



New South Wales

Legislative Assembly

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES (HANSARD)

**Fifty-Seventh Parliament
First Session**

Tuesday, 22 June 2021

Authorised by the Parliament of New South Wales

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 22 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.

Announcements

CHAMBER SOCIAL DISTANCING

The SPEAKER: I draw the attention of members to the arrangements in place for COVID-safe sittings of the House this week. I ask members to observe at all times the arrangements for social distancing as indicated by the markings on the floor of the Chamber. Additional cleaning will take place during each break, and frequent hand sanitising is encouraged. The air conditioning will maximise the airflow through the Chamber and utilise 100 per cent fresh air. This may result in the Chamber feeling a little cooler than usual.

Visitors

VISITORS

The SPEAKER: I acknowledge the Treasurer's guests, who are in the Cooper Gallery to watch the Budget Speech: Jo-Anne Reeves and David Veness from Parkinson's NSW, Sophie Smith from Running for Premature Babies and Dr Phoebe Williams.

Presiding Officers

TEMPORARY SPEAKERS

The SPEAKER: I announce changes to the Speakers' Panel. I thank the member for North Shore for her contribution during her time as Temporary Speaker. I wish her the best in her new role as Parliamentary Secretary for the Environment. The vacancy on the Speakers' Panel will be filled by the member for Goulburn, whom I warmly welcome as a Temporary Speaker.

Committees

LEGISLATION REVIEW COMMITTEE

Membership

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN: I move:

That:

- (1) Pursuant to section 6 of the Legislation Review Act 1987, Robyn Anne Preston be appointed to serve on the Legislation Review Committee in place of Felicity Lesley Wilson.
- (2) A message be sent informing the Legislative Council.

Motion agreed to.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

Membership

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN: I move:

That pursuant to section 54 of the Public Finance and Audit Act 1983, Gurmeh Singh be appointed to serve on the Public Accounts Committee in place of Felicity Lesley Wilson.

Motion agreed to.

Motions

PARLIAMENT LIVESTREAMING

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN: I move:

That this House authorises the livestreaming on Facebook:

- (1) Today of the Treasurer's second reading speech on the Appropriation Bill and cognate bills.

(2) On Thursday 24 June 2021 of the Leader of the Opposition's speech on the Appropriation Bill and cognate bills.

Motion agreed to.

Announcements

BUDGET SPEECH

The SPEAKER: Before I call the Treasurer to deliver the Budget Speech, I remind members to extend to the Treasurer the usual courtesy for the Budget Speech to be delivered uninterrupted. That courtesy will also be extended during the Leader of the Opposition's speech in reply.

Bills

APPROPRIATION BILL 2021

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL 2021

ELECTRIC VEHICLES (REVENUE ARRANGEMENTS) BILL 2021

ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND ASSESSMENT AMENDMENT (INFRASTRUCTURE CONTRIBUTIONS) BILL 2021

NSW GENERATIONS FUNDS AMENDMENT BILL 2021

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

Second Reading Speech

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

That these bills be now read a second time.

YOUR FAMILY, YOUR FUTURE

A COVID response ten years in the making

NSW is back.

From the deepest recession in our lifetime, we are back to growth, and back on track.

And it is no accident.

Ten years ago we imagined a better future for our State.

In our first budget, then Treasurer Mike Baird, observed the following:

Governments that lose control of their Budgets lose control of their destiny ... [and they] have few options available when external shocks emerge.

He was reflecting on a Budget inherited from Labor: black holes, backlogs, an economy in the slow lane and on the road to nowhere.

The first Baird budget was a statement of intent.

The last 10 years have been a decade of delivery: O'Farrell, Baird, Berejiklian.

Before the pandemic hit, NSW was the only State to grow above its long run average.

643,000 jobs were added.

Unemployment reached the lowest rate since records began.

\$150 billion in infrastructure built – the biggest build since Federation.

Net worth up by more than 40 per cent.

More than 160 new and upgraded schools have been delivered.

And \$140 billion invested in the education of the children of NSW.

We reimagined government services and pioneered a digital revolution, completed more than 170 hospitals and health projects.

And in the decade before a brutal pandemic, the NSW Liberals and Nationals built the best public health system in the country.

We took back control of the Budget and reclaimed control of our destiny.

So when the biggest external shock in a generation hit, we didn't just have options: we unleashed the most successful health and economic response of any State, underpinned by a world-leading COVID-digital platform.

Our health system set the bar—and we kept raising it—with gold-standard testing, tracing, quarantine, and now vaccination to keep our people safe.

Our economic stimulus worked.

It has kept people in jobs and businesses in business.

None of this came easy.

Our State has been more exposed to a fast evolving virus, accepting more returning travellers than any of the other States and Territories combined.

Yet we have kept our borders more open and our way of life more free.

Our pandemic response—and the decade that enabled it—is the fruit of our values.

We believe in the people of this State—in letting them thrive and getting government out of the way.

Our job is to be disciplined in the good times, so we are ready to weather the hard times.

To imagine a better future, and to do the hard work to make that possible.

The values that have served us well so far are the same values that underpin this Budget.

Today we say to the people of NSW that we will take the State from recovery to reform for your family and for your future.

And we will do that in three ways.

We will keep NSW safe and accelerate our recovery.

We will invest in our people.

And we will transform our State for a brighter future.

But before I address these three core objectives, I will first update the House on the State's economic and fiscal position.

The economy has rebounded

Mr Speaker, keeping the economy open has made NSW the confidence capital of Australia.

Consumer confidence in NSW is well above every other State and Territory, and business confidence has reached its highest levels since records began.

Confidence is back because we kept calm and carried on.

And today this approach is paying dividends.

Between the June quarter of last year and the March quarter of this year, State Final Demand grew by 11.5 per cent.

Consumer spending rebounded 15 per cent.

Dwelling investment is up 18 per cent.

Economic activity is back to pre-COVID levels.

And that all adds up to more jobs for our people.

The unemployment rate has fallen from 7.1 per cent in July last year, to 5.0 per cent in May – that is two full years faster than forecast.

And I am pleased to inform the House that not only have we recovered all of the 270,000 jobs lost to the pandemic—we have now added 36,000 more.

This is a strong start, but we must go further still. Our ultimate goal is to lift the wages and living standards of our people.

And the only way to do that is to drive unemployment down even further and create more competition in the market.

We have done it before, and our economic policies will work to do it again.

The deficit has halved

A stronger economy has boosted our budget.

GST and transfer duty revenues are up \$6.4 billion and \$1.4 billion respectively, over the forward estimates.

Even with our payroll tax cuts and deferrals, the jobs rebound has improved payroll tax to \$1.2 billion above previous forecasts.

We promised to put jobs before the Budget, and because we did, both have benefited.

Last year we forecast an operating deficit of \$16 billion for 2020-21.

This has halved to \$7.9 billion.

For the coming financial year, we forecast a deficit of \$8.6 billion.

An increase from \$6.8 billion that reflects our decision to protect the safety of our citizens and further stimulate the NSW economy.

Over the four years to 2023-24, our operating result from last year's Budget has improved by \$6.8 billion.

And we forecast a surplus of \$466 million in 2024-25.

These numbers reflect our progress, but whilst the future is volatile our foundations are strong and we will be ready.

Keeping NSW safe, accelerating our recovery

Keeping NSW safe

Now let me turn to this Budget's three core objectives. The first core objective is to keep our people safe and to accelerate our recovery.

We will continue to push the pace to vaccinate our State with more than \$260 million for the rollout.

And a further \$796 million we will keep our gold-standard COVID defence, bringing our total commitment to the COVID health response to more than \$4 billion.

Our goal has always been to lock down the virus, not to lock down the State.

The COVID-safe funding is part of a record \$120 billion investment in health over the next four years.

Two thirds of our 46 new and upgraded hospitals and health facilities are being delivered in our regions—part of a \$30 billion investment in regional health.

We will employ almost 1,800 more nurses, midwives, doctors and allied health staff in the year ahead.

And today I can announce we will upskill 246 paramedics for intensive care service as part of a \$214 million boost to NSW Ambulance, including a new, state-of-the-art operations centre.

I can also announced today that we are investing to protect frontline health workers from violence with a \$70 million hospital security package.

This Budget also builds on last year's investment in better mental health, taking this year's total to \$2.6 billion.

We will create 25 Child and Adolescent Mental Health Crisis Teams, and establish 57 mental health Response and Recovery Specialists in regional and rural communities.

Among other important benefits, these investments will help us combat the tragedy of youth suicide.

We will take Australia's best public health system rapidly into the digital future, increasing expenditure on Digital Health to over \$500 million over the next four years, and continue to develop opportunities for Virtual Care and Telehealth.

Strong public health has been the foundation of our recovery.

But NSW has also had a secret weapon: a digital government platform light-years ahead of the competition. Today I can announce an additional \$500 million for the Digital Restart Fund to expand digital services, so they are there whenever you need them, wherever you are.

And that takes our investment in digital services to \$2.1 billion.

Accelerating our recovery

This Budget creates jobs and locks in a strong recovery.

More than 100 support programs and almost 200 capital projects have boosted our rebound, from tax relief to training and supporting thousands of jobs.

This Budget winds back stimulus where it is no longer needed, and redirects it for support with maximum impact.

Almost 9 million Dine and Discover vouchers have been redeemed, and we have now extended that program, which has injected over a third of a billion dollars into 12,500 businesses across the State.

And because we know the Sydney CBD is still doing it tough, our accommodation sector support kicks off in July.

And we'll offer \$100 to spend on Fridays in the city to stimulate recovery for small businesses.

Our construction stimulus provides the biggest bang for buck.

Last year's Budget injected \$3 billion in construction stimulus.

This year, our big build gets bigger.

\$3.3 billion for 44 new and upgraded schools—this is the biggest state school building program in our country's history.

\$1.15 billion to start building the new Bradfield City Centre—home of our second airport.

More than \$360 million for social housing in the next financial year alone—part of an \$812 million investment delivering more than 800 new homes and upgrades to 16,500 more.

\$2.7 billion for the M6 Extension Stage 1.

\$2 billion for the Great Western Highway Upgrade.

\$1.3 billion for the Bankstown-Lidcombe Hospital and Community Health Services Redevelopment.

That takes our four-year infrastructure program to a record \$108.5 billion.

And we will continue our successful asset recycling program—including the sale of our remaining share in WestConnex—to keep funding State-building projects for a stronger NSW.

And we will progress planning for a major urban renewal of Newcastle's Hunter Park, to support sporting and entertainment facilities and new homes.

Today I can announce further local stimulus to boost the Community Building Partnership program by \$100,000 per electorate each year for the next two years.

This will enrich our local communities, while supporting local jobs and local businesses.

Every weekend community sportsgrounds around the State are flooded with future superstars playing their hearts out while mums and dads proudly look on.

But many of those grounds are getting old and out of date.

Well our kids deserve the very best—and that is exactly what we are going to give them.

Today I can announce \$200 million to upgrade local sporting facilities in communities across NSW.

We will make access more equitable with more women's change rooms, and fund upgrades for new playing Surfaces, canteens and lights.

And we'll also upgrade our icons of the sun, sand and surf, with \$16 million to restore and improve surf lifesaving clubs up and down the coast.

These investments add to the wave of transformative projects already underway.

Three new metro lines, WestConnex, and major road safety upgrades across the State.

There is new funding for planning works on Henry Lawson Drive Stage 1B and Parramatta Light Rail Stage 2.

We call it a pipeline, but it has been more like a lifeline.

Years in the planning, but priceless in a crisis.

Reinforcing the finances

Mr Speaker, the next order of business for this Government is to restore the finances.

Last year, we forecast net debt would reach \$104.3 billion by June 2024.

That position has improved by \$10 billion.

And net debt is forecast to peak at 13.7 per cent of GSP in 2024-25.

And all the while we remain committed to reducing net debt to 7 per cent of GSP by 2030.

We will methodically and responsibly restore our State's finances, with ongoing savings through procurement reform and efficiencies across the sector.

Long before COVID-19, we set up the NSW Generations Fund: Australia's first sub-sovereign debt retirement fund, to secure revenue today, to grow over time and to guard against debt for tomorrow.

This Fund has achieved extraordinary growth, forecast to reach more than \$90 billion over the next decade.

