. At the incredible age of 94, John has been, and still is, a very active member of the Society, holding positions of Conference President and Treasurer over the years. The Trundle Conference had started to dwindle about five years ago to just a few members, with John being responsible for all local client assistance and the associated reporting. At that time John was set about recruiting and training new members, to ensure the continuation of the Conference in the small town of Trundle. From a town of only a few hundred people, John managed to develop the membership of the conference to 10 members. John continues on as a Conference member, attending regular local meetings and representing Trundle at regional meetings. He was awarded a life membership with the St Vincent de Paul Society in 2015 and was recognised in 2016 with a celebration with members, staff and his family for his 70 years of service. John, congratulations on this remarkable achievement, and thank you for all that you have done for those in the community.

ORANGE GOLF TOURISM

Mr PHILIP DONATO (Orange)—I recognise the significant benefits of golf to the Orange community, and the broader Central West of NSW. A resurgence of interest in golf occurred in the wake of COVID-19, with people in our community taking up golf for the first time, and many former players returning to golf as a local sporting, social and recreational activity. It was fortunate that golf can be safely undertaken as it was an outdoors sport and activity in which COVID-safe distancing already naturally occurred. The physical and psychological benefits of golf are well known, and contribute to our local community health. Orange is a unique regional city, benefiting from two high quality courses, Wentworth and Duntryleague, making it a highly attractive destination for domestic sports tourism. The economic benefit of golf to Orange is valued at \$11.2 million, surpassing the economic contributions of the sport in all other local government areas across the region. Golf tourism has injected \$705,000, sustaining local jobs and helping the economy thrive. I wish to also acknowledge both the Wentworth and Duntryleague golf clubs for their hard work in providing community and tourist access to their facilities, and ongoing support of this sport in Orange.

YOUNG FARMERS CONNECT

Ms TAMARA SMITH (Ballina)—Today I recognise the important work being done by Young Farmers Connect on the occasion of their second birthday as a Nationally Incorporated association. This not for profit organisation made up of new and aspiring farmers is committed to cultivating networks, resources and community for young farmers by providing educational platforms and community connections that encourage farming for the future using regenerative, holistic agricultural practices. The chapter in my electorate- Young Farmers Connect: Northern Rivers NSW, is doing incredible work in our area to promote regenerative farming. They are facing the challenges of reforming the agriculture sector and the social sustainability of food systems by ensuring the next generation of land managers are equipped and supported to be successful. Underlying the work of Young Farmers Connect is the desire to actively create a cultural shift from competition to collectivism; to support the shift of gender norms in the sector, to connect urban and rural communities and to share the learning journeys of young farmers. I congratulate the National body and my local chapter for all of the amazing work they are doing.

TAMMY JONES - COMMUNITY-LED RESILIENCE TEAMS

Ms TAMARA SMITH (Ballina)—Today I recognise the initiative of Tammy Jones in creating Community-Led Resilience Teams (CRTs), a grass-roots project designed to pull neighbours and community members together to provide a united response in times of emergency. A former volunteer with the Red Cross, Tammy witnessed first-hand the effects of severe flooding in the Tweed in 2017, and resolved to find a means to encourage communities to help one another and create resilience in the face of such natural disasters and other challenges. A Community-led Resilience Team aims for its members to connect with each other during emergencies via a communication tree and to identify crucial issues and work to solve them by providing accurate information in real time to inform residents. Resilience teams under the model address all stages of crisis management – prevention, preparedness, response and recovery. Following a successful pilot in Tweed Shire, Tammy and her daughter Jasmin have introduced the program to people in the villages of northern Byron Shire in collaboration with Australian Red Cross, Byron Shire Council, Resilient Byron, the State Emergency Services and the Rural Fire Service. With climate change causing unprecedented extremes in weather Tammy's efforts are timely and important.

TAREE TORPEDOES

Mr STEPHEN BROMHEAD (Myall Lakes)—I recognise Taree Torpedoes Swimming Club for their success at the NSW All Schools Swimming Championships at Sydney Olympic Park. Nine swimmers took part in 54 events with 35 personal best performances recorded. Bevan Smith achieved a bronze medal in the 50m backstroke, 200m backstroke and 4th place in the 100m backstroke. Bevan is one of the top three swimmers in the State for the backstroke and has qualified for the Pan Pacific Games, although these games have been cancelled due to Covid. Nonetheless, I would like to congratulate the Taree Torpedoes and coach Brad Thurlow on their recent success at the All Schools Swimming Championships.

HANNAH CARMICHAEL AND JAMES WILLIAMS, FORSTER SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB

Mr STEPHEN BROMHEAD (Myall Lakes)—I recognise James Williams and Hannah Carmichael from Forster Surf Life Saving Club for being selected to attend the 2021 NSW Junior Lifesaver of the Year State Camp. James and Hannah were selected as Junior Lifesaver of the Year representatives after an extensive selection process, thanks to their involvement with the Youth Group at Forster Surf Club. Hannah also carried out a rescue at an unpatrolled section of One Mile Beach a few months ago, where her bravery and skill enabled her to assist a swimmer to safety. Congratulations to James and Hannah for their selection to the Junior Lifesaver of the Year State Camp. I would like to thank them for protecting our community and I wish them well with their future as Surf Life Savers.

KERRY CHAMBERS

Ms JO HAYLEN (Summer Hill)—I acknowledge the tremendous contribution Kerry Chambers has made to the community during her twenty years of service as Principal of Marrickville Public School. There has been significant change over those two decades and throughout it all, Ms Chambers has been the steady hand ensuring every student was valued, respected and reached their potential. The resilience, strength and energy of the school community today is a testament to her leadership. I particularly acknowledge her commitment to honouring ANZAC Day. Each year, Ms Chambers and her family ensured that students understood the legacy of the ANZACS and I had the privilege of attending a number of moving ANZAC Day ceremonies over the past few years. Marrickville Public School's victory in the My Park Rules competition was another highlight, yet another example of Ms Chambers' ability to bring the school community together to achieve a remarkable vision. The school community bid farewell to Ms Chambers on Monday 7 June with a special assembly and, very

appropriately, a Crazy Hair Day. Kerry, you will be dearly missed. I wish you all the best for what I'm sure will be a very rewarding next chapter.

NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK 2021

Ms JO HAYLEN (Summer Hill)—From May 27 to June 3, we celebrated National Reconciliation Week. Reconciliation Week begins and ends on the same dates every year, acknowledging the successful referendum recognising First Nations people on 27 May 1967 and Eddie Mabo's Native Title case on 3 June 1992. This year's theme – More than a word, Reconciliation takes action – emphasised the significance of these events and called every Australian to reflect on how we can advocate and practice reconciliation each and every day. As non-Indigenous Australians, we must remember it is our actions that built the struggles which Indigenous people face. Because of this, it is our job first and foremost to listen to the voices of First Nations people – their stories and experiences will guide Australia to reconciliation, but it takes our action, too. In my community, Indigenous voices make us strong. I thank organisations like AbSec, Innari Housing, Wirringa Baiya Aboriginal Women's Legal Centre and many others, who are the driving force of supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people here in the Inner West. It is crucial to reconciliation that we support organisations like these, which empower their local community.

SMITH FAMILY NORTHLAKES LEARNING CLUB

Ms YASMIN CATLEY (Swansea)—I acknowledge the work of the Smith Family Northlakes Learning Club and congratulate the team on its nomination as part of the 2020 Central Coast Volunteer Awards. The Central Coast Volunteer Awards are held each year as part of National Volunteer Week. The awards recognise individuals who devote their time, energy and enthusiasm as volunteers in the Central Coast community. The Smith Family Northlakes Learning Club was nominated as part of the volunteer team of the year category. The Smith Family Northlakes Learning Club is located at San Remo and provides a safe and supportive out-of-school learning environment for primary students. The Club supports students to develop their academic skills with the help of local volunteer tutors. I would like to thank the whole team at the Smith Family Northlakes Learning Club for all the work they do to support the community, and congratulations on your nomination.

JOURDAN MITCHELL

Ms YASMIN CATLEY (Swansea)—I acknowledge the work of Jourdan Mitchell and congratulate him on his nomination as part of the 2021 Central Coast Volunteer Awards. The Central Coast Volunteer Awards are held each year as part of National Volunteer Week. The awards recognise individuals who devote their time, energy and enthusiasm as volunteers in the Central Coast community. Jourdan Mitchell received the Young Volunteer of the Year award for his work with the Y NSW. The Y is part of YMCA NSW, Jourdan leads in assists in the running of the organisation's StreetGym program and helping coordinating the Youth Career Expo. Jourdan also a dedicated youth advocate passionate about local youth issues including youth disengagement, unemployment and school bullying. I would like to thank Jourdan Mitchell for all the work he does in supporting our community, and is a worthy winner of the Young Volunteer of the Year award.

MOLLYMOOK SLSC 2021 PRESENTATION NIGHT

Mrs SHELLEY HANCOCK (South Coast—Minister for Local Government)—The Mollymook Surf Life Saving Club recently held their annual presentation night to recognise the success of the past season and acknowledge a number of members for their contribution to the club. Awards for patrol service went to Annette Chapman, Mick Hendrie, Adam Woodward, Sue Whitford, Ken Burton and Don Curry. I would particularly like to acknowledge Annette, who volunteered over 100 hours to patrol our beaches. Other award recipients on the night included Rex Russell, Sam Zustovich Payton Williams, Daryl Bozicevic, Steph Campbell, Patrick Armstrong, Estella Campbell, Ivan Johnson and Barry Page. I am grateful to the Mollymook SLSC for their ongoing contribution to our community and thank them for their tireless efforts. Not only do the club members volunteer their time in rail, hail or shine to ensure our beaches are patrolled, they also hosted a number of COVID-safe events, bringing thousands of sports tourism dollars to the South Coast.

INNER SYDNEY HIGH SCHOOL

Mr ALEX GREENWICH (Sydney)—On behalf of the Sydney electorate, I put on record the inspiring work put into designing and developing the Inner Sydney High School, after touring the building, witnessing the facilities and hearing from the principal, teachers and students. Architects Francis-Jones Morehen Thorp (FJMT) have designed a school that integrates new and heritage buildings on a very constrained site and provides an amazing range of flexible learning, study, exercise and social spaces, informed by energy efficiency and ecologically sustainable development principles. The school shares some of Prince Alfred Park and an MOU with the City of Sydney will allow community access to some school facilities out of hours. This school has a special significance for me: my first major campaign as the new Member for Sydney was advocating for a much-needed

new high school – all the local high schools were full. The excellent community campaign from CLOSE-Community for Local Options for Secondary Education resulted in this excellent resource. I thank principal Robyn Matthews, her team and the students for the amazing work done to build a new school with a strong inclusive culture that will nurture our future leaders.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT HUB

Mr ALEX GREENWICH (Sydney)—On behalf of the Sydney electorate, I wish to congratulate the City of Sydney and Sydney alliance for establishing the International Student Hub in Surry Hills. International students studying in Australia have been caught badly due to COVID restrictions, with many stranded in Australia without work, income or any way to support themselves, and with their families seriously affected by the pandemic in their country of origin. The City of Sydney's COVID-19 relief grants have helped, including the major donation to OzHarvest for food relief. With Lord Mayor Clover Moore, I've asked the NSW Treasurer to provide funds to enable education providers to rebuild, for dedicated quarantine facilities for international students, concessions on public transport and targeted mental health programs. Other non-government organisations have also tried to fill this gap in the absence of federal and state governments. So I welcome the new International Student Hub supported by the City of Sydney and Sydney Alliance, which will share information, get social worker support and advice about legal rights and entitlements like minimum wages. I congratulate everyone involved with this practical and compassionate program.

INNER WEST WIRES

Mr JAMIE PARKER (Balmain)—Today I bring to the attention of the House the Inner West WIRES branch for their ongoing dedication to protecting and rehabilitating our local wildlife in the Balmain Electorate. The Inner West WIRES is a group of compassionate and dedicated volunteers who care for our local birds, mammals, and reptiles. Sadly, in the past 2 years alone they have seen a 23% increase in wildlife needing care. I would particularly like to acknowledge the following members for their ongoing contributions: Safari Lee, Sue Bennett, Meg Churches, Sarah Clisby, Vanessa Knox, Dianne Dixon, Geraldine Meier, Lyn Fowler, Deborah Johnson, Karen Johnston, Nai-Ying Kuo, Julie Moffat, Elizabeth Nathan, Daniela Osiander, Angela Robertson-Buchanan, Haley Saldamli, Brigitte Sharp, Kris Spasojevic, Paul Thomas and Daphne Turner. I know I speak on behalf of the Balmain Electorate when I thank everyone involved in the Inner West WIRES branch for their passionate care for our local community and wildlife.

MONTE SANT' ANGELO MERCY COLLEGE GIRLS EXCEL IN SPORT

Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore)—I want to recognise the recent sporting achievements of the women at Monte Sant' Angelo Mercy College. A number of students from year 7 to year 12 have excelled across a range of sports including rugby 7s, netball, football and cricket. Many students were selected to represent NSW sports teams to play at the All Schools championships later this year. I congratulate the junior representative football team who won the junior championships and will go on to play in the knockout. A great effort was also seen from the open team who made it all the way to the semi-finals. Well done to Monte Sailing Team who combined with Wenona School for winning two races in the state championships. The young team performed exceptionally well. Congratulations to all Monte girls who performed in the basketball, swimming and cross country state championships. They came out with some fantastic results and took out the overall champion school in cross country. It is great to see young women excelling in sport in my local area. Good luck to those competing later this year.

THE OPENING OF NORTH SYDNEY ACADEMY OF MUSIC

Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore)—Congratulations to the recently opened North Sydney Academy of Music. This new Academy aims to be a leading provider of private musical education in Australia and will offer both primary and higher education levels of professional music tuition. Directors Jenny Sun and Peter Garrity have put lifelong ambitions into action by opening the Academy and hope to give back to the local community. An impressive team of educators has been gathered to teach alongside leaders of orchestras from both Australia and overseas. The Academy will offer tuition in violin, cello, piano, singing, guitar, and clarinet to name but a few. It will also offer teachings in musicianship and theory and will provide free concerts for the broader community to attend. Well done to Jenny Sun, Peter Garrity, and all those involved in paving the way for a promising future in the music industry. This institution will be a boost to our local musical talent.

NORTH WAGGA CACHE

Dr JOE MCGIRR (Wagga Wagga)—What began with a simple phone call to source a few inexpensive sandbags has resulted in the establishment of a fully stocked cache to bolster North Wagga's flood resources. When North Wagga stalwart Laurie Blowes read that a La Nina weather event would bring an increased risk of floods, he decided to ease the minds of his fellow residents by looking for ways to be more prepared. Mr Blowes

put in a call to the State Emergency Services and, in response, the SES's Ian Leckie met with the North Wagga Residents. The idea to create the cache grew from there. Wagga Wagga City Council joined in the project after an initial inquiry from Mr Blowes about possible funding. The North Wagga community now has a stockpile of sandbags for early property protection. The cache also stocks wheelbarrows, shovels, high-vis vests, and gloves. Coinciding with the establishment of the cache, a community action team has also been created. I commend Mr Blowes for his dedication to his community and thank the North Wagga Residents Association, the SES and Wagga Wagga City Council for their support of this project.