And today we will strengthen the Fund's transparency and accountability with new legislation, so any future government that wants to draw-down on these funds must report it to Parliament—and be held to account.

A great place to visit, a great place to live

Border closures have hurt thousands of people whose livelihoods depend on tourism.

But our endurance through COVID—and our strong recovery—have set off a groundswell of pride in the Premier State.

And this Budget invests to harness that pride.

We will make Australia's premier global city a thriving 24-hour global metropolis.

And we're putting our State in the spotlight on the world stage—with \$200 million to bring the best international events to our own backyard.

We will make NSW the cultural capital of the country—with \$40 million to attract the biggest blockbuster exhibitions from around the globe and another \$60 million to bring more cultural events to Greater Sydney and regional NSW.

Our parks and forests are world-renowned for their unique beauty, so we will invest to make the experience even more awe inspiring, with \$80 million to create multi-day hiking trails with all the facilities you need along the way for the best outdoor adventuring on the planet.

It's part of a record \$9.5 billion environment budget over the next four years to conserve and to celebrate the natural wonders of our State.

We will transform the old Powerhouse Museum and reimagine the Registrar General's Building on Macquarie Street as part of a new cultural ribbon that celebrates our history.

And our Blue Plaques will elevate the places and people who have made our State great.

Mr Speaker, politics can be divisive.

But if there is one thing that can unite us all, it's that the Cahill Expressway is the greatest act of vandalism ever inflicted on our beautiful harbour.

So, as we can't get rid of it—yet—for an entire week over New Years, we will reclaim it for the people, and that is a start.

A highline experience over Circular Quay in the lead-up to the Sydney Festival, as we dare to imagine what our future harbour could look like.

And we will afford pride of place on the harbour highline to the front-line responders who have done NSW so proud.

A strong future for our regions

This Budget continues to rev-up our regions.

The \$100 million Regional Job Creation Fund will continue to drive jobs growth in the bush.

A new drug court in Dubbo will help offenders get healthy and fight the scourge of ice in the west.

There's \$50 million for regional tourism and events.

And we're upgrading country race tracks, to make regional racing great again; investing to keep communities at the cutting edge of ag-tech; and creating future jobs and industries, with over \$460 million in funding for regional Special Activation and Regional Job Precincts.

Welcome rain has put an end to the drought, but the pain is not forgotten.

Outside Dubbo last week, one of our Central West sheep farmers told me he'd spent \$400,000 just to keep his stock when the grass wouldn't grow.

At the time his old shearing shed was on its last legs—100 years old, unsafe, and in need of an upgrade.

Borrowing more from the bank wasn't feasible.

But then he secured a low interest loan from our \$1 billion Farm Innovation Fund, and it gave his business a new lease on life.

He turned his old shed into storage and built a new one for shearing.

And the local builders who built that shed told him that 60 per cent of their work in the middle of the drought was coming from the Farm Innovation projects.

They had 90 people on the books, and they sourced their material from local suppliers.

That is the impact that our investments are making—rippling through communities, helping farmers stay afloat, and supporting local jobs and local businesses right across our regions.

The drought may be over, but the next one is never far away.

So this Budget continues to invest in the Deputy Premier's important work helping farmers build resilience to drought, through Farms of the Future.

Today I can announce also \$719 million to complete the upgrade of the critical communications network—to guarantee radio coverage to first responders right across the State.

And \$150 million to combat the mouse plague.

And we will invest \$260 million to respond to the Bushfire Inquiry—frontline funding for our brave men and women helping protect property and save lives.

Investing in our people

The Budget's second core objective is investing in our people.

Higher wages, lower taxes

The pandemic has forced all governments to borrow more.

But while other States have had to resort to lower wages and higher taxes, we will do the opposite.

In 10 years we have delivered \$9.4 billion in tax relief.

We've almost doubled the payroll tax threshold from \$689,000 to \$1.2 million, and cut the headline tax rate to the lowest in the nation.

It has saved thousands of businesses tens of thousands of dollars, and many more pay no payroll tax at all.

But at the last election Labor promised to scrap our tax cuts, threatening businesses and farmers with higher taxes for simply creating jobs.

Labor's taxes are bad enough in good times, but in a pandemic they would have been devastating.

On this side of the House, we believe in lowering the tax burden.

And in this Budget we are providing a further \$200 million in tax relief, whilst at the same time lifting wages higher.

Last year we took the difficult but the necessary decision to constrain public sector pay rises.

But with recovery well underway, from 1 July our new Wages Policy will offer increases of 2.5 per cent for NSW public servants.

And we will provide for even higher wages where productivity and employee expense savings are made.

This is a \$2.7 billion vote of confidence in our public sector workers, and a return to steady wage growth that has lifted public sector wages in NSW by 27 per cent over the last 10 years.

But as the State's largest employer, our policy sends a clear message to the private sector: NSW has earned a pay rise.

Meeting families where they are

The Coalition understands the pressures that families face just to get by, let alone ahead.

So we will continue to bring down the cost of living and improve quality of life.

For the past 10 years we have kept finding ways for families to save.

A \$50 weekly Opal cap.

Cut price travel for seniors and pensioners.

Green slip reforms delivering \$60 in average savings.

Free rego for regular toll users.

Free pre-school.

Free TAFE courses.

Free dental check-ups.

Rental subsidies.

And tens of thousands in stamp duty savings for first home buyers.

In 2018 we introduced Active Kids; the following year we doubled it.

We introduced Creative Kids and families have flocked to get involved.

These are just a handful of the 130 rebates and savings available.

And we're making it easier to find them through our Cost of Living program at Service NSW, with the average saving for people who have made an appointment of \$600.

In this Budget we are providing even more support.

We will continue to fund two days of free pre-schooling per week for the 2022 school year.

We will extend the Regional Seniors Transport Card, and offer energy rebates saving households an average of \$300 a year.

We believe that all children should have access to swimming and water safety education.

But we also know that many families can't afford the lessons.

Today we announce \$100 in support for every pre-school aged child, 3 to 6, to learn to swim.

It will save families money, but importantly it will save lives.

This Budget offers more cost of living support than any State budget in the history of our nation, with \$470 million in new measures, and total savings of over \$6 billion available for individuals and families in the next financial year.

Finding savings for families is important, but we also want our new generation to understand that making the right financial choices will safeguard them from the challenges ahead and set them up to chase their dreams.

From Tommy in kindergarten to Gina in her teens, the NSW Treasurer's Financial Literacy Challenge—introduced in this year's Budget—will empower the children of NSW with lifelong skills and habits that lead to a secure financial future.

More social support

This Budget provides extra support to help those who are most in need.

The Together Home Program has already helped over 400 rough sleepers find safe and secure accommodation.

So we are expanding it because it works, funding a further 250 wraparound service packages and 100 new homes.

We will fund a dedicated guardianship and adoption task force, so that more children in out-of-home care can find a loving and permanent family home.

We will redouble our efforts to eliminate domestic and family violence, with an additional \$94 million to support victims and their children so they aren't forced from their homes.

\$30 million in social impact investments will provide pathways out of disadvantage for women and Indigenous youth.

And \$4.9 million will enable St Vincent de Paul to provide crisis accommodation, so that women who have fled violent relationships have a safe place to stay.

More than 100,000 women suffer miscarriage in Australia every year.

If they need to take time off work, they have to access sick leave or holiday leave.

That is not acceptable.

Having a miscarriage is not an illness—it is a loss that should be recognised.

The is the largest employer in the State, so we are taking the lead. For the first time, we will offer five days of leave for women who suffer a miscarriage or stillbirth.

We are also increasing support for women in the NSW public service whose babies are born prematurely.

Colette and Colman O'Driscoll were both employed in the public service here in NSW, when their son Rory was born at just 685 grams at 28 weeks at the Royal Hospital for Women.

And they spent the next 13 weeks in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit watching their son fight for his life.

But Colette's maternity leave started the very moment that Rory was born.

So what should have been a time of joy with her son was consumed with the stress of hoping he'd survive, whilst worrying about returning to work earlier than planned.

Premature babies need acute care, and that time should not come out of parental leave.

That's why—starting in July—our Government will offer additional premature-birth leave for NSW public sector employees, so parental leave will not start until the date that the baby would have reached full term.

Empowering Aboriginal communities

When funding gets outcomes, governments should keep investing.

This Budget invests in our State's Aboriginal communities, to close the gap and celebrate culture.

Two years ago we piloted the Roads to Home program, creating jobs in remote communities to build the local infrastructure that they need.

This program has been a success, driving employment and improving quality of life.

In this Budget we are expanding to 10 more communities, and we will continue to work to roll this program out right across the State.

We will build 250 new Aboriginal Housing dwellings, and upgrade 7,000 more.

And we're investing in Aboriginal cultural and tourist attractions in the Hunter Valley, Coffs Harbour and Birubi Point, so that local businesses can continue to thrive, creating prosperity and opportunity for current and future generations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Honouring the dignity of our most vulnerable citizens

A healthy society does not allow its most vulnerable people to feel that they are a burden.

As our population ages, all of us will have to dig deeper for the elderly and those suffering terminal illness.

NSW has led the way when it comes to palliative care.

In this Budget, we build on those efforts with another \$82 million to strengthen services and honour the dignity of our elderly and dying citizens.

One chronic illness increasing in prevalence is Parkinson's Disease.

I was deeply moved to hear the former Deputy Premier of NSW, John Watkins, share his own experience right here in Parliament.

John spoke of a disease that has mercilessly attacked his physical and mental health, robbing him of everything from his career to his balance.

At the heart of this Budget we acknowledge the suffering of people with movement disorders

And we will invest \$8.6 million in additional funding for more specialist nurses and better community care, including \$650,000 to support the valuable work of Parkinson's NSW.

Transforming our State

This Budget's third core objective is transforming our State.

A call to arms

In the long run, governments should not be judged on how well they have recovered from the COVID pandemic, but by what they have done to imagine what comes next—and to make that a reality.

The Intergenerational Report lays out the challenge that our children will face.

Our population will age, expenses will rise.

By 2061, 40 per cent of revenue would need to be spent just to cover the interest on public debt—a crippling burden on our children and grandchildren.

Governments of tomorrow would face harrowing choices: cutting health, cutting education, cutting services.

Make no mistake: this is a call to arms.

What sets the NSW Government apart from every other State—and the Commonwealth—is that we are not just focused on today, we are focused on the future.

Productivity is everything

And the key to that is productivity.

Lifting productivity means the people of our State get more value for their efforts and more reward for their work.

Higher productivity means higher wages, better jobs, better services and more freedom.

But since the Hawke, Keating and Howard governments, productivity reform has virtually stopped.

It takes imagination to build a better future.

And long before any pandemic, this Government saw the future coming.

In 2018 we appointed the NSW Productivity Commissioner, and we've acted on advice to get the ball rolling.

We're advancing reforms to deliver a more streamlined planning system, to get more houses built faster and more affordably.

We're piloting flexible pathways into trades, especially for women and older people.

And we've legislated for the automatic recognition of interstate licences—because Australia should be a nation of tradies without borders.

But we're not stopping there.

Last month the commissioner released his first white paper.

There are 60 recommendations, and we did not commission them to gather dust on a shelf.

Every 6 months I will give an update to the parliament on how we are progressing.

Legislation will make a steady march through this House, and every member's vote will hold them to account.

Because we all have a responsibility to rise above the politics of the day and to do what is right for our people and our State.

This Budget continues our nation-leading productivity agenda, starting with education.

The most valuable policy we can pursue is lifting the education standards of our children.

And this Budget invests a record \$20.5 billion in the education system.

But improving education outcomes is about more than just money. We must be willing to do things differently.

So we are reforming the curriculum, and changing the way teachers can enter the profession, to attract the highest quality teachers and enrich the learning experience of our children.

This includes \$2.9 million for Alphacrucis College to bring high achievers into teaching, especially in regional NSW.

And this Budget supports a landmark pilot, with certain school communities trialling alternative school hours, to better fit the busy lives of mums and dads.

If the pandemic has enabled us to live and work more flexibly, governments must be flexible too.

Education is just the start of our productivity agenda.

We're implementing the Gonski-Shergold review, to instil skills training in high schools.