CIDERFEST

Dr JOE McGIRR (Wagga Wagga)—After the devastation of the bushfires and COVID, Batlow was well and truly ready on May 15 to welcome visitors to the 2021 CiderFest. Cider, beer, wine and food producers from the region and beyond who served thousands of visitors over the day included the Batlow Cider Company, Batlow Road Cider, The Apple Thief, Crafty Cider, Lost Pippin, 3 Sons Cider, Small Acre, Tumut River Brewing Co, VinBar, Eunonyharenya Wines and Gilmore Valley Garlic. There was an impressive array of entertainment too, with The Spindrift Saga headlining the festival, and performers including Bradley Pollack, Len Connolly, Amiee Zabbia and Anna and Marianne Nielsen, Tumberumba Pipes and Drums joined by Ingleburn Pipes and Drums, Colourz, Velvetsmyle and Zana Roving Acrobatics scheduled to entertain visitors. On the following day there was a barbecue breakfast, indigenous art workshops, a visit by the Black Dog riders, and live music by Ingleburn Pipes and Drums, Slammin' Drams, Len and Lane, and Amiee Zabbia. A big thank you to the Australian Army Band Kapooka for their free concert. I commend the organising committee and all who helped and thank the many visitors who turned out to support Batlow.

LOIS SIMPSON

Mr GREG PIPER (Lake Macquarie)—Lois Simpson from Toronto has worked tirelessly to protect flora and fauna throughout Lake Macquarie for more than two decades. She has volunteered with numerous environmental projects and organisations over that time, and her dedication to bush regeneration has been relentless. Lois says she always feels comfortable in the bush and has long recognised that looking after our bushland is not about aesthetics but about maintaining a stable web of life. As Lake Macquarie Landcare Volunteer Network's deputy chairperson, she worked hard to make sure Landcare continued to operate during COVID-19 and personally replanted much of Toronto Lions Park. She is passionate about educating the next generation on delicate ecosystems and has worked with Fire and Rescue NSW to build a model fire retardant garden at their Toronto station. Lois has also been involved with the Coal Point Endangered Species Project where she worked to save valuable habitat. She is also secretary of Toronto Area Sustainable Neighbourhood Group, a member of Toronto Lions Auxiliary and spent nearly 20 years volunteering with Toronto Scouts as a cub leader. I congratulate Lois and thank her for all she has done for our local community.

FELLOWSHIP OF AUSTRALIAN WRITERS

Mr GREG PIPER (Lake Macquarie)—I congratulate Lake Macquarie Branch of Australian Writers which was recently named as a finalist for the 2021 Lake Mac Artist and Creator award. In particular I'd like to acknowledge the efforts of branch President Pam Garfoot from Brightwaters. The volunteer-run group was formed in 2000 to promote and encourage excellence in writing and support new and aspiring authors. Through regular meetings and critiquing sessions, constructive criticism is offered to help members become the best writers they can be. These workshops cover a wide range of genres, topics and skills. Local authors also give presentations. The Fellowship also holds an annual Alice Sinclair Memorial Writing Competition. Despite COVID-19, 2020 was a successful year for the group. They not only published their first anthology, titled "Beneath the surface: an anthology of writing from Lake Macquarie", but also managed to continue with their regular meetings through ZOOM workshops. The group comprises a wonderful bunch of people who promote and encourage creativity, and I thank them for their efforts and their generous commitment to the local community.

WORLD BEE DAY

Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland)—World Bee Day was the 20th of May, and it is incumbent on all of us to recognise how crucial the Bee Industry is to agriculture not just in NSW but across the world. NSW is the largest honey producer in Australia, contributing around \$36 million per year to the state's economy, through the production of honey, bees wax and other products. The pollination of our crops keeps us and our livestock alive, and the value of these services to our economy is estimated to be around \$5 billion per year. With an estimated 9,809 hives reported to have been lost during the 2019/20 bushfire season the number of bees lost is inestimable. In addition, the severe drought beforehand, and floods have also impacted on the industry. World Bee Day provides our local communities with the opportunity to start a conversation about the importance of bees, and to acknowledge that their survival is vital to our own survival. On a local level I urge everyone to look up and plant

some bee-attracting plants in their gardens or if you are on the land, offer a site for an apiarist so we can all support the bees!

MAITLAND MAGPIES WPL SENIOR SQUAD WIN

Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland)—Congratulations to Maitland Magpies WPL Senior Squad who have achieved an historic first win! In a scoreless first half the team fought on with tenacity, confidence, heart and exceptional team work to win the game with a flurry of goals in the second half and were victorious 6 goals to 2 over Adamstown Rosebud. Top Goal scorers were Chelsea Gay (3), Mercedes McNabb (2) and Kate Heap. But we know it takes a team to achieve such an outstanding result, so congratulations go as well to Danielle Redding, Isabella Cosentino, Kaitlin Radstaak, Lisa Cochrane, Emily Wicks, Emmeline Pepper, Ainsley Childs, Bronte Peel, Sophie Stapleford, Taleah Mountford, Airlie Gray, Jasmyn Hughes, Gabriella Martinella, Tahlia Gossner, Chelsea Gay, Taylah Bryde, Madison Gallegos, Emily Moore, Olivia Rostron, Ellen Darby, Sarah Hanks, Ava Lidden, Tara Johnson, Zoe Jones, Sarah Whitely, Jordan Healy and Imogene Tomasone. Congratulations to the Coach Keelan Hamilton, Team Manager Jackie Murnain and the Executive of the Club, particularly President Ray Watkins and Development Officer Michael Mirisch. This success is a credit to longstanding efforts by Maitland Magpies to increase women's participation in the sport – Well Done!

SEVEN HILLS NORTH PUBLIC SCHOOL 2021 LEADERS

Mr MARK TAYLOR (Seven Hills)—I recognise the terrific community of Seven Hills North Public School educating Kings Langley and Seven Hills students. I recently attended the 2021 school leaders induction ceremony at the school. Well done to the 2021 leaders Anish Rajbanshi and Elly Turrisi and vice captains Veronica Evans and Aishnoor Mundi. I also congratulate the prefects, including Ava Ashby, Riley Graczol, Ishan Rajbanshi and Amelia Seymon. I acknowledge house captains Isla McIntosh and Edvin Grover Thayil of Best House, Hannah Dennis and Shashwinth Kiriharan of Pye House and Shaun Dwyer and Isla Neumayer of Hume House. I also note the new Students' Representative Council, including Shannon Barratt, Gurseerat Chahal, Jackson Fawkner, Sasim Ghimire, Ava Hambly, Noah Losew, Joshua Mathai John, Aaron Sheddon, Saloni Thapa and Agash Vettichelvan. I want to take this time to thank the newly elected P&C Committee, including president Geanette Saad, vice president Melinda Aslin, secretary Katie Howell and treasurer Nadia Vanderhelm.

WINSTON HEIGHTS PUBLIC SCHOOL 2021 LEADERS

Mr MARK TAYLOR (Seven Hills)—I acknowledge Winston Heights Public School and its 2021 school and P&C leaders. Congratulations to the new student leaders who have already completed one term assisting the executive staff. I acknowledge school captains Kieran Hart and Riley Summer and vice captains Peyton Skinner and Zac Thompsett. I also want to thank the P&C for their efforts at Winston Heights Public throughout COVID-19 and wish them success for their fundraising endeavours and projects this academic year. I would also like to warmly welcome the new P&C to their roles and, in particular, thank those who continue to serve as a member of the committee. I welcome the school's new principal, Terri Bullock, and note the community's enthusiasm with her appointment. I thank the previous principal, Margaret Creagh, for her outstanding leadership of Winston Heights Public School over the last few years. I wish Winston Heights Public and its 425 pupils all the best for the rest of 2021.

MUNA 2021

Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect)—On Saturday 29th May 2021, I hosted the Rotary International District 9675 Model United Nations Assembly (MUNA) at the Parliament of NSW. It was a fantastic event that welcomed students in years 10-12 from schools throughout the Greater Sydney and Illawarra Region. The students acted as delegates for their respective nations and debated on Major and General Resolutions. Students had the opportunity to contribute to resolutions involving disease control, fisheries and international peace and security. Students gave spirited rebuttals and voted to pass or oppose resolutions. It was wonderful to see how seriously the students took the challenge by thoroughly researching their topics and nations. The students were articulate and sparked colourful debate in the Chamber. Thank you to the students for making the event such a success. I can see that many of these students will make fantastic leaders in the future. I also thank the representatives from Rotary District 9675 who assisted in the running of the event as judicators. Finally, I would like to thank Narelle Wilson, District 9675 Co-Chair MUNA 2020-2021, for organising the event. This was Narelle's first MUNA and she did a phenomenal job ensuring the event was enjoyable and educational.

WEAR ORANGE WEDNESDAY

Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect)—On Wednesday 19th May 2021, we celebrated 'WOW Day' or 'Wear Orange Wednesday.' On this day, we are encouraged to wear orange to thank all SES volunteers across Australia for their selfless commitment to keep our communities safe after storms, floods and other emergencies. By wearing orange, we celebrate those who don their orange uniforms and put themselves at risk to protect our

community. We are very fortunate to have many incredible SES volunteers in the Electorate of Prospect. These volunteers operating within the Blacktown, Fairfield and Auburn SES Units have been vital to keeping our Western Sydney community safe throughout 2021. During the devastating floods of March 2021, a flood warning was issued in parts of Greystanes and Wetherill Park, in the Electorate of Prospect. SES volunteers worked around the clock to provide warnings to locals and prepared for potential evacuation. The rapid and efficient actions of SES volunteers directly saved lives. I would like to thank all SES volunteers throughout NSW and most especially, the SES volunteers of Western Sydney. Thank you for your bravery and continued efforts in providing invaluable assistance to our community during times of crisis.

BOB AND JUDITH LITTLE

Mr CHRISTOPHER GULAPTIS (Clarence)—I offer my heartfelt congratulations to Bob and Judith Little of Maclean on receiving life membership of the Maclean Show Society. Bob and Judith have been supporting the Maclean show for over 40 years through their business including providing sponsorship for the fireworks display for the past 12 years. Rural shows cannot survive without the support of the local businesses and it is a remarkable achievement for a business to have supported the Maclean Show for such a long period. Congratulations Bob and Judith on this recognition for your support of the local community and the Show Society.

PEI QUN GUO

Mr RON HOENIG (Heffron)—I congratulate Pei Qun Guo, a resident of Sydenham, on being awarded the Inner West Council "Senior Citizen of the Year". Pei Qun is a key member of the Chinese Australian Services Society, a Chinese multicultural social services charity formed in 1981. They provide a wide range of welfare services, support programs, and social and recreational programs. Pei Qun participates with CASS in Inner West Council's Multicultural Festivals, as well as the CASS Charity Dinner and Charity Walk. She also helped to form CASS's Ashfield Environmental Group, which conducts a weekly clean-up of the main streets of Ashfield and the Ashfield mall, the civic centre of the Inner West Council area. It is people like Pei Qun, who quietly go about their good works in the community and do not expect any thanks or special recognition that make NSW such a wonderful place to live. I congratulate Pei Qun and CASS on the receipt of this very high honour.

WOOLWORTHS ALEXANDRIA

Mr RON HOENIG (Heffron)—I recently had the pleasure of touring the Woolworths supermarket at Fountain Street, Alexandria. I was taken around the store by store manager Manik, who wanted to show me the variety of programs and offerings the store provides for the local community. I also got to meet some of the many staff at the store, who impressed me with their enthusiasm, dedication, and breadth of knowledge about the operations of the store. I got to see the store's many recycling programs, customer satisfaction programs, home delivery services, and even helped to load a van with donated food goods for the food diversion program they operate in partnership with local food charity OzHarvest. It was people like Manik and his team who kept the shelves stocked and food on our tables in the worst days of the pandemic. Retail staff kept showing up to work in the most dangerous, stressful, and of uncertain times. These frontline workers were heroes of the pandemic in their own right. I congratulate Manik and his team and thank for the courtesy of inviting me to learn more about how supermarkets really work.

MIRACLE BABIES QUADRUPLE GIVING DAY

Ms MELANIE GIBBONS (Holsworthy)—Today I would like to recognise that Quadruple Giving Day at Miracle Babies Foundation was on Wednesday 19 May. On that day, every donation will be quadrupled for 24 hours. Miracle Babies is committed to continuing to provide our support services and resources to families of premature and sick babies. By having this quadruple donation day, it will help them to sustain vital support services for the many families that are impacted by having a premature or sick newborn not only in my local community, but across the State. I thank the local community and everyone who donated on the day as it makes a real difference. 132 babies born each day require specialised care, and these donations will go towards supporting them and their families during this time. I would like to commend Miracle Babies for their continued effort in providing much needed support and services to families of premature and sick babies, and hope their Quadruple Giving Day was a success. Thank you.

PICTON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Mr NATHANIEL SMITH (Wollondilly)—Late last month, I was privileged to be joined by the Education Minister, The Honourable Sarah Mitchell, at the official opening of the \$112 million redeveloped Picton High School. Catering for students from Years 7-12, the updated facilities includes 73 new learning spaces, administrative staff spaces, a new library and a covered outdoor learning area. The project also provided dedicated hospitality and media learning areas and a new bus and car pickup and drop-off area to increase safety for all users. The new learning facilities were truly impressive and will give students in the Picton catchment area a wide

range of educational opportunities in many disciplines and rivals the best the private sector has to offer. I want to express my admiration of Principal Warren Parkes, the teaching staff and students for their patience and perseverance during the construction phase. Students in my electorate have had to deal with many interruptions to their studies over the past 18 months. Whether it be bushfires, floods, pandemic or studying in a less than an ideal learning environment, Picton High School students have proven how resilient they can be. Well done.

4K GOLF DAY

Mr NATHANIEL SMITH (Wollondilly)—I congratulate the Highlands Golf Club in Mittagong, which recently held the 4K Charity Golf Day raising over \$14,000. This is the second year this event has been run, having been postponed in 2020. This year more than 70 golfers participated with the shared aim of raising money for a good cause. The 4K charity helps children with special needs around the Southern Highlands. 4 K stands for Kollege of Knowledge Kommittee for Kids and have been operating in the Southern Highlands for over three decades. In that time, they have raised more than \$3 million, and no doubt changed many lives for the better. I pay particular tribute to organiser and foundation member Tony Springett. Your sterling efforts went a long way to ensuring a successful event. My congratulations also go to the winning team of Ben Harch, Tony Harme, Dan Hampton and Tim Steele.

KATE DIGHT - YETMAN HALL AND PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

Mr ADAM MARSHALL (Northern Tablelands—Minister for Agriculture and Western New South Wales)—I recognise Co-ordinator of the Yetman Hall Kate Dight for her involvement in the launch of the musical Festival of Small Halls. The Yetman community enjoyed the spirited performances of the best folk and contemporary acoustic artists that the festival sends. In turn, the performers received the best welcome they could have imagined from the hospitable and enthusiastic country crowd. Kate had organised an audience from neighbouring districts who showed their enthusiasm adding to the musicians' zeal and excitement to entertain at Yetman Hall. This is another example of culture coming to the country giving occasions for celebration. I congratulate Kate on a successful launch for the 2021 Festival of Small Halls. I commend Kate on her expertise in coordinating a popular major event.