We're piloting Institutes of Applied Technology in Kingswood and Meadowbank, bringing industry and training together to fast-track our young people into high quality careers.

We're funding new research to develop emerging industries like advanced manufacturing.

We're launching Careers NSW—part of an unprecedented \$2.9 billion in this budget to help our young people get the skills they need for the jobs they want.

We're legislating today to reform infrastructure contributions, to unlock housing supply faster and more efficiently to make more homes available and more affordable.

We're progressing our property tax proposal, because we know housing affordability is the challenge of a generation, and we want young people to get a foot in the door.

We're legislating today to stamp out stamp duty on electric vehicles, for a greener future, where stamp duty eventually on all cars will be a thing of the past.

We're setting up a better system for funding our roads, establishing a road user charge on electric vehicles but only once they reach a critical mass, so we're driving take-up, not impeding it.

We're implementing the Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap, to provide reliable, affordable energy for generations to come.

We're driving a manufacturing renaissance right here in NSW, supporting local production of new technologies like batteries, electric buses and renewables.

And our economy of the future is taking shape before our very eyes in innovation precincts, bringing together research, innovation, investment and industrial might—in which vision and imagination will lead to new jobs, new products, new markets, greater prosperity, for an economic future Made in NSW.

Another decade of delivery

These are the foundations of a future that will be brighter if we dare to do things differently.

For a decade we have kept the State's finances secure and our economy strong.

We have invested to build the best services in the nation, laying the groundwork for our pandemic response.

This has fuelled confidence, spurred our recovery, and ignited our economy and boosted our finances.

And as we look to the future, we do so from a position of strength, in control of our Budget and in control of our destiny.

This Budget keeps NSW safe, and accelerates our recovery.

It invests in our people.

It transforms our State.

Today, other governments are raising taxes and cutting wages, sacrificing growth to save their Budgets.

But the future that we imagine is not built on austerity.

This is a Budget for prosperity.

And the next decade of delivery has already begun.

This Budget gets NSW dressed for success.

I commend it to the House.

Debate adjourned.

Documents

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2021-2022

Tabling

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: In accordance with Standing Order 266, I announce the electronic tabling of copies of the following papers:

- (1) Budget Statement 2021-2022 (Budget Paper No. 1).
- (2) Outcomes Statement 2021-2022 (Budget Paper No. 2).
- (3) Infrastructure Statement 2021-2022 (Budget Paper No. 3).
- (4) Agency Financial Statements 2021-2022 (Budget Paper No. 4).

I move:

That the papers be printed.

Motion agreed to.

The SPEAKER: I advise members that copies of the budget papers have been delivered to all members' offices by Treasury staff and are available also at budget.nsw.gov.au. I shall now leave the chair. The House will resume at 2.15 p.m.

Visitors

VISITORS

The SPEAKER: There are a number of guests in the Cooper Gallery today. I warmly welcome the former Speaker and member for Drummoyne, Mr John Murray, and his grandson, Liam Bourke. It is lovely to be in your old seat, Mr Murray. Thank you. I also welcome my guests: the NSW Commissioner for Productivity, Peter Achterstraat; CEO and Managing Director of Veolia Australia and New Zealand Richard Kirkman; Deputy Chair of Venues NSW Rod McGeoch, AO; CEO of the Governance Institute of Australia Megan Motto; Director of the Business Leaders Council and the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry Paul Nicolaou; Chair of the Australian Sports Commission Josephine Sukkar; and the country manager of Airbnb, Susan Wheeldon. I thank those guests for joining us for lunch today and for providing feedback as Parliament aims to better engage with stakeholders. We also have a very special guest, Malcolm Mackerras, who for many decades has been particularly noteworthy for calling elections and for his pendulum, which we all focus on at every election. Malcolm, it is great to have you here today.

*Members***REPRESENTATION OF MINISTERS ABSENT DURING QUESTIONS**

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

*Bills***MANDATORY DISEASE TESTING BILL 2020****LAW ENFORCEMENT CONDUCT COMMISSION AMENDMENT (COMMISSIONERS) BILL 2021****PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS AMENDMENT BILL 2021****Assent**

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

*Presiding Officers***TEMPORARY SPEAKERS**

The SPEAKER: Pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 20, I nominate Wendy Margaret Tuckerman as Temporary Speaker in place of Felicity Lesley Wilson.

*Announcements***CHAMBER SOCIAL DISTANCING**

The SPEAKER: There are 93 members in the Chamber today. Given the challenging environment in the broader world, I will enforce the standing orders and I will take seriously any risky behaviour. I ask members not to yell out or move around the Chamber and to maintain the social distancing rules that are in place.

*Question Time***STATE BUDGET AND COVID-19**

Mr CHRIS MINNS (Kogarah) (14:20): I direct my question to the Premier. The budget is built on tolls, fees, fines and taxes. Every single source of revenue growth—

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr CHRIS MINNS: —has come out of the pockets of working families. Why is the Premier sending the bill for the COVID-19 recovery to those who can least afford to pay for it?

The SPEAKER: I have warned members that I do not want comments to be made while questions are being asked. That includes the member for Keira. It is disrespectful to the Leader of the Opposition. I want silence before the Premier starts her answer.

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN (Willoughby—Premier) (14:21): The people of New South Wales know that the budget is for them. It is for individuals, families and workers. It is about jobs, infrastructure and services. I congratulate the State's Treasurer on the fifth budget from the Liberal-Nationals Government, which demonstrates that it is not in good times that you judge a government; you judge a government on how it deals with the tough times. In the past 18 months our State has been through natural disaster, drought and a pandemic. Today we saw not only generosity and support for those who need it, including at the very worst times that our State has faced, but also the pathway to recovery and beyond. The future of New South Wales is bright because the Government has done its best to keep our community safe and also to make sure that we keep jobs going and our economy open.

Today is a reminder of how difficult the current pandemic is. The Treasurer has managed to ensure that families get support with cost-of-living measures through Service NSW and also that those in rural and regional communities who have suffered for years have the support they need to build infrastructure, in addition to the support they received during those difficult times. Our Government is proud to have given \$6 billion worth of savings in costs to families and individuals. Our Government has given \$9 billion in savings to taxpayers because we are a government that is not only competent but also compassionate; we treat our people with respect. Judge us by our actions, judge us by the budget. I say to those opposite: If you cannot tell the truth, if you cannot ask the right questions, start doing your homework.

The budget is about jobs, workers and families. I bring to the attention of the House two areas in addition to the support that is going to all homes and families. In relation to schools, the education capital budget has gone up from \$6 billion to \$8.5 billion. On top of the more than 200 schools that we have already upgraded, many more will be delivered across the State. In relation to health, there is another \$1 billion to support our hardworking health workers on top of the \$4 billion we provided on top of the budget for COVID. More than anything, I thank the State's 400,000 public servants, who were able to restore a 2.5 per cent wage increase.

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

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: They have supported us during our difficult times, and many State Labor governments were not able to do what we have done today. We respect our workers, we respect our front line and we respect our citizens. That is why this is a budget for the workers. It is for families and individuals. I could not be more proud of what the Treasurer has delivered today but, more importantly, the people of this State have made sure that the Government is accountable and working for them, keeping them safe, keeping the economy open and creating jobs. That is what good governments do.

STATE BUDGET

Mr LEE EVANS (Heathcote) (14:25): My question is addressed to Australia's—or maybe the world's—greatest Treasurer. Will the Treasurer update the House—

[Opposition members interjected.]

The SPEAKER: Order! I call the member for Keira to order for the first time. I call the member for Baulkham Hills to order for the first time. The member for Heathcote will start his question again. I could not hear him.

Mr LEE EVANS: My question is addressed to the Treasurer. Will the Treasurer update the House on how the budget is transforming our State for the future and supporting families?

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET (Epping—Treasurer) (14:25): I thank the member for his question. It was very well written—right on point. This budget shows that New South Wales is dressed for success. It is a vindication of 10 years of hard work by the Coalition Government. It is a vindication of its policy to put the economy before the budget because, as the Premier said, both have benefited. The economy is stronger, there are more people in work and we have halved the budget deficit; that is what success looks like. That is what you get with the Liberal-Nationals Coalition—more jobs and a stronger economy. The budget is focused on families across the State. It is focused on the future and instilling pride in New South Wales. Behind every one of those numbers throughout all of the budget papers, which I am sure Clayton is reading—where's Clayton? There you go. He does not have much to do anymore, so he is still reading those budget papers.

Ms Jodi McKay: Come on. Just because you're on the back bench doesn't mean you're not busy, Dom.

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: Sorry, Clayton. I will leave you alone.

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

Mr Clayton Barr: I'm glad you printed them. I didn't think you were going to print them this year.

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: We decided to print them this year to make it easier for you.

The SPEAKER: I am letting the member for Cessnock off, but there is no justification for the interjection by the member for Strathfield.

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: They are available on your phone, if you would like. Behind every one of those numbers are the great people of New South Wales. It is not the Government's budget; it is their budget. As the Premier has said, there is record investment in infrastructure across the board—over \$108 billion. That is more schools and hospitals. If we look at the decade of delivery when it comes to health, over 170 hospitals and health facilities have already been delivered. In this budget there will be 100 new and upgraded hospitals over the next four years, with \$130 billion in health. As the Premier has said, we are going on the biggest State education school-building program in the history of the country—\$8.5 billion for 44 new and upgraded schools. That does not just happen; it has happened because of the Government's policies, opposed by Labor, that have put the State in an incredibly strong position to be able to invest for the future.

Not only are we setting up our State for future success—whether that is through more public transport; more roads, particularly in regional New South Wales; upgrades right across the board; or more schools and more hospitals—but also we are setting up the future with a \$1.2 billion investment in the new city centre in Bradfield, instilling pride in our State and bringing investments. Stuart Ayres is bringing Broadway to New South Wales. We are going to have the best events in the country, if not the world. Matt Kean—Matt Green—is doing the great

walks, which is the biggest investment in the environment budget in the history of the State. Importantly, we are investing for today's cost of living and meeting families where they are. There will be \$6 billion in the next 12 months to support individuals and families with the cost of living. We have extended some of the programs that we only set out to do as part of the stimulus during the COVID pandemic. Extending the preschool program is saving \$4,000 for families right across the State. What about our "water babies" program? What a splash that has made! Parents are lapping it up all over the State. There are energy rebates. Tooley got his regional seniors travel card, which is making a real difference.

Mr Paul Toole: They love you, mate. They love you.

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: Great. I cannot wait to go back. There is social support because you cannot support the most vulnerable people in our community if you do not have the financial capacity to do so. The Government has taken risks. It has piloted programs right across the board. The new Minister, Alistair Henskens, knows very well about homelessness and the support that he has already been working on: the adoption program the Government provided to get more kids from out-of-home care into loving families with a mum and a dad. The Together Home program is a great initiative that has already helped 400 rough sleepers have wraparound services and get into housing during the pandemic; we are expanding that today. In addition to that, the Attorney General's Staying Home Leaving Violence program—*[Extension of time]*

We piloted that program; it works. It is protecting women and children, so we are expanding it to go further. As the Premier has said, this is what success looks like. Those opposite like talking about high wages, but they never deliver them. We set the pathway back into the black. We set a goal and we were able to get back faster than we thought in relation to 2½ per cent pay increases for all members of the public service, particularly supporting our frontline workers, who have done an outstanding job keeping us safe during this pandemic. We also look to the future and the productivity white paper. Peter Achterstraat was in the Chamber earlier; he is doing a fantastic job as the NSW Productivity Commissioner. The white paper's 60 recommendations will have reforms marching straight through this place.

We are doing a lot of work on teaching and training, fast-tracking teachers from professions to enrich our children's education. The Gonski-Shergold review has laid the foundations. The record skills budget in this year's budget will go towards a range of programs, including embedding training in skills into the school education system. We are getting rid of stamp duty on cars. We are the greenest State in the world, with the most visionary electric vehicles policy globally.

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

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: I thank Minister Constance and Minister Kean for all the work they did in negotiating that great outcome. There will be no stamp duty payable on vehicles. This budget supports every person across our great State and is a reward for them for the great work they have done over the past 12 months, keeping us safe during the pandemic.