MITCHELL JOHNSTONE - PALLY POLOCROSSE CLUB

Mr ADAM MARSHALL (Northern Tablelands—Minister for Agriculture and Western New South Wales)—recognise Mitchell Johnstone, President of the Pally Polocrosse Club in Pallamallawa for his enthusiasm in leading the club as active members of the NSW Polocrosse Association, participating with teams across the District. Having originated in NSW in 1939, Polocrosse is now played internationally and is an action-packed, team sport, often referred to as Rugby on horseback. Coming up to a thirty year anniversary the Pally Club continues the polocrosse tradition as a sport that allows the whole family to play together within one club and has ensured that anyone who loves sport and life is welcome. I congratulate Mitchell for the Pally Polocrosse Club's successes as a fun-loving, family oriented, sporting activity celebrating its thirtieth year. I commend Mitchell as president for ensuring the continuity of the Club and for his commitment to friends and family.

JODIE LEA - CROSSFIT GAMES

Mrs LESLIE WILLIAMS (Port Macquarie)—I recognise Port Macquarie's very own Jodie Lea for her selection to compete in the 2021 NOBULL Crossfit Games, held from the 27 July to 1 August in Madison, Wisconsin. As her dream becomes a reality, personal trainer Jodie Lea will compete in her maiden Crossfit Games in July as the 14th-best athlete in her division out of 20 Australian competitors qualifying for the games. The mother of three will be one of several thousand sportspersons all vying for the international title as the Fittest on Earth. Jodie could not literally contain her excitement when she was recently selected for the Crossfit Games, having only taken up the sport six years ago. Competing against the world's best is not a foreign concept for Jodie as history shows her previous success in Bike Motocross (BMX) on an international level and in a warm up to the Games, Jodie participated in a tournament at Torian Pro, Queensland. Already a champion in our eyes, I congratulate Jodie for following her dreams and reaching her goals in the sport she loves. On behalf of the Port Macquarie community we extend our best wishes.

DEADLY SCIENCE PROGRAM

Mrs LESLIE WILLIAMS (Port Macquarie)—I recognise a wonderful educational initiative called the Deadly Science Program which delivers science resources and learning to remote Australian schools. Former 2020 NSW Young Australian of the Year Corey Tutt founded the Deadly Science Program which aims to raise funds to support science education in our rural and remote schools. Already, the indigenous mentor has raised over \$250,000 to purchase more than 20,000 books and 500 telescopes to 110 schools across the country. Corey has recently moved to Port Macquarie and already he is making an impact on our schools locally, with Telegraph Point Public School one of the benefices for new science books to support the school's recovery from the March

2021 floods. On the way to publishing a book called "The First Scientists", Corey delves into the history of Indigenous science from the oldest civilisation dating 65,000 years. It is Corey's hope that once completed his book will expand students' knowledge on Indigenous cultures and their contribution to science. Recognising the value of the Deadly Science program the Rotary Club of Port Macquarie Sunrise donated \$10,000 to expand STEM resources. An amazing young man, I thank Corey for his marvellous contribution to education.

COOTAMUNDRA FIRE FIGHTERS

Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra)—I would like to congratulate 3 Fire Fighters from Fire and Rescue 266 who have accumulated over 30 years of service between them. Fire Fighters Samuel Lawson, Jonathan Berryman and Luke Cram were presented with their 10 year service and good conduct medals on April 24 2021. Samuel celebrated 15 years of service, Jonathan celebrated 13 years and Luke celebrated 12 years of service this year. These three fire fighters have seen and dealt with some of the worst bush fire seasons in Australia to date. Their commitment and involvement in saving the lives, homes and properties of Australian Citizens is greatly appreciated and they all should be extremely proud of everything they continue to do to support their community and the Cootamundra Electorate. Thank you and congratulations once again to these men and their families for all that they continue to do to support their communities.

SHAELA MAUGER

Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra)—I would like to congratulate Shaela who after losing her father as a child to brain cancer has developed a book called Cherish: A Book About Us. The book has two parts, the first chapter is titled "My Story" which consists of different prompts such as "my greatest achievement", "my first love", and "my biggest regret". The second chapter is titled "Our Story" the prompts include "a letter to you", "remember when..." and "always remember that". Shaela developed this book for children who have lost a parent, it gives them something to hold onto and it's in their parent's own words. When Shaela's father died she said he had left her a letter, but the letter didn't tell her all those things that she wanted to know. Congratulations once again to Shaela on creating this wonderful book which allows for cherished memories and thoughts to be shared and read over time and time again in the absence of a loved one.

SYDNEY HILLS YOUTH AMBASSADORS

Mr RAY WILLIAMS (Castle Hill)—I would like to take this opportunity to recognise the new Sydney Hills Youth Ambassadors for 2021/22. Advising the Hills Shire Council on the issues important to the local youth of the area is an incredibly important job, helping to advocate on behalf of young people for the betterment of services in the Hills. This year's ambassadors are Julie Charlton, Rory O'Connor and Munira Tabassum Ahmed. Julie is a steadfast disability advocate, particularly in the area of para-sports for young people. Julie has also recently been announced as the chair for the NSW Youth Advisory Council. Rory is a local Bushcare volunteer, and is keen about preserving the natural environment surrounding the Hills, and keeping the gardens in 'The Garden Shire'. Finally, Munira is a passionate mental health advocate, and I'm sure will be a keen advocate for increasing Council's support for local wellbeing services, particularly as we continue to deal with the ongoing Covid-19 Pandemic. Between the 3 of the ambassadors, they have disability, environment and mental health covered, and I'm sure the future generations of the Hills are in good hands!

20 YEARS OF THE HILLS RELAY FOR LIFE

Mr RAY WILLIAMS (Castle Hill)—In mid-May 20 years ago, I remember standing in a damp, dark park, on an unusually chilly evening for that time of year, with a small group of equally cold, and perhaps crazy, volunteers. Despite having no prior funding, very little experience, and nothing more than an idea and a passion for charity, the event was a roaring success. The Hills Relay for Life raises money for cancer research, and the support for those affected by the disease. The group has gone from strength to strength in the years since that opening relay, raising over \$4 million since its inception, including a huge \$320,000 in 2019. Furthermore, the group also participated in the World's first 'Relay From Home', an online event conducted over Zoom, such that money could still be raised in spite of the challenges associated with the ongoing Covid-19 Pandemic. I'd like to thank all those volunteers involved with the relay over the years, including Ruth Didsbury and Bev Jordan. Congratulations to all involved on an incredible 20 years, and whilst we've come a long way since that cold evening in 2001, the same passion can be felt today.

PORT HACKING LITTLE ATHLETICS CENTRE

Ms ELENI PETINOS (Miranda)—I acknowledge Port Hacking Little Athletics Centre who are the successful recipients of \$3,600 from the NSW Government's 2021 Local Sport Grant Program. Port Hacking Little Athletics Centre are a wonderful community whose history spans more than 50 years. The organisation's mission is to develop young athletes while upholding their strong values of family and fun in sport. The funding secured will purchase a line marker and paint to support volunteers by speeding up the field set up process, whilst the

10 new gazebos will provide shelter for athletes and volunteers from the sun and rain. Of course, none of this would be possible without the outstanding team behind the Port Hacking Little Athletics Centre. I acknowledge President Mark Laverance, Vice President Adam Arnold, Secretary Phil Turpin, Registrar Sharon Potts, Treasurer Cameron Burne and Committee Members Jenny Blanch, Darren Bauer, Ray Russell and Trevor Orsaris. I commend the Port Hacking Little Athletics Centre for bringing the importance of this project to my attention, and look forward to seeing the young athletes benefit from the new equipment.

WANDA SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB

Ms ELENI PETINOS (Miranda)—I acknowledge the incredible members Wanda Surf Life Saving Club for their important work in continuously protecting our local community. Established in 1946, Wanda Surf Life Saving Club is home to over 900 members ranging from 5 year old Nippers to the original founding members. Whether it's ensuring the safety of beachgoers or aiding emergency responders during natural disasters, the Club members are dedicated to helping those in need. Recently, a number of Wanda Surf Life Saving Club volunteers were deployed to assist other emergency services personnel in flood and storm rescue operations in Western Sydney. The team navigated dangerous conditions to provide aid to vulnerable communities including operations on flooded roads, farms, caravan parks, and other debris-affected areas. I acknowledge the outstanding volunteers including Club Captain Michael Bonnici, John Wilde, Stephen Trembath, Ryan Bevitt, Adam Buckley and Mark Lake. I commend the selfless volunteers from Wanda Surf Life Saving Club on their ongoing contribution in protecting and serving our community, both on and off our beautiful beaches.

MARK O'TOOLE

Ms JODIE HARRISON (Charlestown)—Early in May, the Jolliffe family of Kotara experienced every family's worst nightmare when a fire devastated their home. Ray Jolliffe, his wife Gail and their granddaughter Sienna, along with their dogs Jasper and Nelson, escaped the blaze, thanks in large part to the heroism of neighbour Mark O'Toole. In a touching tribute published in the Newcastle Herald, Ray recalled how Mark ran into the blaze to help him to safety. Despite the risks to his own safety, Mark ran in to help his neighbour in the direst of circumstances. I applaud his bravery. Mark wasn't the only hero that night—Ray also thanked neighbours who kept Gail and Sienna safe, as well as medical professionals and the many emergency services personnel who attended. This outpouring of support has been carried on by neighbours, friends, even strangers—all people who have reached out to help a family in crisis. I would like to add my thanks to Mark and the others who helped that night, and offer the Jolliffe family my heartfelt condolences. I am so proud and humbled by my community—a community which can always be counted on to come together in the worst of times.

KIRSTEN ANSELL

Ms JODIE HARRISON (Charlestown)—I am pleased to again recognise local constituent Kirsten Ansell, founder of the not for profit Host-A-Surfer for her enduring commitment to progressing and supporting women's equality in not only surfing but all female athletes in the Hunter Region. Host-a-Surfer has evolved from offering female surfers a temporary home with a host family to now offering young female athletes a comprehensive well-being program where leaders from diverse fields offer guidance and knowledge to participants. Host-a-Surfer ambassadors, led by senior ambassador and professional surfer Phillipa Anderson, encourage all female athletes to adopt a holistic approach to their chosen sport. Across a range of sports, including surfing, Host-a-Surfer ambassadors are encouraging young women to excel in their particular sports through their involvement in seminars on diet, nutrition, mental health fitness and choosing the right coach. Kirsten has forged a clear path to participation and success for young sportswomen in the Hunter.

CULINARY CARNEVALE 2021

Mr GUY ZANGARI (Fairfield)—Fairfield City Council held their annual Culinary Carnevale here in the heart of Fairfield on Saturday 29th May 2021. Many local food businesses participated with residents being treated to delicious food samples to enjoy. Of course, no Fairfield event would be complete without the promotion of our local bread vendors from around the globe. This year's Culinary Carnevale also had street musical performers keeping the local shoppers entertained. It was great to catch up with the Fairfield Chamber of Commerce President Vince Movizio and sample the delightful mixed plate from the Chilean Food Van. I extend my congratulations to Fairfield City Council and to all who participated in this very successful event.

IRAQI AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION

Mr GUY ZANGARI (Fairfield)—Earlier on in the year I attended an Australia Day celebration hosted by the Iraqi Australian Christian Association at Monamor Hall in Fairfield. The COVID-safe event was held to acknowledge the unity and freedom that people coming to Australia feel when they settle here from another country. It was also a chance to celebrate multiculturalism and the various contributions migrants have made to the fabric of Australian life. Guests were entertained on the evening with performances from various artists.

I congratulate Mr Ramzi Barnouti, President of the Iraqi Australian Christian Association and executive members of the board on a successful event and I also thank them for bringing us all together to celebrate Australia Day.

Private Members' Statements

CRONULLA CBD TRAFFIC CONGESTION

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla—Attorney General, and Minister for Prevention of Domestic and Sexual Violence) (18:05): The Cronulla CBD and surrounds have serious traffic issues that are somewhat unique in the Sutherland shire. Like a few other town centres in the shire, the Cronulla CBD and surrounds are densely populated but they are unlike other town centres in the shire that have numerous roads radiating around them and can often be bypassed. The Cronulla CBD instead sits on an isthmus connecting the South Cronulla peninsula with the rest of the shire. There are only two roads in and out of south Cronulla. They are, first, Croydon Street and Cronulla Street, passing on the west of the isthmus past Cronulla railway station, and, secondly, Gerrale Street, passing on the east of the isthmus past Cronulla Park. Those roads pass along and do not bypass the Cronulla CBD. They are only one lane each way and are interrupted with roundabouts and busy pedestrian crossings.

At least in part because of this funnelling of traffic onto only two streets in and out of south Cronulla, traffic congestion in and around the Cronulla CBD, including getting into and out of south Cronulla, is now notoriously problematic, especially on busy weekends. It is complicated by Cronulla being a major or the major leisure destination in the shire, especially in summer. It is not uncommon to see queues of cars backed up from Cronulla Street and down Croydon Street to the roundabout at the intersection of Purley Place, Wilbar Avenue and Searl Road. And I have seen far worse, with traffic on the Kingsway banked back to Woolooware Road. A Sutherland Shire Planning Committee Business Paper of 4 June 2018 stated:

In general, traffic congestion in Cronulla has steadily increased over time to the point where regular delays occur in the weekday and weekend peak periods. Traffic modelling of the town centre indicates that under a 2034 do nothing scenario, future traffic growth ... will significantly add to existing congestion within the road network, in particular the Wilbar Avenue/Cronulla Street route.

And later said:

Investigation of a number of options including one way movements around the town centre show that such treatments would be very expensive and in all likelihood only transfer the problem to other locations.

There are a number of non-traffic alleviations to these problems, which include building the Sutherland to Cronulla Active Transport Link—it is important that the link starts near the Cronulla CBD—and improved train services. There will be the capacity for a 30 per cent increase in trains on the T4 line in peak hour from around 2024. But there is also a need to look at traffic configuration in Cronulla. The business paper I have quoted from went on to say:

The traffic study undertaken for Cronulla in 2015 indicated that the provision of a new road link via Tonkin Street and Searl Road would provide sufficient additional capacity. However, the provision of this additional road link has many challenges ... It remains as a potential long term proposition subject to further feasibility analysis.

As Keynes said, we are all dead in the long run, and I believe active consideration now needs to be given to a Tonkin Street bypass. I recognise that there are challenges associated with the proposal that demand further investigation, including but not limited to the impact on major sewer and water infrastructure, land ownership, the potential impact on Tonkin Oval, intersection treatments at either end of the road link, and the impact on residential amenity and parking. My present understanding is that none of these factors is so prohibitive as to render the proposal unviable. The proposal would prima facie involve a simple 200-metre at grade extension of Tonkin Street to Searl Road.