WESTCONNEX

Mr CHRIS MINNS (Kogarah) (14:32): My question is directed to the Treasurer. In the past decade the cost of simply surviving in Sydney has gone up over 20 per cent. The cost of health care has almost doubled. The cost of education has doubled. Will the Treasurer cancel the full privatisation of WestConnex to save families even more pain?

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET (Epping—Treasurer) (14:33): What happened to Captain Positivity? I thought we were going to do a joint press conference this morning; I had a joint press release ready to go. Government members know that good news for the people of New South Wales is bad news for the Labor Party, but unfortunately it is not our target market. The loser in this year's budget is the mice. It is the 100 million mice led by none other than Mighty Mouse Minns and his little minions. I thought he was the mouse that roared, but when I was sleeping out with him last week I learned he was the mouse that snored. In any event, this is a budget that is built on strong foundations. In this budget we have allocated \$6 billion over the next 12 months to reduce the cost of living right across the board. It is not about being a one-trick pony. We have targeted over 130 different areas to reduce the cost of living and improve the quality of life of families.

Ms Tania Mihailuk: That's two lessons.

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: You should get out more. I don't know where you're swimming, but the average price is around \$15. We will be working very closely to provide that great support to young kids across the State because we know that many families cannot afford it.

[An Opposition member interjected.]

We will not have your electorate apply. We will not have Canterbury apply. Who wants Canterbury out of the program? Canterbury is out. We will take the Community Building Partnership.

[An Opposition member interjected.]

You don't want a Community Building Partnership? We will double it on this side of the House.

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

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: Who likes the Community Building Partnership program? It is coming.

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

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: It is coming, like the 170 cost-of-living measures we delivered over the past 10 years and the more than 100 we will deliver over the next four. The Leader of the Opposition talks about tolls. Our free registration program has been taken up in numbers. But the answer to the question is no. We are going to sell down the rest of WestConnex because those asset recycling programs have unlocked capital that we have invested in infrastructure across our State, which has driven economic growth and added half a percentage point to it this year.

The SPEAKER: The member for Bankstown will remain silent.

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: During the pandemic it contributed three-quarters of a percentage point to economic growth and tens of thousands of jobs, allowing people to provide for their families. It has allowed us to invest in public infrastructure so that people can get home to their families faster and it has allowed us to build the best health system in the country by a long shot. We have been able to keep our economy open because our health teams have confidence in the ability of our health system to look after those who are sick. Our revolution for education buildings in this year's budget, which will be Building the Education Revolution done right, will ensure that kids in every part of this State have the best possible access to school infrastructure. That does not just happen.

Members opposite are against debt, against taxes and against asset recycling. I would have thought someone from Princeton, from the school of economics there, would have understood that to provide infrastructure and investments across the State we need to manage money well. Prior to the pandemic, we had a negative net debt position that allowed us to borrow at record low rates and at the same time continue our asset recycling program that has unlocked opportunity and prosperity for people across the State. Members opposite have opposed it every step of the way. We are 17 days in to the 100-day plan, and the only policy we have got from the Opposition is to abolish road safety in New South Wales.

There is a reason the previous Labor Government talked a big game but we inherited a \$35 billion infrastructure backlog. It is because it did not recycle assets and opposed privatisation. We have got the balance right in this State. We have recycled our assets, borrowed at low rates and lowered close to \$10 billion of taxes on people and small businesses across the State, which has given them the cash flow to be able to keep people in jobs and remain open. That is the difference between the Liberal-Nationals and the Labor Party.

STATE BUDGET AND STATE ECONOMY

Ms WENDY LINDSAY (East Hills) (14:37): My question is addressed to the Premier. Will the Premier update the House on how the budget beds down a safe and strong recovery, better the State's services and drives economic growth into the future?

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN (Willoughby—Premier) (14:38): I thank the hardworking member for East Hills for the question. I know that she continues to be a strong advocate in her community that is benefiting from extra investment, including further funding for the \$1.3 billion new hospital in Bankstown—which I know she has been a strong advocate for—as well as an extra \$115 million to construct stage one of the widening of Henry Lawson Drive as well as continuing the development of stage two. Those are just two of the many things for which she has been advocating on behalf of her community. I thank her and all colleagues in this place who have made sure that our Government has been made aware of what is needed in local communities to support future generations and important infrastructure. We know that when communities are growing and having demands placed on their infrastructure, a good government makes sure that it works hard to deliver all those things.

I again take the opportunity to thank all of our citizens for being patient with us during what has been a difficult time for the State. Last year we asked our public servants to support us in accepting not the 2.5 per cent that we have reverted to this year. I am very grateful for all our public servants who have worked around the clock, whether they are on the front line or in the back office, to make sure that we deliver for our citizens during a very

difficult time. It is only fair that, when we were able to do so, we restored the 2.5 per cent wages policy. Of course, categories of workers who come to us and can demonstrate additional efficiencies are able to go higher. That has always been the case. I take this opportunity again to thank our frontline workers. With 400,000 employees, the New South Wales Government is the largest employer in the State by a long mile. I think we are the largest employer in Australia. About 9 per cent of the population is employed by the New South Wales Government. We appreciate that providing support to those workers helps the economic activity of our State and also provides us with our way of being grateful for the wonderful service all of them provide.

We know that 91 per cent of the working population in New South Wales is not employed by us, and those people have also been doing it tough. In fact, many people lost their jobs but, fortunately, they have been able to either go back to their industries or else find jobs in different industries. The unemployment rate today, at 5 per cent, is lower than the national average. We say this with a great deal of pride because New South Wales has arguably been hit hardest by the pandemic. Sydney is our nation's global city, and New South Wales is a great provider of GST revenue to the rest of Australia. We have been the hardest hit by lack of international travel, yet we have managed to keep unemployment down to 5 per cent, which is below the national average. That is in large part due to our policy settings. All the stimulus measures that the Treasurer announced last year and this year have had the desired effect.

All the vouchers and other mechanisms for spending we have provided to our citizens have had the desired effect. They have helped to reduce cost-of-living pressures on our citizens and have also kept jobs growing. That is really important because it is not just about today but also about making sure that we keep jobs growing into the future. I am also very pleased to say that, because of the hard work of the Government and the Treasurer, more people are employed now in New South Wales than pre-COVID. Imagine the participation rate going up. In fact, in May alone, more than 75,000 jobs were added to New South Wales, which is a huge boost and is leading the nation. I am also pleased to say that the female participation rate is at a record high of 61.7 per cent. At the beginning of the pandemic, many female workers suffered because casual and part-time employment was the first affected through the hospitality sector taking a huge hit from COVID. Now that has been restored.

Pleasingly, the resilience of our workforce has been shown and the female participation rate is at a record high of 61.7 per cent. Of course, we are working hard to make that even higher. I commend the Treasurer for his visionary decisions to provide extra support to families, especially women, in relation to leave in the public service. I hope those initiatives will be adopted by the private sector. They again generate opportunities to keep women in the workforce and extend their participation through flexible opportunities. They also provide support for those critical times in their lives. Pleasingly, even though we are going through this difficult time, consumer confidence is high. The consumer confidence figures demonstrate to us that we have given our citizens the tools and the opportunities the need to confidently believe they can spend, they no longer have to hibernate away for a rainy day, they are keeping their jobs and the New South Wales Government is working hard to keep our economy open. Of course, that is also having a positive effect on the business community. Business confidence is high in New South Wales. *[Extension of time]*

Notwithstanding the difficulty our State has gone through, business confidence is at record levels. That is in large part because people are looking at the way in which we have managed our economy and at our plans relative to other States. I do not want to take away from other States, but it is fair to say that many global and local businesses are looking to locate their headquarters in New South Wales. Many businesses are looking to expand their footprints. That means more jobs in the future. We are the party of the workers.

Government members: Hear, hear!

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: But I digress. One cannot help feeling passionate about this budget because it represents for us our commitment to the people of this State. We ask them to support us so that we can support them. We will always be grateful for that trust. I also reiterate that our infrastructure pipeline continues to grow. Last year the Treasurer announced a four-year \$107 billion envelope. That envelope is now \$108.5 billion. The Transport component of that is in excess of \$71 billion for vital roads and transport across the breadth and width of the State. I have already mentioned health and education, and we are also investing in areas like social housing, culture and sporting facilities. It is important to make sure that we deliver for all people because an inclusive government is one that ensures every person in this State, no matter their postcode, circumstances or background, has the opportunity to be their best and reach their full potential. That is what we believe in and strive to do at all times. Our focus will be on the people of this great State and this budget delivers for them. We will continue to work hard on their behalf.

STATE BUDGET AND COST OF LIVING

Ms PRUE CAR (Londonderry) (14:45): My question is directed to the Treasurer. The budget predicts that the Government will collect \$3.5 billion in fines over four years and toll revenue will increase by 8 per cent

per year, with every cent coming out of the pockets of the people of New South Wales. Does the Treasurer still stand by his statement that this budget offers the working families of New South Wales record hip-pocket help?

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET (Epping—Treasurer) (14:45): Yes, I do because this budget, as I have said numerous times, is completely focused on families across the State, with \$6 billion in cost-of-living measures to put more money back in the hip pockets of families across the State. We are doing things that no other State can do. Other States are delivering structural deficits. The Victorian Government is increasing taxes on businesses to get a pathway back to budget surplus. Those increases in taxes flow down and affect families in circumstances where they have been hurt more than the funding they received as a result of Commonwealth support packages, including JobKeeper last year. That is not how to drive the economy. When it comes to cost-of-living measures, yes, we have measures in place after tolls, but we are aware that a range of measures are important when it comes to cost of living.

As Minister Dominello knows through Service NSW, the digital platform that we provided has been able to get more money into the hands of families and the hands of businesses as quickly as possible through the pandemic. He says, "Easy". I have no idea what he is talking about but whatever he does it works. As a result, the best thing we can do for families in addition to cost of living is provide an economy that ensures that people who want to work have a job. That is exactly what we have done. Last year we were looking down the barrel of an unemployment rate of 15 per cent. Even in the budget last year in November we were projecting an unemployment rate of around 7 per cent for the December quarter. Further to that, we were projecting well over 5 per cent in the final year of the forward estimates. Today the unemployment rate in this State is 5 per cent. Over the four years we project that it will get down to 4.5 per cent to get to full employment. Members opposite like talking about wages but we deliver on wages because the best thing we can do for wages is improve employment. The faster we get to full employment across the State, the faster wages will grow.

We made a difficult decision last year when it came to wages, which was opposed by members opposite. We invested those funds to stimulate the economy to keep people in jobs and businesses in business. That is exactly what the figures today demonstrate. At the same time, we have been able to halve the surplus and, as the Premier and I set out to achieve at the start of this budget, we have been able to bring back wage growth for 400,000 public servants across the State—a pay rise of 2.5 per cent each year for the next four years. That is what success and strong financial management looks like. We will always be able to do more for families across the State. Whether they are in western Sydney or regional New South Wales, our initiatives are targeted to impact all families across the State to bring down the cost of living, make housing more affordable and give people opportunities. That is the success of the Berejiklian-Barilaro/Toole Government.

STATE BUDGET AND REGIONAL ROADS AND TRANSPORT

Mr DAVID LAYZELL (Upper Hunter) (14:49): My question is addressed to the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads. Will the Minister update the House on the budget's investment in regional roads and transport?

Mr PAUL TOOLE (Bathurst—Minister for Regional Transport and Roads) (14:50): I thank the member for Upper Hunter for his question. What an amazing day it is for the people of regional New South Wales, with more than \$9 billion to be spent on regional transport and roads in the next financial year. That is a game changer for everyone who lives and works in the bush or travels to and from the bush. Putting it another way, if the Regional Transport and Roads budget were a person, it would be the second richest person in Australia. I can assure the House and the Treasurer that next year I will be gunning for top spot.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr PAUL TOOLE: It is an exciting time to be the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads and, by extension, it is an exciting time to be the shadow Minister for Regional Transport and Roads. I warmly welcome the member for Maitland, who has been handed an absolutely cracking portfolio in the reshuffle. For her benefit and the benefit of the House, let me go through some of the highlights of this budget for regional transport and roads. I will kick off with the \$131 million to progress the duplication of 34 kilometres of the Great Western Highway from Lithgow all the way through to Katoomba, as well as the investigations that are happening on the road tunnel from Little Hartley all the way through to Blackheath.