Recently I invited the Treasurer to look at this proposal on site and I made the point that a Tonkin Street bypass or fixing traffic problems is a top infrastructure priority for my electorate. I have asked Sutherland Shire Council to investigate and advise me on the costs and feasibility of this road link proposal. I cannot emphasise enough that it would have to preserve the iconic Tonkin Oval. There are a number of forms the project could take. It could be one way north on the extension but keeping the existing part of Tonkin Street two way due to issues of merging traffic and turning traffic at the north and south ends of this link. It might involve traffic calming in Searl Road north of Burraneer Bay Road to encourage traffic to stay on Burraneer Bay Road. It might involve making part of Croydon Street and Cronulla Street one way south to Laycock Avenue.

It is important to consider not only the amenity for residents in Tonkin Street and Searl Road but also the broader amenity for South Cronulla residents, Cronulla CBD residents, visitors and businesses faced with increasing traffic issues, as well as the question of safe access to and from South Cronulla in an emergency. I am interested in community feedback. This is one of the most iconic parts of Sydney and it is important to know what the community thinks. Another alternative I am interested in investigating is an underpass outside Cronulla station to replace the pedestrian crossing, which is a major bottleneck. Again, this would have to be something that the

Cronulla community thinks is appropriate. Ultimately, these are council matters. I will try to get State support and I look forward to working collaboratively with Sutherland Shire Council and the community to fix the traffic issues in Cronulla.

YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE

Ms SONIA HORNER (Wallsend) (18:11): A concerned grandfather wrote to me:

My granddaughter has been receiving medical assistance since the age of 4 for psychological problems, problems that appear to be gaining in intensity as she grows older. Because she is only 15, there is very little assistance provided by NSW Health, if anything, and yet she is in critical need of major assistance.

It is not an uncommon story. As anyone who has tried to help a young person through a mental health crisis knows, getting support is difficult. When this grandfather asked me to bring his family's situation to the attention of this House, I agreed to do so because we are looking at a slow-motion disaster in the area of youth mental health. My constituent explained:

As a family, we tried to have my granddaughter admitted to the mental health facility at Warners Bay Private Hospital only to be turned away because they only admit children aged 16 and over. The same age limitation applied when trying to obtain assistance at John Hunter Hospital ... because of her age, she was declined as a mental health patient [even though] her condition fully warranted inpatient care.

This grandfather told me that his granddaughter is currently receiving private psychiatric help but that she needs more. Her parents can barely afford the cost of this care. They will do anything for their child, as most parents would, and they will not let the cost stop them. However, my constituent pointed out that a range of services are available to his granddaughter when she turns 16 but she is still almost 12 months away from this milestone. While a sixteenth birthday should be a cause for celebration, the year this family will have to wait is a cause of major anxiety for them. My constituent has one question for this Government:

Why is it that at age 16, as if by magic, a full range of services becomes instantly available and yet at 15 these services are beyond reach?

It is a good question. The statistics from Beyond Blue are stark. Over 75 per cent of mental health problems occur before the age of 25. Half of all the mental health conditions we experience at some point in our lives will have started by the age of 14. One in seven young people aged between four and 17 meet the criteria for a diagnosis of a mental health disorder in any given year. One in 10 young people between 12 and 17 will self-harm, one in 13 will seriously consider a suicide attempt and one in 40 will attempt suicide. Those troubling statistics are made worse because young people are less likely than those of any other age to seek professional help. According to one study, only 31 per cent of young people—and 13 per cent of young men—with mental health problems have sought any professional help. We know that many young people are struggling with their mental health and face many barriers when trying to access that help and that recent events have only exacerbated those problems. My constituent's family is going through hell and the statistics make it clear that they are not alone in facing that situation. I was asked to share the family's story in an effort to change what is clearly a broken system. Something needs to be done.

GLEN INNES MEDICAL SERVICES

Mr ADAM MARSHALL (Northern Tablelands—Minister for Agriculture and Western New South Wales) (18:15): Recently a general practitioner in Glen Innes wrote to me about the looming crisis in the small town's medical services. Sadly, the story is not unique to Glen Innes. The GP began his practice in the town in 1989, after working in a Sydney hospital for six years following his graduation. When the GP first hung out his shingle in Glen Innes, every local GP was a visiting medical officer [VMO] at the Glen Innes District Hospital. The nearby village of Emmaville, some 40-odd kilometres away, also boasted a hospital—now a multipurpose service—and also had local GPs covering that hospital.

Over the years there has been a steady decline in the number of general practitioners acting as VMOs in those hospitals. Today only two GPs fulfil that VMO role at Glen Innes hospital and another two are only part-time. This hospital now relies on locum doctors from far away, employed by Hunter New England Health through a contractor, to maintain around-the-clock medical staff coverage. The same experienced GP tells me that currently in Glen Innes two GPs are in their mid-70s, five in their 60s, two in their 50s and the youngest is in their 40s. Of the 10 GPs still in Glen Innes, only three work full-time.

Emmaville has only just secured the services, again, of a visiting doctor from Tenterfield for only one day a fortnight. I understand from all the reports of community members and talking to GPs that the GP practices in Glen Innes maintain waiting lists for their patient books, with well over 200 people waiting to secure the services of a family GP—200 people in a community of around 5,000. Because the majority of GPs in Glen Innes are not VMOs, the remaining two GPs who choose to be VMOs at the hospital cannot provide round-the-clock cover. They simply cannot work their practice and cover all of the hours on the roster in the hospital.

In response to the shortfall, Hunter New England Health has to secure locum services at much greater expense than what it pays to the local resident GPs. This has created a huge industry—not just in Glen Innes but right across rural and regional New South Wales, and rural and regional Australia—where health services engage the services of locum doctors which, perversely, provides a disincentive for GPs to be residents in those towns, hang up their shingle, like this experienced GP in 1989, and be part of the community. The huge fees create a disparity between what the VMOs and locums are paid. It does provide a disincentive. Also, it makes local GPs feel undervalued because they are paid significantly less for providing similar or, many would argue, superior services because they are local doctors who know the local people. They have delivered the locals' sons and daughters and their grandchildren and they know the people.

Locum services fill the gaps but do not always provide good medicine, services or coverage. The locums provide no long-term services and no follow-up care. They tell patients to follow up with their own GP, but in many cases those patients do not have a local GP because there are not enough GPs in the town to begin with. Why would a local GP take up residence in a country town when they can do locum work? They can receive a huge pay check, fly in, have all expenses paid—good accommodation, meals, cars and flights all paid for by the taxpayer—and then jet back to their city life, and do it all again the next week. That is far easier than committing to a community, setting up a business or being a part of a practice and the community.

We all know in the bush how great a lifestyle it is. However, we must do more to encourage medical graduates to move to the country and immerse themselves in the bush. Otherwise the crisis is going to get worse and, without GPs, we will struggle to operate a proper district hospital and primary healthcare system. We need to engage with the Federal Government. It has a role to play in encouraging and providing incentives to GPs, particularly proceduralists but also non-proceduralists, to come to the bush. Maybe it is about linking Medicare provider numbers to geographic locations and working on a proper remuneration package with the Rural Doctors Association. The Glen Innes doctor who wrote to me is quite blunt in his assessment: If we do not do anything, our communities will be completely reliant on locum services. Locums were designed to be a stopgap measure but they are quickly now becoming the normal way of doing business. That definitely needs to change.

NORTH SHORE POLICE AWARDS

Mr JONATHAN O'DEA (Davidson) (18:20): I congratulate all the medal and award recipients at a ceremony held last Friday 4 June who came from the North Shore Police Area Command, which services many people in my electorate of Davidson. The medals and award certificates were conferred on members of the police force and others for long and outstanding service to the community as well as meritorious behaviour. The awardees demonstrated values of courage, honour and duty whilst often also protecting human life. I was privileged to attend the ceremony and was indeed honoured to present the 1st Clasp to the National Medal to Sergeant Brendan Smith for 25 years of diligent service.

I acknowledge Superintendent Jenny Scholz, who hosted the presentation day, and Deputy Commissioner Jeff Loy. Both of them presented numerous New South Wales police awards as follows: The NSW Police Medal went to Senior Constable Mark Cutugno, Senior Constable Jennifer Brown, Detective Senior Constable Iain Adcock and Senior Constable Jason Edmunds. The 7th Clasp to the NSW Police Medal for 45 years of service went to former Sergeant Stephen Haste. The 6th Clasp to the NSW Police Medal for 40 years of service went to former Detective Senior Constable Paul Thomas. The 4th Clasp to the NSW Police Medal for 30 years of service went to Inspector Tracy Trevallion, Sergeant Cameron Smith and Senior Constable Sandra Macgeachie. The 3rd Clasp to the NSW Police Medal for 25 years of service went to Sergeant Brendan Smith, in addition to the earlier award that I mentioned, which I presented. The 2nd Clasp to the NSW Police Medal for 20 years of service went to Senior Constable Craig Tate.

Then there were Commissioner's Unit Citations for former Superintendent Allan Sicard, Sergeant Benjamin Anderson and Leading Senior Constable Stephen Smith. The Commissioner's Certificate of Merit was awarded to Sergeant Ashley Pacheco Lopes. The Certificate of Service was awarded to former Superintendent Allan Sicard, former Sergeant Stephen Haste, former Sergeant Glen Marks, former Sergeant Gerard Tysoe, former Executive Officer Rosa Haste and former Multicultural Liaison Officer Irena Husaric. Finally in that section, the Region Commander's Unit Citation went to Senior Constable Simon Herold, Senior Constable Martin Irwin and Senior Constable Katie Pearce.

There were also Police Area Commander's Commendation awards going to Senior Constable Kurt Vallin, Constable Jackson Davis, Constable Christopher Abela, Constable Sergio Garcia, Senior Constable Timothy Turner, Constable Adam Linnan, Constable Nicholas Lansdowne, Leading Senior Constable Connor Tumulty, Constable Ashley Radford and Probationary Constable Kelly Henry. Police Area Commander's Unit Citations went to Constable Kurt Vallin, Constable Jackson Davis, Sergeant Scott Macgee, Senior Constable Adam Linnan, Constable Jack Kempton, Constable Martin Leung.

Before the ceremony concluded, Police Area Commander's Certificate of Merit awards were presented to both Senior Constable Martin Irwin and Constable Peter Gilbert. I again emphasise the importance and value of the contributions made by all these people, which was recognised on the day. Finally, I note that it was in fact the last presentation ceremony for Deputy Commissioner Jeff Loy, who presented a number of those awards, as he is about to retire after 39 years of distinguished service. I wish him and all the recipients well. I thank them yet again on behalf of my local community and the broader society for everything that they do.

TAX REFORM

Mr ANOULACK CHANTHIVONG (Macquarie Fields) (18:25): I speak on part five of my humble, working-class economist series of policy analysis and critique. It would be remiss of me not to quickly recap parts one to four, which clearly argued how the Treasurer's snake oil, forever land tax on the family home based on some pagan voodoo economics does not improve housing affordability. I have not read any credible economist state that replacing a one-off stamp duty with a forever tax on the family home that never ends helps make it easier for home ownership. This is nothing but a greedy tax cash grab that will only go up and up, particularly for people trying to buy their first home. I also note that since the fanfare around the Treasurer's glitterazi announcement of his visionary once-in-century tax reform agenda, he has been relatively quiet about his signature policy.

As recently as June 1 2021, in response to the NSW Productivity Commission's report, the Treasurer is quoted as saying, "Progress is never made by taking ideas off the table." It seems to me that some ideas have certainly been taken off the table, just like the Fire and Emergency Services Levy. This Treasurer is a puffed-up policy peacock who fans his colours to attract a little attention but never conceives to bring any policy to life. He is a policy lightweight who is all rhetoric and no reform. As the great economic reformer—I would say the greatest economic reformer this country has had—former Labor Prime Minister Keating would say, "He is all tip and no iceberg."

On the topic of tax reform, I also note the commentary from the Treasurer and at least some of his colleagues around distance-based charging for electric vehicles. I will touch on that tonight too because the growth of electric vehicles is a complex area and has repercussions for fiscal budgets all around the country. The decision to apply or not to apply a distance-based charging on electric vehicles should be based on the policy problem to be addressed, whether that is congestion or revenue. All of that obviously would try to incentivise industry but the fundamental underlying principle of this policy framework must also be based on two very important things: equity and economics.

I make some commentary on the first issue of equity. Currently, fuel excise and GST produce net revenue of about \$11.6 billion, which is used to fund road upgrades and build new roads. Anyone who owns an internal combustion engine—which is, I suspect, most of us—has to pay when they go to the bowser. The money is used to fund road upgrades. It also goes to build new roads because we all use roads. But as the electric vehicle industry continues to grow—inevitably it will reach a critical mass—it will have an inverse financial relationship with fuel excise revenue, which means we will have less money to continue to build the roads that our community needs and deserves.

The important point is that if electric vehicles continue to grow, that means consumers in many of our electorates in regional areas and particularly more moderate working-class areas will continue to buy internal combustion engines because they are a lot cheaper. I do not know too many people who own a high-performance Tesla at \$93,000 before on-road costs. The application of distance-based charging can be viewed as an equity issue because we do not want all road upgrades predominately lumped onto a smaller and shrinking number of road users who can only afford internal combustion engines.

That is a real equity issue we have to examine to ensure that those electrical vehicle users—I welcome them all—have to pay to contribute to the road upgrades. Otherwise it is highly unfair that those on high incomes, who can afford very expensive electric cars, do not pay a fuel excise while those on lower incomes, who, given their income, do not have mobility on the type of vehicles they can purchase, do. This is an important point to make because electric vehicles are not DeLoreans. They do not fly into space. They still use roads. They still add to congestion. They might produce non-carbon emissions but that is only at the point of use. We also have to think about the upstream and downstream of the technology.

I know I do not have much time but I will touch on the economics. One of the arguments has been that we should not have a dispatch price because it is going to kill the industry. I have to say I think the economic debate is still out there. If you are paying 2½c or 5c per kilometre, I hardly think that that is going to persuade you to buy a \$100,000 vehicle or not. I wish I had more time but I will come back to it next time.

NARRANDERA SHIRE PROJECTS

Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra) (18:30): The Cootamundra electorate is made up of small communities. It covers nine local government areas and more than 34,000 square kilometres. Today I celebrate Narrandera, one of the amazing council areas and communities, which has gone from strength to strength over the past 3½ years. This riverside community is one of the most diverse in my electorate. It is home to irrigators, farmers, fish researchers, artists, doctors, teachers, retail workers, small business owners and every industry and occupation in between. The shire includes the wonderful villages of Borellan, Binya, Grong Grong, Sandigo, Kamarah and, of course, the township of Narrandera. Over the past 3½ years it has been a privilege to fight for these communities and ensure that they get their fair share of government funding.