The Leader of the Opposition may have forgotten the Blue Mountains in his reshuffle, but I can tell the member for Blue Mountains that the Liberal-Nationals Government has not forgotten about the Blue Mountains and we will continue to invest. In the next four years we will invest \$2 billion in the Blue Mountains and Central West to transform journeys for those who travel through and over the mountains. There is also our investment in the Princes Highway, with \$1.8 billion over the next four years. That will drive better journeys

along the South Coast. We have money for the new Nowra Bridge, the Albion Park Rail bypass and Berry to Bomaderry as well.

We also have planning for further upgrades between Nowra and the Victorian border, including the Jervis Bay Road intersection, Milton Ulladulla bypass and the Moruya bypass. I was down in that part of the world last week with the member for South Coast and the member for Bega. I can tell members that there is a lot of excitement on the ground for the building and completion of those projects, which will transform lives and communities in those areas. On Saturday the member for Bega and I walked the Albion Park Rail bypass even though it was wet and windy. Around 500 locals still came out to see that particular project, which is set to open in the coming months. Yes, I am going to do the member for Maitland and shadow Minister's job for her: We got it wrong and I apologise.

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

Mr PAUL TOOLE: I said that it would open in 2022 but it will open in the coming months—in 2021. We are about 12 months ahead of schedule for that particular project. Last week I was in Coffs Harbour with the member for Coffs Harbour to announce another two years of the highly successful regional seniors travel card. It has been going gangbusters for the people of regional New South Wales. The Treasurer loves it. He even said that he is now a believer—he has actually changed his mind about the project. It has already provided a \$108 million boost to regional economies. We are now expanding it to those regional seniors who claim a disability support pension or a carers payment. This is a card—

Ms Janelle Saffin: At last. Thank you. At last, Minister.

Mr PAUL TOOLE: I hear the member saying "Thank you." This card has already eased the cost of living for more than 330,000 seniors across the State, including around 10,000 seniors who are living in the Coffs Harbour area alone. I will give the member for Maitland another brief lesson on this portfolio. Labor opposed the regional seniors travel card in the 2019 election, but what does Labor want to do? It wants to expand it. And where does Labor want to expand it to? Labor wants to expand it to Campbelltown. I will give those opposite another lesson: Campbelltown is not a regional centre in New South Wales. I want those opposite to understand that. [*Extension of time*]

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

Mr PAUL TOOLE: In the next four years we are going to continue to roll out new overtaking lanes on the Newell Highway, kick off the Parkes bypass, continue our upgrades to the Pacific Highway, including the game-changing Coffs Harbour bypass, and much more. I tallied up my spend across some of the major regional highways over the next four years and it tops more than \$7 billion—a spend that stretches all the way from the coast to the sealing of the Silver City and Cobb highways. That good news has come out of this budget today, and I could stand here for hours. I know that if the shadow Minister had asked me the question she would ask for an extension of time. In conclusion, we have seen unprecedented investment by the Government in our regional transport and roads network and I am so pleased to see that continuing today.

The SPEAKER: The member for Canterbury is on her final warning.

Mr PAUL TOOLE: I look forward to updating the House every week on how we are converting this incredible funding into life-changing projects that build on our vision for a safer and stronger regional New South Wales.

PROPERTY TAX

Mr STEPHEN BALI (Blacktown) (14:56): My question is directed to the Treasurer. Will the Treasurer introduce his never-ending annual property tax plan in this term of Parliament?

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET (Epping—Treasurer) (14:56): I tell you what we will do—

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

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: We will reform to make housing more affordable and ensure the next generation have more opportunities than the member for Blacktown. How is the member's Doonside lift going? Do you like it? He loves the budget—another happy customer. You want to talk about tax? Labor ran on a platform at the last election of increasing taxes on farmers in a drought. Those opposite ran on a platform of increasing taxes and we are going to remind them of that forever. They ran on a platform of increasing taxes on every single business, and then they walk in halfway through the pandemic and say, "Support businesses a little bit more", after they wanted to tax them out of existence. That is the difference between the Coalition and Labor.

As the Premier has said, you have discipline and good management in the good times so that when the difficult times come you are able to deploy with impact, and that is exactly what we did. This side of the House cut stamp duty, we indexed the rates. On this side of the House we believe in a number of things: One is lower taxes, not just on families but also on business. We also believe in giving people opportunities for housing. If you read the intergenerational report, which I am sure no-one opposite did—

Mr Ryan Park: I did.

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: You did? Someone read it to Ryan. Are you still shadow Minister for health? Do you know what the Health budget is yet?

The SPEAKER: Order! The Clerk will stop the clock. I allow a few more interjections when the Treasurer is attacking the Opposition. When he returns to question and when he is talking about Government policy, I expect silence.

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: Welcome back, Michael; it is good to see you here. He can prosecute himself under the Racial Discrimination Act that he is always whingeing about upstairs now that he is shadow Attorney General. Are you okay with Anoulack in the shadow Cabinet?

Mr Ron Hoenig: Point of order: My point of order is taken under Standing Order 73. The imputation against the member for Maroubra is contrary to the standing order. If the Treasurer wishes to make an imputation, the Opposition would be delighted to participate in a substantive motion, but he should not do it in answer to a question.

The SPEAKER: The Treasurer will come back to the question and be mindful of Standing Order 73. I call the member for Oxley to order for the first time. I call the member for Tamworth to order for the first time. I call the member for Ku-ring-gai to order for the first time.

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: What do you think of the Health budget, Ryan? An extra billion dollars; \$4 billion for COVID. Are you backing it in?

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

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: One hundred and seventy hospitals, 100 new and upgraded hospitals. Where are you going?

Mr Ron Hoenig: Point of order—

The SPEAKER: The Treasurer will resume his seat. The member for Keira is on his final warning. I am hearing a point of order from his side. I remind the member for Keira and the member for Canterbury that they are on three calls to order. If either of them makes another comment they will be out of the Chamber.

Mr Ron Hoenig: The Treasurer should direct his remarks through the Chair and stop provoking or trying to enter into a quarrel directly across the table.

The SPEAKER: I uphold the first part of the point of order.

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: This is called immediate impact: This is where you get off the bench into the game. I thought it was a good call appointing one of the minions. When it comes to taxes, people will always trust the Coalition Government because we have cut taxes by over \$9 million—close to \$10 billion—in this year's budget. We are stamping out stamp duty on every single vehicle over time in New South Wales with our great electric vehicle policy. This is a bad tax.

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

Ms Jo Haylen: What happened to your plan, Dom?

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: Why did they not give you Roads?

The SPEAKER: I call the member for Summer Hill to order for the third time.

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: I thought you would make a good deputy leader. I do not know what happened there. I always thought there has been more talent on the left.

Mr Stephen Bali: Mr Speaker, the Treasurer's time has almost expired and we have not heard a single word about property tax.

The SPEAKER: Are you seeking an extra two minutes?

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: I assure the member for Blacktown that under this Government you will always get lower taxes; under Labor you will always get higher taxes. And we will deliver your Doonside lift for you.

STATE BUDGET AND HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE

Mr JAMES GRIFFIN (Manly) (15:02): My question is addressed to the Minister for Health and Medical Research. Will the Minister update the House on the budget's record investment in our world-class health system?

Mr BRAD HAZZARD (Wakehurst—Minister for Health and Medical Research) (15:02): I thank the member for Manly, who is doing an extraordinary job in his local area. I might come back to the issue of the work that he has been doing in palliative care in his area for young adolescents. I start by acknowledging that this budget was as good as it could possibly get for the citizens of New South Wales in regard to the health facilities and the health staff across this State. It was only 10 years ago that the budget in New South Wales was \$15.5 billion—that was under Labor. It has almost doubled; we are up to \$27.1 billion this year alone. That is the big difference. That is a \$1 billion increase in just 12 months. This Government is very committed to looking after the citizens of New South Wales and making sure their health is well cared for.

In addition, there is a \$4 billion commitment to the COVID-19 issues. As we have seen today, we cannot escape from this virus; its variants are coming after us. As I said earlier today, at one point last year I said that the virus was not a long jumper and it was not a high jumper. Unfortunately, the Delta variant of the virus is and it has shown itself to be very capable of being a gold medallist when it comes to doing the long jump. So the message for everybody is to stay as far away as possible from anybody who has any symptoms at all because they could well have this Delta variant.

The Government has also committed another \$3.1 billion just in the next 12 months for further infrastructure bills. That takes us to almost \$11 billion over the next four years, so that is a massive rebuild already on top of a massive rebuild of health infrastructure across our State. The money that is being spent is massive in terms of infrastructure and massive in terms of the recurrent funding. As I said, just the recurrent funding is up over \$27 billion, which is more than a \$1 billion increase this year. But I think that what we have seen out of this Treasurer is also the compassionate heart of the Liberal Party and the National Party in terms of projects that really make a difference for the community right across the State.

I go back to what I was just saying to the member for Manly. He has been doing a lot of work in the local area around the adolescent and young adult hospice. Most of us from right across the State would have heard of Bear Cottage for young people. This is a new hospice that is going to be built, with \$5 million from the Federal Government, \$8 million from this Government and \$6.5 million from the community, but \$2 million recurrent. That is just part of what is going into the palliative care services across the State. I thank the Treasurer for understanding the need for that. We were out at Chris O'Brien Lifehouse only a week or so ago and heard the message from the community there. So there will be \$82.8 million going in over four years to continue strengthening the palliative care services and end-of-life services. I also thank Yvonne McMaster and all of the people who work with Yvonne to make sure that we all understand the importance of caring people at the most difficult of their times—caring for them and, of course, their families.

There are other smaller amounts of money but they all make a huge difference—the \$8.6 million over four years to support the community care for people with movement disorders including Parkinson's disease. Members would have heard the Treasurer speak earlier of former Labor Deputy Premier John Watkins, who has that particular disorder and has spoken to the Government and emphasised the importance for people in his situation. That is another very important development. For mental health, there is \$109.5 million over four years to develop 25 safeguards—these are child and adolescent mental health crisis teams who will operate across New South Wales and the regions to provide services to children and adolescents with moderate to severe mental health issues and their families and carers. Each of these initiatives is so significant at a local level. We are trying to really make sure that we reach out across our State and in so doing we are also looking at the lessons learnt out of bushfires and other challenging episodes in the past couple of years. [*Extension of time*]

We understand the importance of a very modern, capable air ambulance service and I thank the Treasurer for the \$126 million over four years to improve the NSW Ambulance operations through a modern, integrated facility at Sydney Olympic Park. I remember during the bushfires visiting the centre, which is in the southern part of Sydney. What I found there were different rooms, different locations, different fixed-wing and different choppers and helicopter directions. This will enable all of that to come together. It will make a huge difference for our regions to have those services across New South Wales.

Of course, we cannot forget about the fact that, as we said earlier, we have also been building hospitals at a rate that has never been done before. We have already committed to a number of different programs that are all

funded in this budget—\$385 million for the John Hunter Health and Innovation Precinct, a regional facility; \$80 million for the new Moree hospital, a regional facility; \$53 million for Gunnedah Hospital, a regional facility; \$45 million for stage three of Muswellbrook Hospital, another regional facility; and \$30 million for Wentworth hospital. Wentworth hospital is right down in the south-western corner of the State—a very small facility. Unfortunately, the ravages of time have done their bit and I have visited the hospital a couple of times. Certainly this extra \$30 million will make such a difference.

We are ensuring that as we spend money on all of the big issues we are also spending money right across the regions. In addition, there is \$1.3 billion for Bankstown-Lidcombe Hospital, \$1 billion for Nepean Hospital, \$699 million for the new Shellharbour Hospital and Integrated Services campus—I thank all the members of this place who worked on that—\$673 million for The Tweed Hospital, \$608 million for Sydney Children's Hospital, Randwick, and \$470 million for the new Maitland hospital, where I was just recently with the member for Maitland. We are making sure that right across this State health services are brought to twenty-first century standards.

The SPEAKER: Before I give the call to the member for Lake Macquarie, I appreciate that the Opposition Whip, in conjunction with the Leader of the Opposition, has separated the member for Wollongong and the member for Bankstown, but I ask the member for Bankstown and the member for Gosford not to adopt the same behaviour. They were talking through most of that last response and I ask that they do not do so.

STATE BUDGET AND SOCIAL HOUSING

Mr GREG PIPER (Lake Macquarie) (15:09): My question is directed to the Minister for Water, Property and Housing. Notwithstanding the budget investments announced today, what further measures will the Government undertake to ensure that those most affected by the housing crisis will not be forced to continue waiting for years for suitable social housing?

Mrs MELINDA PAVEY (Oxley—Minister for Water, Property and Housing) (15:10): I thank the member for Lake Macquarie. I acknowledge that Friday was a great day in the electorate of the member for Lake Macquarie, with Denise and Harry and magnificent scones, jam and cream—amongst the best scones, jam and cream I have ever had. But the reason I raise that is because Harry and Denise were promised sewerage services at Wyee in 1985. But we delivered this week to that community and the growing community of Wyee. Getting that really important infrastructure is about unleashing homes and potential across New South Wales. In a social housing aspect, I am delighted that this is a brilliant budget leading the way in Australia in delivering social and affordable housing to the people of New South Wales—record amounts of funding that are going to transform and change lives. To give you an idea, in the past couple of years New South Wales has delivered \$9 billion towards social and affordable housing—

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

Mrs MELINDA PAVEY: —Queensland, \$5 billion; and Victoria, \$4 billion.

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

Mrs MELINDA PAVEY: We are leading the way. The positive part of this is that the really tough policy work that we delivered in partnering up with community housing providers is delivering thousands more properties than what we could have doing it alone. That is a big boost to the number of homes going through New South Wales. In terms of the Lake Macquarie electorate, it can look forward to direct investment in social housing upgrades across the Aboriginal Housing projects in Bolton Point as well as \$18.5 million in Hunter Water projects. I knew it was a good budget yesterday when the Treasurer briefed Cabinet. And I realised it was a really good budget when he briefed joint party today. But the point I realised it was a brilliant budget was when I saw the faces opposite when the Treasurer was delivering the budget here today.

Their faces showed that it was a budget of good economic management, supporting infrastructure but also having, at the heart of it, a social aspect for our Aboriginal communities and those who are most vulnerable—whether it is the support to Minister Henskens and the Towards Home project, including \$58 million ensuring that those who are most vulnerable, sleeping on the streets, can have a pathway forward into proper accommodation. We will focus on looking after those who are most vulnerable, working with our community and housing providers to ensure that. At this point in time the \$2 billion in the national housing infrastructure fund—

The SPEAKER: The member for Shellharbour will remain silent.

Mrs MELINDA PAVEY: New South Wales has absorbed 80 per cent of that fund through our community housing providers investing in social and affordable housing, 3,000 new homes over the forward estimates coming from community housing providers.

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

Mrs MELINDA PAVEY: That is a positive way forward to ensure that those community housing providers—

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

Mrs MELINDA PAVEY: —like St George, like Argyle Housing, like Evolve Housing, are connected to these communities and delivering alongside the Land and Housing Corporation, alongside Minister Henskens, ensuring that we look after the most vulnerable across New South Wales and also partnering with Minister Lee and TAFE with \$80 million to build apprenticeships to ensure that we get those homes built. You know what that means? We sent a text out to every social housing tenant and said, "We have got this \$80 million fund for TAFE to get tradies ready to build this generation of projects that are coming."

It is a brilliant program. We have had it extended and it is going to deliver the tradies of tomorrow building the homes of tomorrow across the private and government sectors. Last week, with the member for Terrigal, we were there at the beautiful apartment building—17 storeys, 40 new apartments. That means we only have to put in half the number of car spaces because it is right in the centre of Gosford, ensuring that you can travel and walk to the train station, and be right in the centre of town near the coffee shops and all those important pieces of infrastructure. It is a great budget for those who need support with housing. I am proud that we are delivering it. I am proud that we are leading the way.

STATE BUDGET AND ROADS AND TRANSPORT

Ms MELANIE GIBBONS (Holsworthy) (15:15): My question is addressed to the Minister for Transport and Roads. Will the Minister update the House on how the budget's investment in roads and transport will help keep our economy strong and improve community health?

Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE (Bega—Minister for Transport and Roads) (15:15): I thank the member for Holsworthy for her question. There is no doubt that, in terms of the State budget and with COVID, transport very much is the engine room when it comes to job creation in the State. Consider the \$71½ billion four-year program. It will generate 130,000 jobs.

Ms Yasmin Catley: Mr Speaker, the clock has not been started.

The SPEAKER: Yes, thank you. The Clerk will start the clock.

Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE: Do not worry. I am going to keep it tight and quick. It is fine. It is just a lot to say, that is all. In terms of the program, it generates 130,000 jobs. It does not matter where you are in the State, every community is set to benefit—particularly here in Sydney. Sydney Metro West in this year's budget will get \$2.9 billion in capital expenditure, \$12 billion set over the next four years. This is going to deliver 10,000 direct jobs and in the order of 70,000 indirect jobs. Let us turn to other projects like the existing Sydney Metro City & Southwest project, which is well and truly underway. Some \$3.1 billion is allocated in this year's budget. There are 5,000 people currently working on that project and by the time it opens some 50,000 people in New South Wales will have worked on it.

In terms of Sydney Metro Western Sydney Airport—and to those members out west—again, \$943 million will be spent over the next 12 months on that project, \$8 billion over four years. There are some 14,000 jobs, including 250 apprentices who are going to be working on that project. With the Parramatta Light Rail—the good old member for Parramatta is passionate about infrastructure—\$627 million is going into stage one this year. Of course, we have allocated significant dollars towards planning stage two, which I know the member was very pleased about when we announced it the other day.

The SPEAKER: Order! There is too much audible conversation in the Chamber. Members will remain silent.

Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE: Sydney Gateway and the M6 stage one extension will get \$1.1 billion in capital expenditure—again, \$4.8 billion over four years—and thousands of jobs are associated with that project. WestConnex will get \$1.2 billion in capital expenditure. Again, we are going to see the delivery of the M4-M5 link linking the two motorways by the end of 2023. In terms of more trains and more services, again, \$1.1 billion is going out in capital expenditure. It is about building resilience into the Sydney trains network. In particular, there will be frequent and additional services to the Illawarra, the airport and on the South Coast lines. The Western Harbour Tunnel and Beaches Link project is going to be a boom for jobs. Fifteen thousand jobs are associated with those projects. Some \$454 million is allocated in the next 12 months towards the Western Harbour Tunnel and Beaches Link, with \$6.3 billion going into that over the next four years.

The Western Sydney Growth Roads Program has a bit of good news for David Elliott on Memorial Avenue. What is funny about this is he has leaked against me for six years, he finally gets the project in the budget and guess what? The redistribution takes the road out of his electorate. So happy days. Well done, Ray Williams! That project was delivered by Ray Williams—\$224 million. Well done on six years of great work. I congratulate him. Those other western Sydney roads, Mulgoa Road, The Horsley Drive, Appin Road—

Mr David Elliott: It wasn't me!

Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE: "It wasn't me!" says David Elliot. It was David Elliott. He did deliver Memorial Avenue for Ray Williams—congratulate him later. Mamre Road is in there, as is Spring Farm Parkway and Appin Road. These are great projects and important projects for the people of western Sydney. Again, what we have seen with Western Sydney Airport roads, working with the Commonwealth, is great jobs in western Sydney and important road links. Of course, the Pinch Point Program gets \$202 million. Again, \$175 million is going into the M5 interchange project. As for Heathcote Road, my goodness, we are getting on with that. We are going to get there with that duplication. There is Henry Lawson Drive—what a champion of Henry Lawson Drive the member for East Hills is. Money is going into that project as well. I congratulate the member for Wollondilly on Picton Road.

Of course, we are going to continue to deliver for apprentices. One of the most important elements of the budget and what we are doing in terms of transport is what we are going to do for future generations. Part of the centrepiece in terms of transport is the \$490 million in conjunction with Environment and Treasury to deliver tax reform and outcomes for the environment and public health when it comes to electric vehicles [EVs]. There is no doubt that, if you look at the response to this program on a global scale, we are now very much the jurisdiction that is being spoken about around the world. [*Extension of time*]

Some of the comments that have come back in relation to the electric vehicle policy mean that this jurisdiction is now miles in front of our national Government and the other States, particularly Victoria, when it comes to trying to incentivise scale in terms of the uptake and then dealing with some of the other challenges as they relate to range anxiety. A lot of money in this budget—over \$170 million—is going into charging infrastructure. I indicate to members that the great thing about this is that we have manufacturers here in New South Wales that are starting to develop great products when it comes to EVs, and in particular the charging infrastructure. But I will quickly touch on one example in terms of the announcement on Sunday that I think is really pertinent.

The managing director of Volkswagen has said that this package gives him the material he can use to appeal to his bosses overseas for new electric vehicle models to come to Australia. He says that the Berejiklian Government has shown its Federal and Victorian counterparts that, in order to bring about mass ownership of affordable vehicles, you have got to make it right in terms of tax incentives and infrastructure. Hyundai, Nissan and all those other car manufacturers are now indicating that they are going to be able to deliver more cars of makes and models that are more affordable to the people of this State, making sure that the vehicles align with their needs—it would not matter if it was a family car in western Sydney, a ute on a farm or a small car in the inner city.

What we are going to see in terms of this transformation is a government that is leading the way and making sure that we get the best outcomes for our people, and particularly the best outcomes for future generations. I congratulate the Treasurer on delivering this great budget. There is no doubt that it is one of the best budgets you will ever see, given the pandemic. In New South Wales we are leading the way, not only nationally but also around the world.

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 of the Auditor-General:

- (1) Performance Audit Report of the Auditor-General entitled *Westconnex: changes since 2014*, dated 17 June 2021, received out of session on 17 June 2021 and authorised to be printed.
- (2) Financial Audit Report of the Auditor-General entitled *Universities 2020 audits*, dated 18 June 2021, received out of session on 18 June 2021 and authorised to be printed.

LAW ENFORCEMENT CONDUCT COMMISSION**Reports**

The SPEAKER: In accordance with section 142 of the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission Act 2016, I announce receipt of the report of the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission entitled *The New South Wales Child Protection Register: Operation Tusk Supplementary Report 2021*, dated 22 June 2021 and received on 22 June 2021. I order that the report be printed.

INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION**Reports**

The SPEAKER: In accordance with section 78 of the Independent Commission Against Corruption, I announce receipt of the report of the Independent Commission Against Corruption entitled *Investigation into the regulation of lobbying, access and influence in NSW*, dated 22 June 2021 and received on 22 June 2021. I order that the report be printed.

*Committees***LEGISLATION REVIEW COMMITTEE****Chair**

The SPEAKER: In accordance with Standing Order 282 (2), I advise the House that on 22 June 2021 David Robert Layzell was elected Chair of the Legislation Review Committee.

Reports

Mr DAVID LAYZELL: As Chair: I table the report of the Legislation Review Committee entitled *Legislation Review Digest No. 32/57*, dated 22 June 2021. I move:

That the report be printed.

Motion agreed to.

Mr DAVID LAYZELL: I also table the minutes of the committee meeting regarding *Legislation Review Digest No. 31/57*.

*Petitions***PETITIONS RECEIVED**

The CLERK: I announce that the following paper petition signed by 500 or more persons has been lodged for presentation:

Goulburn Base Hospital MRI

Petition requesting the Minister for Health and Medical Research supply a new MRI machine as part of the Goulburn Base Hospital redevelopment, received from **Mrs Wendy Tuckerman**.

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

Sydney Olympic Park High School Catchment

Petition requesting the Government to review the catchment zones for Sydney Olympic Park public high school to include families who reside in Lidcombe, and review the proposed development of a primary school at Carter Street, Lidcombe, received from **Ms Lynda Voltz**.

Mount Warning Summit Track

Petition requesting the Government to reopen the Mount Warning Summit Track, received from **Mr Geoff Provost**.

South Ballina Beach Four-Wheel Drive Access

Petition requesting the Legislative Assembly keep South Ballina Beach open to four-wheel drive vehicle access with the integration of a permit system and patrols by NSW National Park Rangers, received from **Mr Philip Donato**.