Earlier this year I was able to open the Goolagong Courts in Borellan, birthplace of that talented tennis family. Their legacy has been embedded in this recreation centre, which will be enjoyed by the community for decades to come. It was transformed through a grant of almost \$270,000 from the Stronger Country Communities Fund. This program has also supported new aged-care units, upgraded local netball courts and provided new change rooms and new lighting at the sportsground in Borellan. Upgrades can also be found at the Borellan Showground, the home of the Borellan Clydesdales who wooed and wowed the crowds at the Sydney Royal Easter Show this year. The showground is getting new toilets, amenities and a new kitchen, ensuring a range of events and organisations can use this community space for years to come. The students and staff at Borellan Central School will soon be able to work and learn in a more comfortable environment, with the Cooler Classrooms Program upgrading air conditioning and temperature regulation. There is \$4.8 million to improve Borellan's sewerage infrastructure.

Binya Hall is getting just under \$375,000 for upgrades, including new toilets, electrical work, and heating and painting, ensuring that it can continue to be a vital space for community events, gatherings, information sessions and celebrations for generations to come. In Grong Grong the hall has been made accessible, the sports club's toilets have been refurbished and stage one of the Earth Park has been supported, creating natural playscapes and a food garden that has become a popular destination for people travelling with children. In Narrandera itself the New South Wales Government is supporting a range of projects and programs for the community to bring to life vital infrastructure.

The incredible Playground on the Murrumbidgee has truly put Narrandera on the map as a tourist destination and created recreational spaces that enhance Narrandera's natural features and can be enjoyed by everyone. This \$8 million project has redeveloped the Lake Talbot Water Park, which I had the great honour of opening on Australia Day this year. It has built new slides and new shaded areas, improved the pools and created accessible points so that everyone can enjoy the park. The redevelopment of the water park is already being recognised and celebrated, recently winning the 2021 NSW Local Government Excellence Award for an asset and project with a budget over \$1.5 million and a population under 100,000. The Playground on the Murrumbidgee funding is also creating the north bank walking track and bridge, supporting the preservation of the heritage railway bridge and bringing to life the Narrandera Destination and Discovery Hub.

The support from the New South Wales Government for Narrandera does not end there. We have also invested in sealing bus routes, including Rosedale Road and Settlers Road, through the Fixing Local Roads Program, replaced bridges at Somerset Park and Molly's Bridge, invested in culverts on Canola Way at Cowabbie Creek and raised the road surface by 1.5 metres to help prevent road closures during flooding. Throughout the shire runs the Newell Highway. We have invested \$17 million in the realignment of the Newell at Grong Grong and invested in overtaking lanes, with 40 to be delivered by 2023 along the length of the Newell throughout my whole electorate.

Local businesses and suppliers are currently invited to tender for this work. It is absolutely fantastic to see this financial investment occurring in the shire. In 2019 I had the pleasure of opening the Narrandera Clontarf Academy, which aims to improve the education, life skills and self-esteem of young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men. There is simply not enough time for me to list all of the investment that is occurring in the Narrandera shire. The list goes on and on. For the past 3½ years as the member for Cootamundra, I have attended hundreds of events and met with hundreds of constituents. I look forward to continuing to do so in the future.

ALBURY ACUTE MENTAL HEALTH FACILITY

Mr JUSTIN CLANCY (Albury) (18:35): It is great news that the New South Wales Government will be building a new acute mental health facility on the Albury campus of Albury Wodonga Health. I am grateful to the New South Wales Government for fully funding this important project to be shared as a resource on both sides of the border. This is a fresh start for how our society will support those in our community facing acute mental health issues. I envisage a caring place designed from the ground up to deliver state-of-the-art mental health care and programs. The existing Nolan House 24 beds will be replaced by a completely new 32-bed facility. I will be

clear on this: We should seek to build the best place to start the healing process for anyone living on or near the border who is suffering from an acute mental health episode requiring hospital care.

We are aiming high because many here have learned from the mistakes built into the very fabric of Nolan House. Staff and health professionals have given exceptional care and service there, often having to deal with the shortcomings and safety issues of the facility. Although Albury hospital was opened just 27 years ago, Nolan House always seemed out of sync with community expectations. As the great advocate for mental health services on the border and former clinical director for medical health at Albury Wodonga Health Dr England once said, "Nolan House is a custodial model built to lock up people. That is the primary design focus."

In July 2017 crisis funding for necessary improvements to safety and comfort within Nolan House were required. The high dependency unit was closed. To remedy this, \$500,000 was provided by the New South Wales Government, matched by a further \$500,000 from Victoria. This was helpful and welcome, but it only emphasised the problems of the building and the impediments to best practice. The Nolan House announcement forms part of the New South Wales Government's \$700 million statewide Mental Health Infrastructure Program. In making the announcement, the New South Wales Treasurer noted the Government's focus on better mental health for the State's regions so that people can access the right treatment no matter where they live. The health Minister looked to improve models of care in a safe environment, saying, "Patients will be treated in the safest and most appropriate surroundings where they will receive contemporary, recovery-oriented care". The mental health Minister committed to involving local consumers and health professionals in the design phase, noting, "By involving consumers and staff in the design of this new facility from the get-go, we'll ensure the mental health services meet the needs and preferences of those who use them."

This was an expectation the Minister made abundantly clear to all who were present for the announcement. People's lived experience—with all its hope and pain—will not be sidelined but will be channelled into a positive, active and powerful role. The new Nolan House will be co-designed in partnership with consumers, carers and clinical staff at Albury Wodonga Health. We recognise that the Albury Wodonga community has educated itself about the needs of an acute care facility and the specific failings of the current Nolan House, some of which relate to the original design and have limited the healing potential of the facility. I am particularly conscious the Government is sending out a message of hope with this important announcement, which looks to the future needs of our region. By developing first-class mental health services in our regional community, we are promoting the idea that people struggling with mental health concerns can seek the help and treatment they need and that access to treatment is at hand and accessible. Now at last we can work to create a place focused on wellbeing and healing as its primary purpose.

I thank the Treasurer for the interest he showed when he visited Albury earlier this year. I also thank the health Minister and the mental health Minister for their support and advocacy in committing to the project and funding. The enormous contribution to this campaign from mental health advocates, including Friends of Nolan House and its president Les Schmutter and campaigners such as Annette and Stuart Baker, have been pivotal in keeping the issues before me and embedded in our community consciousness. At some point in time we will all be connected to mental health concerns for ourselves, a family member or a friend and therefore we all benefit from a new acute mental health facility for the border. This project is fundamental to a better life for all who call the border home. Its importance to the community cannot be overstated and the announcement of its funding is most welcome.

MOORE PARK ENTERTAINMENT QUARTER REDEVELOPMENT

Mr RON HOENIG (Heffron) (18:40): It has been 18 months since Carsingha—a corporation jointly owned by Sydney business luminaries Gerry Harvey, John Singleton and Mark Carnegie, amongst others—lodged with the New South Wales Government an unsolicited proposal to redevelop the Entertainment Quarter [EQ] at Moore Park as a commercial precinct, including a 20-storey tower and a hotel. The Government is expected to proceed to the next stage of the unsolicited proposal process very soon. The plans are acknowledged as being inconsistent with State Environmental Planning Policy [SEPP] 47, established by the Carr Government to safeguard the Entertainment Quarter's use as a State-significant and world-class film, television and video production centre in perpetuity. The latest advice I have received is that Carsingha's plans are not only inconsistent with the SEPP but also require a change to the Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust Act itself.

Carsingha has approached me at both stages of this process to provide me, as the local member, with a briefing on its plans, and I very am grateful for that courtesy. Sadly, I still have unresolved concerns about the plans, which entail handing over public land on a 99-year lease—which is an effective privatisation—to lessees who acquired the site for well above market value in the full knowledge of the planning scheme that regulates the use of that site and who no doubt believed they could get those rules changed to suit them. A favour from the party for the big end of town is a very Sydney story. There is considerable overlap between the interests of board members of major sporting organisations, the SCG and Centennial Park trusts, members of the State Government

and other commercial enterprises that would be all too keen to sink their teeth into the Entertainment Quarter. Those interests, I suspect, conflict with the objects of the legislation governing the EQ.

I am concerned that any changes to the SEPP and the Act might constrain Australia's film and television industry at a time when it is booming and might have serious impacts on the economic diversity of the State. It was the vision of the Carr Government 26 years ago to enshrine the use of the Entertainment Quarter as a film and television hub, which today sees New South Wales reaping rich dividends. Australia is currently the most attractive place in the world to create film and television content. With the demand for content seemingly growing endlessly, Sydney is now the epicentre of a boom in video content never before seen in our country's history. Our remarkable handling of the pandemic, our skilled and educated workforce, significant investments by State and Federal governments and of course our country's natural beauty have created a pipeline of investment worth billions of dollars over the coming years.

When just one case of COVID can bring a multibillion-dollar organisation to its knees for weeks, Australia has become an obvious place to live and work for scores of actors, directors and producers. Stroll along Bondi Beach this weekend and you can expect to bump into Tom Hanks, Idris Elba, Zac Efron, Christian Bale, Natalie Portman, George Miller, Ron Howard and of course Australia's own Chris Hemsworth—just to name a few. They are all here making big budget films—a phenomenon I am calling Aussiewood, Hollywood down under. These projects employ a whole spectrum of workers from carpenters and costume designers to high-end special effects artists, computer engineers and explosives experts. Each project is bigger than the last, breaking the record for the highest value film made in Australia. It is all made possible by the Entertainment Quarter and the SEPP that governs it.

As one industry figure remarked to me recently, this is the future of Australia's manufacturing industry in the twenty-first century. We may not make cars any more but we can still take raw materials—wood, fabric, film and labour—and turn them into a highly processed finished product for global export. The latest *Thor* film, shot primarily in Sydney, is expected to gross over \$1 billion at the box office. This boom is a huge opportunity to diversify the New South Wales and Australian economies. The challenge is to ensure that no bust follows. Given that demand for studio space and crew already exceeds Australia's supply, the Entertainment Quarter is shockingly under-utilised. I suspect that the current owners would rather see its potential wasted in order to make the case for a change to planning laws than support this new Australian growth industry.

I will not support any change to the legislation governing Centennial Park that opens up its use for anything other than those purposes outlined in the Act and in the Moore Park SEPP. We must seize this golden opportunity to grow and diversify the State's economy, create good jobs and secure billions of dollars in investment each year. Otherwise, when the pandemic subsides, so will the benefits.

HEATHCOTE ELECTORATE EVENTS

Mr LEE EVANS (Heathcote) (18:46): I update the House on some of the activities and losses in Heathcote in recent weeks. Recently I had the honour of christening the latest inshore rescue boat [IRB] for Garie Surf Life Saving Club. Brad Taylor, the president of the Garie club, was present to witness the launch of the IRB, named in honour of his mum and dad, Rita and Alf Taylor. The whole boat crew put the IRB through its sea trial but, as things happen, the ocean was a little too rough to put a brand-new boat through its full trial. The IRB was purchased through a successful Community Building Partnership grant. It is the season for annual general meetings, and I thank Menai and Engadine RFS for the kind invitations to attend their AGMs. Pertaining to RFS, we lost a longstanding member, Don Carter, who had 72 years of volunteering for the RFS for our community at Menai. I offer my sincere condolences to his family and in particular to his twin brother, Len, who joined Menai RFS at 10 years old in 1948. Rest in peace, Don.

The Northern Illawarra Chamber of Commerce met to hear the Minister for Finance and Small Business, the Hon. Damien Tudehope. I recommend to all members in this place that if they need an engaging, entertaining Minister to talk to their business community, Minister Tudehope is their man. I thank the Minister for the fantastic night and I thank him for travelling down to the Illawarra at night to meet with the Northern Illawarra Chamber of Commerce. We lost a legend in the field of activism and environmental conservation, Norm Dixon. Norm received the Heathcote community award for his work with Royal Life Saving at Woronora and his passion for the environment. He is survived by his beautiful wife, Betty, and their six children. Rest in peace, Comrade.

I attended the launch of UCI Wollongong. Wollongong has ridden into rarefied company by becoming the only city in the Southern Hemisphere to be awarded the prestigious UCI Bike City Label status. Announced by the world-governing body for cycling, the Union Cycliste Internationale in Switzerland, Wollongong joins 14 other global cities and regions that previously were granted the prestigious moniker since it relaunched in 2015. Those cities and regions include Copenhagen, Glasgow, Paris, Tyrol and Vancouver. The accolade is a significant

vote of confidence in Wollongong's major event-hosting capability and a powerful endorsement of the city's visionary cycling strategy.

Wollongong met the two key criteria to earn the designation by being named host of the 2022 UCI Road World Championships and adopting the city council's 2030 cycling strategy. The strategy will expand Wollongong's cycling network and infrastructure while engaging in initiatives to promote cycling and cycling safety within the region. The 2022 UCI Road World Championships will run from 18 to 25 September. New South Wales Minister for Jobs, Investment, Tourism and Western Sydney Stuart Ayres said that along with hosting the 2022 UCI Road World Championships, the UCI Bike City Label had the potential to create many new valuable opportunities for the region. Mr Ayres said:

It's fantastic to see Wollongong receive the UCI Bike City label, which will give us a new avenue to promote Wollongong, Sydney and surrounds to cycling enthusiasts and amateur riders looking for their next 'must-visit' destination.

I add that the majority of the events will be held in the electorate of Heathcote in the Northern Illawarra. I am very proud of that.

THE ENTRANCE LIBRARY

Mr DAVID MEHAN (The Entrance) (18:50): Public libraries are an important part of our society. They provide equal access by all members of our community to the wonder of books but also a whole bunch of other services, including, most importantly, a place to learn. I love libraries. I have spent many hours in the library here in Parliament. We have a fantastic library and fantastic library staff, who are very enthusiastic about their trade and who are always willing to assist members of Parliament. As a younger man I spent many hours in libraries just for the joy of books but also for a quiet place to study—a place I did not always have in my home. That was also the case for many people I grew up with. The library was a sanctuary for us to study and get ahead in life.

With that in mind, Central Coast Council's proposal to close The Entrance Library is dreadful news for our community and it is a great step back socially for the Central Coast. I was disappointed in Councillor Knight proactively coming to me as the local member and to my community and advising us of the council's intentions. My office learnt of a rumoured closure through the United Services Union. I immediately wrote to council, which confirmed the matter was under active consideration. My community has been fighting the closure ever since. The closure is now contained in the council's proposed operational plan and subject to community consultation, with the council set to make a final decision on 29 June.

The Central Coast region has 12 public libraries and council staff tell me that is a lot for a council area. However, we are a very large and geographically spread-out community, with lots of small townships and lots of people who do not have access to private transport—which is fairly essential to getting around on the Central Coast—and no equal access to public transport. In comparison, the neighbouring Lake Macquarie council has 12 libraries as well. It has a similar geographic profile and a collection of small communities spread out away from major centres. It is not unusual. The library is an essential service for our local government area and for our region.

Notwithstanding the council's current financial difficulties and the necessity to trim expenditure—which the community understands—the choice of doing this by closing a library is not justified on several points. The main point is that public libraries are supported by a guaranteed stream of funding based upon population and socio-economic ranking. As a minimum, the council currently receives \$2.55 per head of population on the Central Coast and we have a growing population. That per capita funding is set to go up to \$2.85 by 2022–23. So there is guaranteed increasing funding. In this year alone, the council will receive \$935,639 from the State Government to support its public libraries. It is not the case that there is no funding to support this service. It is growing funding.

My community has rallied behind this issue like nothing before. My own written petition has garnered over 1,000 signatures. Another member of the community has raised an electronic petition, garnering thousands of signatures. The operational plan, which people usually do not make a submission on, garnered 140 submissions this time. The council, after much questioning, finally conceded that this was three times more than the usual number of submissions it receives on an operational plan. Most of those were in relation to the library closure. The council has already cut back on its library services and in doing so it is not meeting the objectives of its own library strategy. Library hours have been reduced; there are very few libraries now that open on the weekend.

This library is an important community service. It not only provides basic library services but also attracts people to The Entrance community Monday to Friday when our economy is depressed. We are a tourist economy which only has a large population attending on weekends. If consultation is to mean anything under the Local Government Act, then the Central Coast Council and its administrator must listen to my community, keep The Entrance library open and support this important part of our social fabric.

OXLEY ELECTORATE EVENTS

Mrs MELINDA PAVEY (Oxley—Minister for Water, Property and Housing) (18:54): The extraordinary talents of four Urunga Hockey Club players have been recognised by Hockey NSW. Ambrose Page, Phoenix Smith and Josh Perry have been selected to participate in the Hockey NSW Athlete Acceleration Program after their performances at the recent Under 18 Boys Field State Championships in Wollongong. The Athlete Acceleration Program is New South Wales' most successful talent development program. It is highly sophisticated and has been developed through extensive collaboration with the NSW Institute of Sport and Hockey Australia to help produce medal-winning Olympians and ensure Australia's elite performance into the future. Urunga Hockey Club player Matt Kramer was also selected to the NSW Combined Independent Schools Open Boys team after his standout performances at the Under 18 Boys Field State Championships.

They say a village raises a child. These four young men have been helped along the way by the stellar efforts and support of their families and the Urunga Hockey Club president, Travis Ford. Travis is the man in charge of coaching these four talented juniors and he has told me it was no surprise to him that their talents were recognised by Hockey NSW. I congratulate those four young men from my region—Ambrose, Phoenix, Josh and Matt—and wish them the best in their continued journey to improve and to develop elite sporting skills. I also give a big shout-out to the local hockey community and to Travis. Urunga had nine players in the under 18 Coffs Coast squad at the State Championships, and that is a result of putting time, effort and energy into its junior club members. Sport continues to grow in our regions and grassroots regional clubs should be recognised and venerated for their work in helping our communities connect and keep healthy. We all know how important this is for our towns, particularly for our youth, so I thank all involved. I reiterate it is not just about those elite young athletes; it is about everybody that makes up a team to participate in the weekly competitions. It is what makes great regional country communities.

I also acknowledge the hard work of our Crown land managers, those volunteers who keep our local Crown land assets supported, for their commitment and energy and for putting in applications for funding through the Crown land assets upgrade programs. I am happy to share with the House that \$330,000 has been allocated to the Oxley electorate for assets to be upgraded. The Bellingen Shire Council will receive \$150,000 for a public amenity block at Alma Doepel Park Reserve at Mylestom and another \$150,000 for the installation of an amenities block at Roses Reserve at Thora. Kempsey Showground will receive \$10,000 for a kitchen facility upgrade and Dorrigo Showground will receive \$21,216 to install 20 new toilet suites. They are very practical investments in the way we deliver functions, activities and events. People travel thousands of kilometres to come to communities such as Kempsey and Dorrigo to attend campdrafting, local shows and all manner of events that make these showgrounds the hub of community activity. This brings the total amount of funding for Crown lands to \$261.6 million under our COVID stimulus arrangements.

It was my absolute pleasure to attend the Mid North Coast Surf Life Saving Awards of Excellence last Saturday night at the Crescent Head Surf Life Saving Club. Our surf clubs provide enormous support to our communities, and I acknowledge the work of Rod McDonagh, president of the Surf Life Saving Mid North Coast branch. It was a great night. I was delighted to tell the Kempsey-Crescent Head Surf Life Saving Club that it will receive \$105,800 to replace its lift. I broke protocol and let them know maybe 12 hours before I should have, before the Minister made the statewide announcement, but they deserved to know.

Elle and Ev, who were delivering our meals that night, have been under extraordinary pressure having to navigate up and down floors and lug thousands of kilograms of produce to the kitchen because the lifts that went in seven years ago were defunct and the lift operator went missing. I cannot express my gratitude enough to the sports Minister for ensuring that they can continue to do amazing work. I was also delighted to tell Gary Colston, president of the Nambucca Heads Surf Life Saving Club, that the club will receive \$77,377 to upgrade its windows and roof, install solar panels, ensure the extension to the deck can proceed, pay its debts and continue a life cycle of generating income and providing support to the magnificent Nambucca Heads community.

AMBULANCE SERVICES

Mr TIM CRAKANTHORP (Newcastle) (19:00): "Lives over KPIs", "Paramedics over polities", "Overworked and undervalued"—those are the slogans you may see chalked on ambulances across the State this week as our paramedics, rightfully fed up with the treatment from their employer, this Government, wear their frustrations on their sleeves. Here is what happens. They clock on for their shift in Newcastle. On arrival they find out they have to go to the Central Coast instead because it is short staffed. Down they go. The first call comes in. They arrive, assess the patient and then convey them to hospital. Then they sit in a bed block for a few hours. Isn't that an excellent use of our paramedics' time? That is in no way an indictment on the people who are working in the hospital, as they are also swamped and understaffed.

A bed block is problematic for a bunch of reasons but it is particularly bad as the situation snowballs. A crew stuck waiting to hand over their patient at a hospital is a crew off the road. When the next ambulance pulls in and joins the queue, there are now two crews off the road. It goes on. Now the jobs are backing up. So when our first crew gets back out there, they are straight off to the next patient, and the next patient, and the next patient. It is pretty busy, so now they are struggling to find time to take a break. By this stage they probably know that they are going to be working long beyond their rostered finish time. What does this look like in the community? It looks like an elderly gentleman with a broken hip who waited for an ambulance for six hours. It looks like a woman who passed away from anaphylaxis as her local ambulance crew had been sent to cover out of the area. It looks like October last year and 8 April this year and again just last night when there was a single crew to cover the Newcastle CBD and surrounds overnight.

When response times increase, patients and their families suffer, our paramedics work under more pressure and the chance of a poor outcomes increases. The stress, the overtime, the missed breaks, the bed blocks, the wait times—is this what our Government is really willing to accept? That question is rhetorical. Only in the last sitting week the member for Wallsend brought an important motion to the House to have minimum operating levels reviewed and more paramedics employed. Government MP after Government MP waltzed through this Chamber to pat themselves on the back and insist that there is no problem. They did that despite the fact that the Industrial Relations Commission begged to differ that very week. The reason for that is simple: Since 2010 there has barely been a skerrick of change to the zone operating levels. They are not even close to keeping pace with the significant increases to our population or accommodating the challenges presented by higher density living and congested road networks.

While this Government's hand had to be forced, 42 more ambulances are now on the road in Hunter Zone 1 each week—four more ambulances for day shifts and an extra two for afternoon shifts. Yet only a month ago the Government thought the minimum operating levels were fine. Something else it thinks is fine is a meagre 1.5 per cent pay rise offer, a figure that is well below inflation and well below what paramedics are worth. It comes after this Government reneged on the promise of a 2.5 per cent increase last year, with these frontline workers receiving a pitiful 0.3 per cent increase instead. What an absolute slap in the face to the people whom this Government has dubbed the heroes during the pandemic. This pay rise is not about paramedics making millions. All they want is recognition of the job that they do and an increase that keeps up with the cost of living. Is that really too much to ask?

GOULBURN BASE HOSPITAL

Mrs WENDY TUCKERMAN (Goulburn) (19:04): The \$150 million investment for the Goulburn Base Hospital has the redevelopment well underway. This major investment will deliver a fit-for-purpose facility to provide enhanced health care for the Goulburn region and meet the current and future needs of our local communities. The project includes a new four-storey clinical services building, featuring main hospital and hospital reception; emergency department; medical imaging department; intensive care unit; operating theatres; day surgery and recovery areas; medical, surgical, paediatric, rehabilitation and geriatric inpatient units with specific designative palliative care beds; maternity unit and birthing suite as well as paediatric and antenatal clinics; improved onsite parking; and extensions to the community health building for community mental health. The community of Goulburn and surrounds is thrilled with this investment.

Since I came into this role in 2019 it has come to my attention that an MRI machine is not included as part of this development, although a shell space is incorporated in the build. MRI technology provides non-invasive imaging of the body and allows detailed, three-dimensional anatomical images to assist with diagnosis and treatment, without the use of potentially harmful radiation. Since my election as the member for Goulburn in 2019, I have been working hard to secure an MRI for Goulburn. I have had many meetings with the health Minister, the Treasurer and the Premier in this regard. I have spoken with many concerned residents, not only of Goulburn but also our surrounding towns and villages who, for medical reasons, have been forced to travel for access to MRI technology. The majority of these people are forced to travel interstate or north towards Bowral, often experiencing lengthy delays for appointments and associated travel costs, which prolong diagnosis.

These discussions have also advised me that the Southern New South Wales Local Health District is the only health district in New South Wales without an MRI machine. As we know, it is the Federal Government that is responsible for the allocation of MRI licences, and I understand there is currently no application process for MRI Medicare eligible licences. Despite this, I have spoken with the local Federal member to ensure his support and have been made aware that a condition of securing a licence is that the machine must already be in place or pending within 12 months. I have assurances from the local Federal member that when the service is up and running, he will then be able to make an application for the Medicare licence.

The Goulburn Hospital needs an MRI machine to cope with our growing population as well as our local demographics and socio-economic factors. The enormous growth of our region—in part due to the COVID

pandemic and many city dwellers looking for a rural lifestyle change—as well as our many local attributes that make this such a great place to live make it imperative that we keep up with this demand and ensure we deliver this vital service. The Southern New South Wales Local Health District is currently working on a business case for MRI services for Goulburn, in partnership with NSW Health's Better Value Care team. This business case will examine demand across the district as well as the cost of establishing the services and exploration of potential funding models. I have no doubt this will present a strong case for the need for this service in Goulburn.

I am often contacted by concerned constituents who are forced to travel elsewhere for this service. As a result, I have started a petition to gauge community sentiment for this investment. In the few short days since this petition has started, it has gained more than 1,367 signatures, an indication of the community's strong support. An MRI machine would mean so much to so many. I will continue to fight until we get one. Quite simply, an MRI at Goulburn Base Hospital would be the jewel in the crown for this redevelopment. I look forward to continuing to work with the New South Wales Government to ensure we provide this service and meet the needs of our growing community. I encourage the people in my electorate and surrounding communities to sign this petition so we can take it to the health Minister to get this job done.

Mr KEVIN CONOLLY (Riverstone) (19:09): I commend the member for Goulburn for relaying the concerns of her community to this House in relation to the need for an MRI machine. I add my voice and commend her in saying that an MRI machine should be available to the people of her region, just as it should be available to everyone else in New South Wales. This non-ionising radiation form of medical imaging—which protects the body from ionising radiation when there is no need for exposure to it—should be a choice available to clinicians to recommend where it is the most appropriate form of imaging to be used. I encourage members who receive applications or requests of that kind from their community to get behind them and encourage their communities to work hard to get an MRI machine as a better option and one that should be available to every community in New South Wales.

FEMALE FOOTBALL WEEK

Ms ELENI PETINOS (Miranda) (19:10): I acknowledge the success of Female Football Week and its celebration in the Miranda electorate. Female Football Week is an outstanding nationwide initiative that celebrates the immense growth of women's football at all levels of the game. It promotes the important role women play in the development of football and encourages female players to continue their involvement in this fantastic sport. This year Female Football Week took place from 1 May to 9 May and was celebrated by a number of sporting communities across the Miranda Electorate, most notably the Sylvania Heights Community and Youth Club. Established in 1958 and operated entirely by volunteers, the Sylvania Heights Community and Youth Club is home to an incredible group of volunteers who truly capture the cornerstone values of community.

Passionate to enhance the prosperity of their home ground, the club's executive committee applied to upgrade the facilities through the New South Wales Government's My Community Project program. This initiative encouraged individuals and groups to submit their ideas with the objective of improving their local neighbourhood and amenity. These proposals were then voted on by our community to determine the successful grant recipients from the Miranda electorate. Sylvania Heights Community and Youth Club's project was aimed at modernising the 40-year-old structures, which were in need of a revamp after serving the players well for four decades. The project was strongly backed by the community, with the vote being the highest in the Miranda electorate. As noted by president, Trent Jordan, "A lot of volunteer effort went into securing the grant and delivering a fantastic outcome for the local community." From this outstanding effort, the club successfully secured \$200,000.

The scope of works now delivered by the My Community Project funding includes upgrades to the male and female bathroom amenities, a new female-friendly change room, new accessible and disabled toilets, two new kitchens, security upgrades, a foyer and meeting room renovation, and a new barbeque. This is a fantastic investment in our community facilities at Sylvania Heights Community and Youth Club, which would not have been possible without the vision, drive and hard work of the club's incredible executive committee. I acknowledge the committee, comprised of president Trent Jordan, treasurer Tony Robins, vice-president Peter Barker, secretary Jenny Buchanan, registrar Suzanne Foster, and grants and sponsorships manager Chris Plakias.

To celebrate Female Football Week, on 8 May 2021 the Sylvania Heights Football Club executive launched the new female change rooms. This is undoubtedly a milestone for the club, as the provision of female change rooms was a significant aspect of the My Community Project. Whilst female change rooms might not sound like a "sexy" project, they are absolutely essential, catering for the exciting growth of female footballers in the club and our community and also ensuring that female players have inclusive access to facilities. I commend the Sylvania Heights Football Club executive committee for their work in facilitating the Female Football Week celebrations and thank them for their contribution to our local sporting community. I commend president James Shearer, vice-presidents Michael Barker and Steven Stavropoulos, secretary Brenton Kemp, treasurer Helen Plakias, registrar Lisa Bacon and facilities and grounds manager Stephen Webster.

I was joined for Female Football Week celebrations at Sylvania Heights Community and Youth Club by Sydney FC W-League player Angelique Hristodoulou and the oldest registered female football player in Australia, Carol Askew. It was at Sylvania Heights Football Club where Angelique began her promising career as a junior. Through the nurturing nature of local community football and her number one supporters—her parents, Eric and Vicky—Angelique was able to develop her amazing skills, sending her on a trajectory of outstanding achievements.

Now Sydney FC's superstar midfielder at 19 years old, Angelique has not only been signed in the W-League since she was 15 but has also represented Australia in the Mini Matildas, and at one stage captained the team. I congratulate Angelique on her outstanding achievements and look forward to seeing her continue to succeed as an inspiring ambassador for women's football. At 73 years of age, Carol has an outstanding story thanks to the support of Sylvania Heights Football Club throughout her career. Carol was part of the club's first ever women's competitive team at the club and has aided in the outstanding growth of women's football in the decades since. I congratulate Carol. Female Football Week is an important celebration in our local community. I thank Sylvania Heights Community & Youth Club for highlighting this occasion for junior women and look forward to seeing the ongoing development of female participation and representation in the game we all love.