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. Brad Hazzard—Ash Road Sporting Complex COVID-19 Testing Clinic—lodged 11 May 2021 (Ms Melanie Gibbons)

The Hon. Brad Hazzard—Sydney Children's Hospital Cardiac Surgery—lodged 13 May 2021 (Dr Marjorie O'Neill)

Business of the House

BUSINESS LAPSED

The SPEAKER: In accordance with Standing Order No. 105, I advise the House that general business notices of motions (general notices) Nos 2077 to 2163 have lapsed.

Bills

**FAMILIES, COMMUNITIES AND DISABILITY SERVICES MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENT
BILL 2021****Second Reading Debate**

Debate resumed from 9 June 2021.

Ms KATE WASHINGTON (Port Stephens) (15:41): I lead for the Opposition in debate on the Families, Communities and Disability Services Miscellaneous Amendment Bill 2021. I extend to the Minister for Families, Communities and Disability Services my congratulations on behalf of the Labor Opposition on his appointment to the ministry. It is an important portfolio that we know does not get nearly enough attention. However, the children, families and citizens who rely on the protections and programs within the portfolio deserve to be heard and deserve to be prioritised. As the newly appointed shadow Minister, I look forward to working with the Minister to improve the lives and increase the protections for our most vulnerable citizens across the State. Labor will not be opposing the bill. The Minister's second reading speech addressed the specifics, and I thank him for reaching out and working collaboratively with the Opposition to ensure that these changes move through the Parliament to everyone's satisfaction.

A number of minor amendments that are somewhat procedural and mechanical in nature are contained in the bill. By its name and intention, this is a miscellaneous bill so several minor amendments are made to various pieces of legislation, including the Adoption Act 2000, the Ageing and Disability Commissioner Act 2019, the Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998, the Children (Detention Centres) Act 1987 and the Children's Guardian Act 2019. I do not intend to address each of the amendments proposed in the bill as many are procedural or administrative in nature, but I will address a few in particular. First, schedule 1 to the bill contains proposed amendments to the Adoption Act 2000. Those amendments, whilst relatively administrative in nature, will hopefully allow people who have been adopted to recover records to which they are already entitled and make those records more easily accessible.

Right now a person is entitled to receive specific information—for example, non-identified information regarding birth parents, birth details, medical history et cetera. But some of that information may be contained in court records relating to the adoption proceedings. Currently a separate application for those documents must be made to the court. The bill does not seek to expand the nature or type of information available to adopted people. It merely seeks to reduce the bureaucratic hurdles people currently face when trying to gather the information to which they are already entitled. Similarly, if an adopted person was previously in out-of-home care, those records are separate to their adoption records and a separate application must be made for them. Hopefully new section 133AB will streamline the process by which adopted people can obtain the records they are already entitled to, whether those records relate to court proceedings or from their time in out-of-home care.

Secondly, schedule 2 to the bill addresses issues relating to workplace protections in the disability sector. Schedule 2 creates additional protections for workers who witness abuse, neglect or exploitation. If they consequently make a report to the NSW Ageing and Disability Commissioner, the amendments will specifically prohibit employers from taking disciplinary action against those workers as a consequence of them making the difficult and important decision to report abuse, neglect or exploitation. As the Minister rightly said in his second reading speech, it is vital that staff members within disability services are able to assist the NSW Ageing and Disability Commission in relation to reporting abuse without facing detrimental action for doing so. As he said, it is important that the commission is assisted in its actions. But at its heart the bill is about ensuring that the most

vulnerable members of our community stay safe in their own homes. A culture that allows employees to freely speak up about any concerns they have for the welfare of those they care for is crucial.

Schedule 3 to the bill addresses a contributing factor to the significant delays that are currently being experienced in the Children's Court of New South Wales. Certainly, delays are not experienced only in the Children's Court. However, the factor that is contributing to delays in the Children's Court is the appointment of guardians ad litem. The current delays are long standing. A judicial decision determined that, procedurally, all children or young people subject to care proceedings should by definition be considered a party to those proceedings. A consequence of that decision is that all children subject to care proceedings would need to have a guardian ad litem appointed, regardless of the circumstances of their case. Prior to that decision, guardians were appointed only in situations that the court deemed necessary. The bill seeks to continue that longstanding practice and to clarify that a guardian ad litem should be appointed only in circumstances where the court considers it appropriate. As the Minister noted in his second reading speech, to date the court has generally considered it unnecessary in the majority of cases because the child or young person is otherwise adequately represented.

The bill contains a number of other technical amendments that Labor does not oppose. I have sought clarification from the Minister about one aspect of the bill: schedule 3 [16], which creates a regulation-making power regarding medical examinations required of an authorised carer or a person residing with an authorised carer. Labor is fully supportive of the intent of that regulation-making power. However, I have spoken with the Minister about clarifying its purpose to ensure that it is used only where a health concern is having or is likely to have an impact on the care of the child. As a matter of principle, this broad power should not be used arbitrarily, especially as it applies potentially to housemates of authorised carers, for example. The Minister has engaged in good faith on that issue, and I invite him to offer clarification on that aspect of the bill in his speech in reply. In respect of the other minor changes made by this amendment bill, I refer the House to the Minister's second reading speech and note that Labor does not oppose any of the remaining amendments.

Whilst the bill is a miscellaneous amendment bill, at its very heart it relates to some of the most vulnerable members of our community, who are children at risk and people who do not have legal capacity. On the first occasion that I address this Parliament in the role of shadow Minister for Family and Community Services, it is incumbent on me to draw attention to the fact that a lot of work still needs to be done to protect vulnerable children in this State. As I come from the Hunter, I mention the rate at which children are being reported every day as being at risk of harm. Currently 50 at-risk children a day are being reported in the Hunter-New England region, which is an increase of more than 42 per cent since 2014. Less than one-third of those children are being seen by caseworkers, who are grappling with the sheer volume of cases. That means more than 13,000 children identified as being at risk of serious harm are fending for themselves. At this point, whilst the Labor Opposition does not oppose the bill, I put on record that we will certainly be holding this Government to account every single day to try to do much better for the vulnerable, at-risk children right across this State who are receiving no support and who have no eyeballs on them whatsoever.

I thank a number of stakeholder groups and peak bodies that engaged with me on this bill. They include the Australian Services Union, the Physical Disability Council of NSW, the Association of Children's Welfare Agencies, the NSW Council of Social Service, The Law Society of New South Wales and the Public Interest Advocacy Centre. Having only recently taken on the responsibility of shadow Minister for Family and Community Services, and shadow Minister for Disability Inclusion, I have appreciated their constructive feedback and advice. I look forward to working with them and the many other stakeholders in this area to not only hold the Government to account on these important issues but also advocate for better outcomes to ensure that vulnerable people—and vulnerable children in particular—are being heard and prioritised in this place, as they should be.

Mr PETER SIDGREAVES (Camden) (15:52): I support the Families, Communities and Disability Services Miscellaneous Amendment Bill 2021. I am proud to be part of a government that has made supporting people with disabilities a priority. The 2019 appointment of Robert Fitzgerald, AM, as the State's first Ageing and Disability Commissioner [ADC] is an incredible testament to that. The work of the commissioner and his team is changing lives. I put my appreciation and thanks on the record for everything he is doing to prevent the abuse, neglect and exploitation of the aged and those with disabilities. The bill includes important amendments to the Ageing and Disability Commissioner Act 2019, or ADC Act, that will strengthen existing protections for people with disability and older people in New South Wales.

The NSW Ageing and Disability Commissioner has the extremely important role of receiving and responding to reports about adults with disability and older people in New South Wales who are subject to or at risk of abuse, neglect or exploitation in their family, home or community. Anyone can make a report to the ADC about an adult with disability or an older adult who a person has reasonable grounds to believe is subject to or at risk of abuse, neglect or exploitation. Reporting is not mandatory. To encourage reporting, the ADC Act provides certain protections for reporters. However, currently there are no protections in the ADC Act for other people who

provide assistance to the ADC in relation to reports made by others. A range of people are asked to provide information to the ADC or to assist it with reports about abuse, neglect or exploitation of an adult with disability or an older adult, including staff of services that provide support to adults with disabilities and older people such as disability and aged-care services staff.

In relation to some reports made to the ADC since it commenced on 1 July 2019, service providers have reportedly taken detrimental action against their employees for assisting the ADC. Employee concerns about such action is likely to lead to a reluctance to assist with reports for fear of retribution, such as dismissal from or prejudice in their place of employment. Staff who work with adults with disability and older people play a vital role in providing day-to-day support and in helping to raise and address concerns about abuse, neglect and exploitation. They are often trusted and relied on by those adults with disability, so they know them well and have firsthand information about what is happening inside the home.

It is critical that staff members assist the ADC with reports without detrimental action being taken against them in order to protect and appropriately support those adults. The amendment will make it an offence for an employer to take detrimental action regarding an employee or contractor who provides assistance to the ADC in relation to a report about the abuse, neglect or exploitation of an adult with disability or older person. It will provide the necessary protections for staff members and will communicate clearly to employers and employees the importance of assisting the ADC and of supporting staff who make those reports. The New South Wales Government is leading the way in supporting vulnerable communities. I congratulate the Minister on bringing the bill forward. I commend the bill to the House.

Mr STEPHEN BALI (Blacktown) (15:56): I contribute to debate on the Families, Communities and Disability Services Miscellaneous Amendment Bill 2021. I congratulate the Minister for Families, Communities and Disability Services on his elevation to such an important portfolio. Every Minister claims that his or her portfolio is the most important but this wideranging portfolio deals with adoption, disabilities, children and the elderly. I wish the Minister all the best. In that area there are lots of challenges. Shadow Minister Kate Washington leads for the Opposition on the bill and, as she stated earlier, Labor will not oppose it. The bill makes minor amendments to various Acts of Parliament, including the Adoption Act 2000. Those amendments clarify a person's right to information and thereby make it easier to access information on various aspects of their adoption. It is important for people to gain information and learn of their early life circumstances because, as we know, that plays on one's mind. It is important to have mental stability now and into the future, so it is great to see those amendments.

The Act also makes amendments to the Ageing and Disability Commissioner Act 2019 to protect workers from adverse action by their employers in circumstances where those workers have made a report to the Ageing and Disability Commissioner concerning abuse, neglect or exploitation. It is important to have transparency and accountability so that employees can stand up and speak out when problems occur in the workplace. Unfortunately, if things go wrong and the employer does not correct those actions, we need employees to be whistleblowers and to report issues with confidence to the appropriate authorities. They will then act accordingly and correct the issue. The amendments that relate to children are fairly important, particularly for the Children's Court and its ability to appoint guardians and consider certain information even when it is not supplied in a timely fashion.

The amendments to the Children's Guardian Act 2019 are important to ensure that all information is taken into account. Most of those amendments are technical but, as the Minister said, "They are important steps in streamlining the day-to-day work performed by the various agencies. They address emerging issues, support procedural improvements, clarify uncertainty and correct any errors in legislation." The elements of the bill that relate to children are so important. I commend the Minister for bringing the bill before the House. The allocation of guardians is so important. Unfortunately, from the data that I have seen, up to 30 per cent of vulnerable children or children at risk either do not have an appropriate support mechanism or there is not enough time or resources allocated to support them. Many of those children are going through very difficult circumstances and they have not even had a first chance at life.

The old adage that "it takes a village to raise a child" is so right and important today given all of the challenges that are out there. Whatever the reason for the desperate circumstances that children may find themselves in, it is never their fault. When the world comes crashing down around them, it is good to know that government agencies and members of Parliament are there to support them where they can. I will address another important matter while the Minister is in the Chamber. His predecessor made two visits to the electorate of Blacktown, and the current Minister is more than welcome to visit also because those issues have not yet been resolved. The former Minister, accompanied by John Brogden, came to visit two very good organisations in my hometown of Doonside—the centre of the universe—including the Blacktown Youth Services Association, or BYSA, and Eagle RAPS.