CARLO AND MARIA LONZA

Mr GUY ZANGARI (Fairfield) (19:15): This week I had the great honour and pleasure to visit my constituents Mr Carlo and Mrs Maria Lanza, who recently celebrated their seventieth wedding anniversary. Mrs Lanza also celebrated a milestone birthday recently, her ninetieth. The Lanzas' story is one that resonates with the Italian migrant community all over Australia. It is the story of a couple who wanted to build a better life for their children and came to our great nation to do it. Married in the beautiful coastal town of Capo D'Orlando in Sicily in 1951, Mr and Mrs Lanza knew they wanted more opportunities for their children. In 1962 Carlo set sail to Australia on the *Neptunia*, leaving Maria and their baby daughter, Rosetta, behind. Carlo's intention was to find work as soon as he got to Australia so that he could save the funds needed to eventually bring Maria and Rosetta here to settle.

Carlo's first experience of life in Australia was at Innisfail in far North Queensland and his first job was cutting sugar cane there. Cutting sugar cane then was a hard job of intense manual labour. To this day, it remains a job that is not for the faint-hearted. Many migrants from European countries worked long hours to earn enough money to buy their own small farms at that time. Carlo made many friends in Innisfail, the remoteness making for a tight-knit community where residents helped each other out when times were tough. Carlo, however, had different ideas when it came to settling down for good. After almost two years, he was joined in Australia by Maria and Rosetta and the family chose to live in New South Wales and settle in Canley Heights, where Mr and Mrs Lanza have lived ever since.

A few years ago Carlo wanted to return to Innisfail to see the place that had welcomed him when he was a newly arrived migrant from Italy. In typical Italian fashion, Carlo's family took the trip with him. He tells me it was a particularly emotional time as many of the friends he had made had passed away but he was lucky enough to meet the descendants of his friends who remain in Innisfail today. As with many migrant families, there were highs and lows. For Carlo and Maria in their life here in Australia, the most heartbreaking one was the tragic passing of their son, Cono, in a car accident when he was just 20 years old. Through it all, Mr and Mrs Lanza showed a steadfast commitment to their dream of building a better future for their family. Maria told me that even though they lost their son here, they remained loyal to the country and the life that they carved out here and committed to keep moving forward.

Carlo has been the epitome of the Italian migrant working-class man, holding down long-term jobs at Holden and Leyland and at Fairfield City Council as a groundskeeper. Maria has been the consummate Italian wife and mother, the glue that kept her family together during the tough times. Carlo and Maria have shared a love that has spanned the generations. Their 70 years together are a testament to their commitment to the dream and to each other. They have built a close-knit family who have had many successes in their professional and personal lives. They have four grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. I am proud to say that I taught their grandson Anthony when he was a student at Patrician Brothers College at Fairfield. I must also say that three of my children have been taught by their granddaughter Marcia.

It is wonderful to see such a close local family and a migrant success story in the heart of the Fairfield electorate, where they have been residents for over 60 years. On behalf of members, I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to this wonderful couple on their seventieth wedding anniversary and a very happy birthday to Mrs Lanza on her ninetieth birthday. They are remarkable people and the epitome of the great Australian migrant success story. I look forward to sharing many more espresso coffees with them in the future. Tanti auguri, Carlo and Maria Lanza.

RICHMOND BRIDGE AND BYPASS

Ms ROBYN PRESTON (Hawkesbury) (19:19): I will update the House on the new Richmond bridge and bypass, which I announced yesterday during a visit from the Prime Minister, the Premier, Minister Andrew Constance, Minister Paul Fletcher, Senator Marise Payne and Councillor Sarah Richards. The new bridge and bypass will alleviate a long-term traffic bottleneck between Richmond and North Richmond. It will double traffic capacity across the Hawkesbury River, reduce travel times, improve safety and cater for future growth. This is the infrastructure my community deserves and I am proud to have the financial commitment from the Morrison and Berejiklian governments for this substantial investment.

The additional funding of \$200 million from the Commonwealth and \$50 million from the very kind Treasurer and Premier in the upcoming 2021-22 New South Wales budget brings the total joint Federal and State commitment to \$500 million. I will repeat that: \$500 million. The current Richmond bridge takes more than 31,000 vehicles a day, with a single lane in each direction, and funnels traffic through the town centres of Richmond and North Richmond. That is why Hawkesbury locals and visitors alike are very pleased that we are doubling bridge capacity and bypassing those town centres.

The announcement followed extensive consultation with the Hawkesbury community and stakeholders. Consultation will continue, with the community invited to give feedback on the preferred option, including any recommended improvements that could be considered for the town centres of Richmond and North Richmond as well as any potential environmental impacts. The beneficial traffic conditions will help protect Richmond's heritage and provide the opportunity to improve amenities in both town centres.

The new Richmond bridge and bypass will provide a new connection for road users between the Bells Line of Road and the main road network, while the existing Richmond bridge will remain in its current form, continuing to provide a link between Richmond and North Richmond. Road users and pedestrians are pleased that they will benefit from the upgrading of six intersections as well as key sections of Londonderry Road and The Driftway and the existence of a provision for active transport that will encourage bike use and exercise. It is a pretty place to exercise in Hawkesbury. This important infrastructure will also improve flood resilience.

It is estimated that the new bypass road and two-lane bridge will save motorists up to 12 minutes of travel time each way. The reduction in travel time means more time spent with loved ones, a quicker journey to work and a return to the village environment of Richmond and North Richmond. The funding of critical infrastructure will greatly assist with our COVID-19 recovery and is expected to create an estimated 850 jobs. The new Richmond bridge and bypass is in addition to previous measures undertaken to improve safety and traffic flow. To date, we have upgraded the intersection of Kurrajong Road and Old Kurrajong Road, upgraded the intersection of the Bells Line of Road and Grose Vale Road and have made significant progress on the upgrade of the intersection of March Street and Bosworth Street.

I am glad to be a part of a government whose strong economic management allows it to deliver the infrastructure that the Hawkesbury community deserves. I look forward to continuing to advocate for Hawkesbury and achieving the outcomes necessary to secure the safety and improve the quality of life of all Hawkesbury locals and visitors alike. I thank and commend the NSW and Federal governments for the investment in this vital piece of infrastructure in the Hawkesbury electorate.

DRAFT WAGGA WAGGA TRANSPORT PLAN

Dr JOE McGIRR (Wagga Wagga) (19:23): The draft Wagga Wagga Transport Plan is the first place-based transport plan developed for a regional area in New South Wales. It comes at a time of significant growth for the city, with a target of 100,000 population within 20 years. Making good decisions about transport is critical to improving our communities. There is much good thinking in the plan but there are also challenges. The plan covers a number of themes: a city connected to its region and the world; a world-class freight and logistics hub; improving transport choices; and making Wagga Wagga an even better place. Yes, I know it is hard to imagine that it could get better.

The plan will harness new technologies and provide safer roads and streets. It points to priority networks for walking, cycling, bus services, general vehicles and heavy vehicles; walkways and buses within the Health and Knowledge Precinct and central business district; local access to and from precincts within Wagga Wagga's urban core; and reconfiguration of Edward Street and Hammond Avenue to focus on movements to and from land uses along the corridor. That is good thinking. A priority of the plan is to make public transport a first-choice option. According to the plan, if only a small percentage of motorists worked from home, caught a bus or cycled to work, within 20 years there would be about 13,000 fewer vehicle trips a day. That, combined with the use of modern technology such as vehicle tracking, parking identification and the use of electric vehicles, would make

our lives better and safer. The plan also highlights the value of travel within and between city precincts and the development of industry and the intermodal freight hub. That is the thinking we need as we look to the future.

But there are challenges that we must do more to address. I refer to the need for better traffic flow from north to south and east to west, better movement of heavy vehicles, management of the Inland Rail's impacts, and better rail services and airport facilities. The urban transport study that was published with the report noted that more than 90 per cent of heavy vehicle trips had their origin or destination in Wagga Wagga. That has been used to justify not considering a heavy vehicle bypass. However, the reality for many residents and for those using the health precinct is that the heavy vehicle traffic along the Sturt Highway through town is a problem that needs to be addressed. The heavy vehicles may not be travelling straight through but they are there and they are travelling in the city. Industry representatives dispute the figures of non-local heavy vehicle traffic going through the city. In any case, they say Wagga Wagga is an important changeover point. The fact is Wagga Wagga needs a bypass and we need to have a strategy to deal with the heavy vehicle traffic through the Sturt Highway.

Given the infrastructure being developed in the city's north, there is an urgent need to investigate the link roads around the potential northern bypass. With that comes the need for the duplication of the Gobbagombalin bridge, which the plan references, in the medium term. That needs to be explored promptly, not only because of the bypass but also because of our growing northern suburbs and the need to improve traffic flow from north to south. That should be matched by an improved Glenfield Road, which should be a State road and should be duplicated, at least in parts. The Inland Rail will mean more and longer trains disrupting traffic flow through Wagga Wagga, particularly where roads cross the rail line. A new duplicated overpass on Glenfield Road should be considered. The lifting of the Edmondson Street bridge, which must happen to make the Inland Rail a reality, must accommodate the needs of South Wagga Public School and residents. The coordination of different government departments interacting on the Inland Rail would be improved by a single government point of contact.

Improved rail services are also necessary, particularly to Sydney. Timetables need to be customer friendly and rail travel should be a safe, reliable, cost-effective and relaxing option. Finally, I note that our airport is one of the few not owned by the local council. I understand the important links to the Forest Hill air defence base but we do need to find a way to continue to upgrade and modernise the facility. Economic growth must not be at the cost of our ability to travel, which is so important for how we live, work, spend time with friends and family, learn and enjoy ourselves.

SECONDARY STUDENT LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Ms JANELLE SAFFIN (Lismore) (19:28): Today I had the pleasure and privilege to meet with 18 senior students from nine schools located in my Lismore electorate. They were here to participate in the Secondary Student Leadership Program. The students are Ethan Newborn and Madison Bambach from Wollumbin High School; Odessa Smith and Kalkin Coleman from The Rivers Secondary College, Richmond River High Campus; Tabitha Leonard and Brigitte Maloney from Woodenbong Central School; Cameo Bristow and Nyah Chmielewski from Murwillumbah High School; Faryn Johnston and Hayley Butler from Kyogle High School; Michael Montiel and Lillian McAlpine from Bonalbo Central School; Kiani Tribolet and Harry Jobson from Nimbin Central School; Daniel Bindley and Ben Crosthwaite from The Rivers Secondary College, Kadina High Campus; and Julian Thompson and Sophie Halladay from The Rivers Secondary College, Lismore High Campus.

On seven occasions in May and June this year we will meet students who come to Parliament House. The Secondary Student Leadership Program is devised, organised and hosted by the Department of Parliamentary Services Engagement and Education team. I thank the team for its great work in making the program available to students. In particular, I thank Jeannie Douglass, the Manager of Education and Engagement, and her team, Rita Bila, Daniela Giorgi, Megan Perry and Sunaira Barkat. Members simply have to turn up. We get to meet and address the students, answer their questions and spend time with them. In the words of the parliamentary team:

The program recognises the school leadership role of students and provides them with the opportunity to meet their elected representatives—

if they have not already, and I know members go into their electorates to do that—

and to develop their knowledge of constitutional and parliamentary processes including the role of the Governor.

The students meet parliamentary officers and view proceedings from the public galleries—I often wonder what they think of question time—and they visit Government House to meet with Her Excellency the Governor. It was interesting to have a discussion with them. We had a good dialogue. In no particular order, I refer to some of the issues they raised. One issue was the need to have what the students call a study room, or a quiet room, either in their school or close by. They talked about their libraries and the various rooms set aside in their schools. Sometimes the library is not suitable for study and rooms set aside often store spare chairs and tables. I said to them that I would pass on to the school principals the issues that they raised with me.

They also said that as student representatives they want better access to their principals and senior teachers to feed back to them about issues that they are in touch with. Some of them said they had that access but they would like it to be more systematic. The students talked about how to motivate people about issues of concern that they are passionate about. They asked me if I could influence the curriculum. I said that that would be a bit challenging but that I would give it a go. They all raised the issue of consent. We had quite a good discussion about that. They talked about roads and potholes, like we all do. The Bonalbo students talked about the Clarence Way. The Woodenbong students also would have been concerned about that. They said they wanted a place for youth to go where they could simulate car racing or play Minecraft. I am familiar with Minecraft through my grandson. They also talked about having an elegant space where they could have non-alcoholic drinks and music, et cetera. They raised a range of issues, including their desire for more renewable energy and zero emissions. It was great to have such an informed discussion with them.

GREAT WESTERN HIGHWAY TUNNEL

Mr PHILIP DONATO (Orange) (19:33): This Government talks a lot about its commitment to regional New South Wales. However, it often disappoints the communities that live beyond the Great Dividing Range. One example was the pre-election promise of The Nationals former transport Minister, Duncan Gay. In a document distributed in 2007 by the National Party—14 years ago—Mr Gay indicated that if elected his party would construct the Bells Line expressway linking Sydney and the Central West. In 2011 The Nationals were elected to government and Mr Gay was appointed roads Minister. In spite of having the ability to deliver on that promise, they failed to put a shovel in the soil, let alone ink to plan.

Mr Gay said that his promised expressway would be nation-building infrastructure and a roadway constructed to safely and efficiently connect the Central West with Sydney. I agree that it would certainly be visionary and nation building. Alas, no such project proceeded beyond a vote-grabbing election flyer. One of the greatest examples of critical infrastructure requiring significant investment and improvement is the Great Western Highway through the Blue Mountains. This is a major thoroughfare that is routinely congested and is the final frontier of expressway exploration out of the Sydney Basin. The Government's latest announcement of its proposal to construct a tunnel through the sandstone mountains is long overdue. I hope that the Government actually delivers on it but I will remain a sceptic until I see a hole in the mountain for myself.

Connectivity between regional New South Wales and our State's capital is essential and is what the people and businesses of western New South Wales need and deserve. If the Government's proposal is actually delivered, the people of the Central West and western New South Wales as well as the citizens of New South Wales will benefit enormously. At present the proposed tunnel would extend from Blackheath to Little Hartley. Although it will certainly improve a portion of the thoroughfare between Hartley and Blackheath, there remains a substantial portion of the route which will still bottleneck, impacting traffic flow in towns like Medlow Bath and Katoomba. There needs to be ambition and a greater vision, one which involves a seamless expressway from the lower Blue Mountains to the base of Mount Victoria. A series of tunnels are required to achieve this and it must be built to accommodate growing road use beyond our lifetime.

Let us talk about the benefits of this project. First and foremost is road safety, which will be improved through roadway improvements, removing curves, flattening gradients and eliminating view obstructions while offering multiple overtaking lanes. Second is efficiency. Making a more direct route clearly makes travel shorter and quicker, reduces fatigue and enables goods and services to be delivered to and from the Central West in shorter time frames. The improvements would no doubt ease congestion, which often plagues this major highway. Third is decentralisation. Improving the roadway connection and decreasing travel times between Sydney and the Central West will be an attractive feature to those considering relocating to the regions and will also provide confidence to businesses looking to establish west of the Great Dividing Range. Decentralisation will benefit the congested Sydney Basin, relieving pressure on the property market while helping to grow the communities of the Central West.

Fourth is growth and unlocking our potential. The Central West and greater western New South Wales have untapped potential for businesses, families and lifestyle. Ease of travel, price of land and connectivity are factors that people consider when establishing or relocating businesses and homes. The efficiency gains in movement of goods and services in this corridor will increase, providing improved returns and business opportunities. Fifth is access to health services. It is a fact that many people frequently travel from the Central West and beyond to Sydney to access specialist medical services. Most who travel do so on the roads. Delivering a Great Western Highway tunnel through the Blue Mountains will provide greater ease for those country folk accessing vital specialist health services.

Finally, but not least importantly, there are jobs. The infrastructure project itself will create thousands of jobs and inject billions of dollars into our State's economy. There will be a flow-on effect and, as I said earlier, the improved roadway infrastructure will help unlock the potential of the Central West, drawing people to settle,

establish businesses and families and provide job opportunities in the west. The benefits are obvious but the Government's often-used term "feasibility" is Houdini's key to escape from the commitment of a promise. If this is truly nation-building infrastructure, it will yield economic return and value for generations. It would be an amazing legacy to leave. This time let it be more than a glossy brochure of would-bes and could-bes. Let's get it done.

KIDS OF MACARTHUR HEALTH FOUNDATION

Mr PETER SIDGREAVES (Camden) (19:38): It was my pleasure to attend the Kids of Macarthur Health Foundation's twenty-first annual ball on Saturday night. I thank the Hon. Brad Hazzard, Minister for Health and Medical Research, for the generous donation of \$50,000 to the Kids of Macarthur Health Foundation's parental sanctuary, which is being constructed at Campbelltown Hospital. The Kids of Macarthur Health Foundation serves our community with the aim of improving healthcare outcomes for children in the Macarthur region. The foundation does this by purchasing medical equipment for local hospitals and community health centres and running health initiatives that benefit our community. Kids of Macarthur is the only charity in the area that supports the health care and needs of every child living in our region, irrespective of whether they are newborn, seriously ill, sick or injured, require long-term therapy or have intellectual or physical disability or mental illness.

The Kids of Macarthur Health Foundation's twenty-first annual ball successfully raised an adequate amount of money that will allow state-of-the-art facilities for a brand-new parental sanctuary. The generous space will include a shower room, a kitchen, laundry facilities, a dining area, two lounge areas, a television lounge and a breastfeeding room. The modern, open-plan design will accommodate the needs of parents and their families in a new paediatric ward of Campbelltown Hospital. I acknowledge the incredible work of chairman Bruce Hanrahan of the Kids of Macarthur Health Foundation, who has been an active member of the Macarthur community. I recognise Denise McGrath, the chief executive officer, who is the driving force behind the foundation. Denise and her team devote their time and skills to ensure that the foundation runs smoothly and with the ability to continue contributing to the improvement of health services for children in the local community.

When the paediatric unit first opened at Campbelltown Hospital in 1999, Dr Richard Dunstan decided to hold a dinner to celebrate the opening of the new unit while raising funds to purchase new equipment. Over 20 years later the foundation continues to do so, with the same outcome. As founder of the charity, the medical scholarship was renamed in his honour to "The Dr Richard Dunstan Scholarship" on the night. Richard has been an active paediatrician in Macarthur since 1988, consistently visiting medical offices in Camden and the Macarthur region, as well as being a member of the Kids of Macarthur Health Foundation finance subcommittee. On behalf of the Kids of Macarthur Health Foundation, I thank Fairmont Homes and Oran Park Town, which have built a third charity house and donated all proceeds to support the work of the foundation. The funds allowed the charity to meet its commitment to purchasing medical equipment. Overall I recognise and thank the sponsors who have supported and continue to support the local foundation.

The founding sponsors have been involved in supporting the charity since its inception in 2000. They are Campbelltown Catholic Club, Campbelltown RSL, Ingleburn RSL and Wests Group Macarthur. The platinum ball sponsors have supported the foundation throughout the year. They are Cameron Brae and the Rotary Club of Narellan. The foundation's gold sponsors generously supported the twenty-first ball's meals, drinks and prizes. I recognise Bradcorp, Bottlemart, Eden Spa, Inspire Energy, Macarthur Travel and Cruise Centre, Perich Group, Scandinavian Profiles and Wakeling Automotive. Lastly I recognise the corporate partners that make a significant in-kind contribution of up to \$5,000 each year of products and/or services to Kids of Macarthur, engage in the local community and raise funds to support children's health. I thank local businesses Camden Hire, Dignan and Hanrahan Solicitors and Snap Printing. I sincerely thank the Kids of Macarthur Health Foundation's board, CEO, team and sponsors for their dedication and hard work. There is no question that the Macarthur region is better off for having them consistently provide for and meet the needs of the growing Macarthur region.

TRIBUTE TO KEITH CALDWELL

Mr RYAN PARK (Keira) (19:43): Together with the Illawarra community and all of the Illawarra representatives in this place, I am deeply saddened by the news of the passing of Keith Caldwell, who was club president of Bulli Surf Life Saving Club for 16 years. I had the great pleasure of knowing Keith and working with him and I have great respect for the passion and commitment that he showed to our community through the Illawarra surf lifesaving movement, particularly his own club at Bulli. Keith spent his entire life in the service of others. He loved and protected his community through over 30 years of service with the NSW Police Force. Keith also loved and protected his community through surf lifesaving; he was an icon of the surf lifesaving movement at a local, State and national level.

Not only was Keith a life member of Bulli Surf Life Saving Club, earlier this year he was given the highest accolade in Surf Life Saving when he was made a life member of the national organisation. We are all better

people for having known Keith "Cocky" Caldwell, as he was known. I feel a great sadness for his loss; however, I also feel blessed to have known him and to have helped him over the years with the sport and the club that he loved so much. Keith offered the same respect, compassion and enthusiasm regardless of who you were, where you were from or what club you represented. Keith was the epitome of a lifesaver; he was there for everyone in their time of need. Keith was a kind, generous man who also displayed great leadership and who made a great effort to nurture and mentor young surf lifesavers who were learning their craft.

For those of us who have coastal electorates, we know the importance of the surf lifesaving movement to our communities. I know the member for Wyong is an active member of his local club. Certainly Keith was an icon in my local community, both within surf lifesaving and in the broader community, for the contribution he made. I offer my deepest condolences to Keith's wife, Maria, his family, Jamie, Alicia, Natalie and Catherine, and his many friends. I extend my condolences to members of Bulli Surf Life Saving Club—a club that I am proud to represent in this Parliament—to the Illawarra Surf Life Saving community, the State body and of course the national body, to which Keith contributed so much. We will miss you Keith. We will miss your activism for your beloved club Bulli, a champion club. We will miss your contributions to the surf lifesaving movement and we will miss your generosity and enthusiasm. Thank you for your dedication and years of service.

NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE

Mr GURMESH SINGH (Coffs Harbour) (19:46): Today I salute our local NSW Rural Fire Service [RFS] crews for their extraordinary work on the Coffs Coast and in other communities statewide. The NSW Rural Fire Service Coffs Coast team celebrated the official handover of seven vehicles to assist volunteers at local brigades to provide an even greater level of fire protection to the local community as well as recognised long-serving members. On Saturday in Coffs Harbour I joined NSW RFS Chief Superintendent Michele Cooper, Area Commander North Eastern, local firefighters and their supporters to officially hand over the keys of the new tankers. I was joined also by the member for Oxley, the Hon. Melinda Pavey. The six tankers and one support vehicle, together worth about \$1.43 million, are enabling rural fire brigades in Red Hill, Coramba, Sandy Beach, Urunga, Repton and North Bellingen to strengthen their firefighting efforts across their communities. The New South Wales Government's ongoing investment in new vehicles ensures NSW RFS members have access to modern firefighting technology when responding to fires and other incidents.

The event also provided an opportunity to recognise 55 Coffs Coast brigade members who had together amassed 1,467 years of service to the NSW RFS. We awarded long service medals and clasps to dedicated volunteers who had given between 11 and 72 years of service to the community, as well as 13 national medals to individuals who have gone above and beyond in their roles. I particularly congratulate Noel Bultitude of Woolgoolga Brigade for his incredible 72 years of service. Noel joined the then newly formed Woolgoolga Creek Rural Fire Brigade at the age of 14 with his father. Noel has been an active member of the RFS Woolgoolga Brigade since then—a massive 72 years. He is now a life member of the brigade and has been a deputy captain, senior deputy captain and captain during those years. He was instrumental in the building of the new Woolgoolga Rural Fire Brigade station in 2003. During his lifetime Noel has also volunteered with the SES in Woolgoolga for six years during the 1990s. He is a well-known member of his community and is an active member in many other volunteer organisations.

Also receiving medals that day were the recipients of the National Medal. For 39 years' service, Robert Pike of the Boambee Brigade; for 39 years' service, John Bojarski of the Coramba Brigade; for 45 years' service, Allan Woods of the Coramba Brigade; for 45 years' service, Elaine Woods of the Coramba Brigade; for 32 years' service, Neville Woodward of the Red Hill Brigade; for 29 years' service, Stephen Short of the Red Hill Brigade; for 28 years' service, Jason Booth of the Red Hill Brigade; for 20 years combined service in the military and the RFS, Raymond Tait of the Country Club Brigade; for 19 years' service, Maree Coonan of the Woolgoolga Brigade; for 19 years' service, Linda Cook of the Coramba Brigade; for 18 years' service, James Whitelegge of the Moonee Brigade; and for 16 years' service, Rachael Eggins of the Coffs Coast team.

Recipients of the Long Service Medal from the Coffs Harbour electorate are: for 11 years' service, Ray Lambert of the Corindi Brigade, William Richardson of the Moonee Brigade and Peter Nuske of the Moonee Brigade. For 12 years' service, Paul Green of the Boambee Brigade, Anne Atkinson of the Coffs Coast Support Brigade and Dave Ormsby of the Red Hill Brigade. For 14 years' service, Rory Firkins of the Boambee Brigade and Sam Eggins of the Sherwood Creek Brigade. For 16 years' service Heather Murphy of the Coramba Brigade. For 22 years' service, all with the Sherwood Creek Brigade, Jennifer Eggins, Debbie Eggins, Malcolm Matters, Julie Wetherspoon, and Suzanne Schweikert.

Further recipients include: for 23 years' service John Alford of the Mullaway Brigade; Christopher Firkins for 24 years' service with the Boambee Brigade; Lorraine Webb for 24 years' service with the Mullaway Brigade; Alan Eggins for 25 years' service with the Sherwood Creek Brigade; Robert Wray for 26 years' service with the Coffs Coast Support Brigade; and Martin Thick for 32 years' service with the Boambee Brigade and Urunga.

Francis "Bob" Piper for 40 years' service with the Corindi Brigade; David O'Keeffe for 42 years' service with the Country Club Brigade; James Child for 44 years' service with the RFS; Roger Jennings for 46 years' service with the Mullaway Brigade; and, of course, Noel Bultitude 72 years' service with the Woolgoolga Brigade.

The RFS Coffs Coast Team consists of 35 local brigades with a membership of over 1,100 volunteers. Together they protect an area of nearly 3,000 square kilometres and nearly 100,000 people. RFS firefighters remain on hand 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and we should be extremely proud of and grateful for their contribution. The time they spend with their brigades volunteering is time away from their work, businesses, farms and families. Each of them is a shining example to the community and we appreciate and thank them for their service.

SOLDIERS BEACH SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB

Mr DAVID HARRIS (Wyong) (19:51): A big thanks to all for a terrific night on Saturday 5 June at the Soldiers Beach senior presentation. I will declare a bit of a conflict of interest; I am a patrolling member of Soldiers Beach and former president of the club. So it was a great honour to join with my comrades to celebrate what had been one of our busiest seasons, given the increased crowds due to COVID and people staying close to home, which put a great strain on our resources. In the past we have been able to get 10 patrols up with about 10 members. This year unfortunately we could only get six patrols up and one roving patrol.

It meant that virtually every weekend we were on patrol and we would get one weekend out of four where we were not required. This season our club was involved in 101 rescues and over 5,265 volunteer hours, so people really made an effort and that was recognised on the night. I give a very special mention to Ellen Van Wessel and Lara MacIntyre for their huge effort to bring the presentation together, which also meant organising all the awards. A huge thanks to Brent and the team from Dunes for a fantastic meal and great service. Dunes is the restaurant at the top of the clubhouse and it really supports the club by putting money back into the rescue side of our operation.

I was joined on the night by the Federal member for Dobell, Emma McBride, and we were honoured to be able to present the awards. It was a mixed night because along with the celebrations of all the fantastic efforts we also said final goodbyes to three of our life members who had passed away—Richard Field, Greg Irvine and John "Seagull" Edwards. They will be missed. They have put in countless hours to make our club successful over the years. We had a moment of silence to reflect on the great contribution that they made, not just to our club but also to surf lifesaving in general.

As a wrap-up of our award winners for the evening, Club Person of the Year was Mick Spring. Mick is a fantastic guy and full of energy. He was responsible for getting a group together to fix all the nipper boards and to start up nipper board training again, which is a valuable service. Our Junior Club Person of the Year was Toby Sloane. Our Patrol Person of the Year was Neville Bunn. Neville is incredible and puts in much effort all around the club but particularly on patrols. Our Junior Patrol Person of the Year was Hanna Hopwood. It is great to see one of the youngsters who loves surf lifesaving. I think this year she joined the under-23 women's boat crew and started rowing as well, which was a fantastic achievement.

Our rookie of the year was Jackson Vandertouw. Our senior competitor of the year was Karen Harvey, who was really excited. She had made a comeback and had competed in the nationals in the sprint and the flags and in some of the team events. Our under-23 boat rower of the year was Mary Williamson. The Greg Irvine award, which was named in honour of Greg who had passed away, was given to Glen Coppen. That award was for boat rower of the year. Our associate of the year was Rachael Howieson. Our official of the year was the incredible Gail Rixom. People may not know that none of the club's members can compete unless there is an official who volunteers on the day. Gail has been volunteering as an official for well over a decade, which means that our club has been able to compete.

The John Axford award, which is for meritorious service, went to the father-and-son team of Ian and Bryce Glanville, who pulled off an amazing rescue in quite difficult conditions. It was one where they both sustained injury. Ian had cracked ribs and he and Bryce had many abrasions. They pulled a young girl out of the water. As often happens in surf lifesaving, the young girl disappeared. She was in shock and so pleased to be rescued. Ian went to hospital and Bryce went back and finished his patrol after that, even though he had been cut to pieces. The Greg Martin award went to Matt Griffiths for conspicuous service. I congratulate all the awards' winners and all the people who have been involved throughout the season. It has been a tough one. The crowds were the biggest we have seen. The local caravan park was overflowing. Boxing Day had the biggest crowd I have ever seen at the beach. We were stretched to the limit. But it was a great celebration and everyone did well.

The House adjourned pursuant to resolution at 19:57 until

Wednesday 9 June at 9:30.