I will address those two organisations and what needs to be done. BYSA was formed in 1986. For a youth organisation to be 35 years old is interesting. BYSA looks after 12- to 24-year-olds. The way I look at the funding is that many different organisations come in to help with job placements or assist with education and other aspects, but the part that falls between the cracks is finding the organisation that provides support for young people at the particular point in time when something drops into their head and says, "My life is in disarray"—though they would probably use other words—"how do I improve? What do I do? Who do I reach out to?" As I said, BYSA has been around for 35 years, since 1986. That organisation is now intergenerational; we are seeing children of children coming through to use the service because they have trust in the organisation. BYSA's vision for Blacktown is a city where young people are inspired, skilled and civically engaged with other members of the community. BYSA uses best-practice models to deliver innovative programs and build social capital within the city.

The youth programs are developed by the youth, delivered by the youth and they meet the needs of the youth. During COVID something like 700 children or young people aged 12 to 24 who were in at-risk situations, such as couch surfing or homeless, went through that facility—700 children or young adults in one year. BYSA was meant to merge with another community organisation but that did not take place due to issues that occurred. Unfortunately, the funding stayed with the other organisation so BYSA, which deals with kids who are at risk—while the other organisation runs school holiday programs—lost its funding. The community has stepped up and the Blacktown Workers Club, to its credit, has raised something like \$150,000 to keep that organisation going. The community, the business community and everybody else got involved because of BYSA's strong role and work in the community. After the former Minister came out I received letters from him saying that BYSA plays a very vital role. But that organisation cannot go on forever the way it is funded. BYSA wants that previous funding to be given back so that it can continue with its work.

I am happy to discuss the issue in more detail with the Minister outside the Chamber. I would also love for the Minister to come out and look at the wonderful work that BYSA has done. It has won many awards. If BYSA goes under, basically 700 kids will be left unsupported or on the street. Eagle RAPS is the other organisation that was visited by the former Minister and John Brogden. It was formed back in 1997 by the husband-and-wife team of Sally and Marten Wynd, who acted in response to the youth suicide rate in the Blacktown area. It is good to know and see that people are talking about youth suicide a lot more today. The organisation has been going for two centuries, in another way of looking at it, starting off in 1997. Sally is still with the organisation and is joined by Scott Dent. Young people approach and complete their education.

The children do not fit into the school education system for whatever reason—they have problems and have been kicked out—and at some stage they reconnect and want to continue their learning. They have done their year 10 certificates. They do open learning through TAFE in children's services, community services, hairdressing and accounting. One has gone on to do his PhD, which is absolutely fabulous for a person who was from nowhere and under immense pressures. In the past 13 years 2,000 young people have gone through the organisation's doors. Both of these organisations are so important. Thousands of organisations out there knock on the Minister's door, but these two have been around for so long. Eagles RAPS was funded about seven years ago with Federal money. When it cut the program, it gave it back to the State. Eagle RAPS has occasionally received some funding from the State, but the organisations are the heart and soul of the community, and the youth trust them.

There has to be some mechanism for them, given that we heard in the Budget Speech today the amount of money that is being invested in mental health and support services. I hope the Minister will look at the issue with a fresh set of eyes and see how he can help these two organisations, which have been around for decades. I look forward to inviting him out to the wonderful town of Blacktown.

Ms MELANIE GIBBONS (Holsworthy) (16:06): I speak in support of the Families, Communities and Disability Services Miscellaneous Amendment Bill 2021. I start by thanking the Minister for Families, Communities and Disability Services for introducing the bill to the House. I add how pleased I am that he has taken this role, which I did not say during debate on the previous bill. As his Parliamentary Secretary, I am looking forward to achieving some goals. There are a few changes and things we want to do to make life better for a lot of our vulnerable people. I look forward to working with him to do just that. The purpose of the bill is to introduce some miscellaneous amendments to address emerging and evolving issues within the community; introduce greater protections for older people and people with disability; enhance and improve child protection processes for children in out-of-home care; and clarify the representation of children in Children's Court proceedings.

The proposed amendments are intended to provide better support and services for vulnerable members of our community. Through streamlining the workload of the several agencies that offer assistance and support to those members of the community, they will be better protected and it will create a smoother process. These are important steps to achieving transparency and effective processes within the Stronger Communities cluster. The New South Wales Government has a lot to be proud of when it comes to supporting some of the most vulnerable

in the community. The bill is another example of how the Government continues to make the necessary improvements to keep children and young people safe. The Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998, or the care Act, gives a child or young person who is the subject of proceedings the right to appear in person or be legally represented, and to examine or cross-examine witnesses on matters relevant to the proceedings. However, the care Act does not state whether the child or young person is a party to proceedings.

Section 98 (2A) of the care Act requires the Children's Court to appoint a guardian ad litem for a party to proceedings if it is of the opinion that the party is incapable of giving proper instructions to a legal representative. The role of a guardian ad litem is to act in the best interests of a person where that person is incapable of representing him or herself; is incapable of giving proper instructions to his or her legal representative; or is considered incapable due to age, mental illness or incapacity, disability or other special circumstances in relation to the conduct of the proceedings. Until recently, guardians ad litem have been appointed in care proceedings primarily to represent adults who lack capacity to provide legal instructions—for example, a parent with an intellectual disability.

In November 2020 it was held that section 98 (2A) of the care Act requires the court to appoint a guardian ad litem for a person when the court is of the opinion that the person is a party to the proceedings and is incapable of giving proper instructions to a legal representative. However, there was no clear guidance as to when a child is a party to care proceedings. In January 2021 a Children's Court magistrate considered the Supreme Court decision and held that a child or young person who is the subject of care proceedings is a party to those proceedings and that section 98 (2A), therefore, requires the court to appoint a guardian ad litem for a child or young person who is the subject of care proceedings and is incapable of giving instructions to a legal representative. Several other Children's Court magistrates have since adopted this approach, postponing proceedings to allow for the appointment of a guardian ad litem in all care proceedings where a child or young person is considered incapable of giving legal instructions.

Consequently, the demand for guardians ad litem in the Children's Court has significantly exceeded availability, resulting in some matters being delayed for several months and affecting care arrangements for children and young people. That is inconsistent with the principle of the care Act that Children's Court proceedings are to be carried out as quickly as possible and that adjournments are to be avoided. The bill amends section 98 (2A) of the care Act to make discretionary, rather than mandatory, the court's power to appoint a guardian ad litem for a party to proceedings whom the court considers not capable of adequately representing himself or herself. The amendment will ensure that courts retain the discretion to appoint a guardian ad litem in circumstances where that is considered appropriate. Importantly, the interests of children and young people will still be represented in care proceedings.

Children who are the subject of care proceedings can be represented by an independent legal representative or a direct legal representative, where appropriate. Those representatives are lawyers with specialist skills, training and understanding of care proceedings, whose role it is to represent the best interests of the child. The amendment does not affect the appointment of those legal representatives. The amendment will reduce the huge demand on the guardian ad litem panel and the consequent delays in care proceedings. It is critical that the Children's Court is able to function properly to ensure the safety, welfare and wellbeing of children. Schedule 2 to the bill introduces proposals that will work to improve protections for older people and people with a disability. The Ageing and Disability Commissioner Act 2019 will be amended so that it is an offence for any employer to take harmful action against an employee or a contractor who provides assistance to the Ageing and Disability Commission in relation to reports about abuse, exploitation or neglect.

The Ageing and Disability Commission is the primary agency that receives and responds to reports of abuse, neglect and exploitation of older people and people with a disability. At the moment, anyone is able to make a report to the Ageing and Disability Commission. However, it is not compulsory to do so. Therefore, to encourage reporting, the Ageing and Disability Commissioner Act 2019 provides a number of protections for those who report, including that the reporter's identity is only disclosed when they give permission and that they are not liable for any civil, criminal or disciplinary action for making the report. A wide range of people can be asked to provide necessary information to assist the commission with a report, including staff of service providers. At present, there are no protections in place under the Act for people who provide any assistance to the commission.

Those who work with older people or people with a disability play an important role in providing critical information to the commission regarding concerns of abuse, neglect and exploitation. Therefore, it is vital that staff members are adequately protected and are able to assist the commission in relation to a report without facing any negative action. Schedule 2 to the bill introduces new section 31A of the Ageing and Disability Commissioner Act 2019 and allows the commission to provide information of the outcome of a report to the person who made the report, as well as other key people involved or concerned about the welfare of the older person or person with

a disability. It is important that appropriate and adequate measures are put in place to protect the person with a disability or older person. Therefore, the outcome of a report and any relevant information need to be provided to the reporter and other concerned people, to ensure the safety and welfare of the person.

For example, a person's GP or NDIS support coordinator may need to be informed to ensure that necessary steps are taken to enhance the person's welfare. It is important to note that this will not be necessary in every report. However, it ensures that the commission is given the provision to disclose information about the outcome of a report when it is necessary to do so. This is primarily to protect someone from abuse, neglect and exploitation, and to ensure that their rights are promoted. Schedule 3 to the bill amends the Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998, and will introduce some critical measures to ensure greater clarification of the powers and processes of the Children's Court. It will promote continued and enhanced safety, welfare and wellbeing of children and young people in statutory out-of-home care.

The proposals go further in amending section 82 of the Act to extend the period that a court may require a report to be provided about the suitability of arrangements for a child's care and protection. Currently it is 12 months but will be changed to 24 months. This will allow the court greater flexibility to determine when it needs a progress report to be provided, depending on the individual circumstances of the case. The court will also be more involved in the progress of a child or young person's permanency plan under a short-term care order. The proposed amendments within this bill are the necessary steps forward in creating a safer environment for older people, people with a disability, and children and young people in out-of-home care. I congratulate the Minister for Families, Communities and Disability Services on bringing this bill to the House. I commend the bill to the House.

Mr ALISTER HENSKENS (Ku-ring-gai—Minister for Families, Communities and Disability Services) (16:15): In reply: I thank members for their contributions to the debate. In particular, I thank the shadow Minister, the member for Port Stephens; the member for Camden; the member for Blacktown; and the member for Holsworthy and my Parliamentary Secretary for their contributions. I will address some of the matters raised in debate. The member for Port Stephens referred to the circumstances in which a designated agency may require an authorised carer to undergo a medical examination in connection with the regulation-making power to be inserted by this bill as new section 264 (1A) (i) of the care Act. The proposed amendment to section 264 (1A) of the care Act to introduce paragraph (i) clarifies the regulation-making power for the existing clause 38 of the Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Regulation 2012. That clause provides that:

An authorised carer must, if requested in writing by the designated agency on the written advice of a medical practitioner--

- (a) undergo, or cause a person who resides at the authorised carer's home to undergo, such examination by a medical practitioner as is reasonably necessary to ascertain whether the authorised carer's household is a healthy environment for the care of children or young persons, and
- (b) provide a report of such examination to the designated agency and to any ... supervising person who requests that the report be provided to it.

Such medical examinations may be required, for example, in cases where the designated agency has received information that a carer or someone in their household may have an infectious disease; or the designated agency becomes aware of medical issues, such as a carer having a fall, or other new or deteriorating health concerns related to the carer or a person residing at the carer's home; or the designated agency has received complaints about a carer related to their health, either physical or mental, and their capacity to care for a child. These medical examinations are limited to circumstances where they are required to provide evidence that a carer's medical condition or that of a person residing with an authorised carer will not negatively impact the safety, welfare and wellbeing of a child or young person in the household.

A medical examination may also be required in instances where a temporary medical condition has arisen that requires short-term support for the carer. For example, if the carer is temporarily unable to drive and an agency may then want to request funding for a driver in the interim, a medical examination may be required to support this request. The amendments will not change practices within the department or within designated agencies, nor create new obligations on authorised carers or the people who live with them. Clause 38 has been in the regulation, substantially the same, since it was enacted in 2012. The clause contains the in-built protection that the designated agency may only require the medical examination to be undertaken on the written advice of a medical practitioner. The clause therefore cannot be and is not used other than responsibly and to promote the wellbeing of the children in the care of an authorised carer.

The amendment in this bill to clarify the regulation-making power will not change that, nor will it introduce new circumstances in which a designated agency can require a person to undergo a medical examination. The amendment makes no substantive or policy change and reflects only the changing drafting practices of Parliamentary Counsel. In addition, I thank all members who spoke in the debate about their concerns for vulnerable children and for the personal goodwill that they exhibited in their contributions. The member for

Blacktown named two organisations: Blacktown Youth Services Association and Eagle RAPS. I must say that Eagle RAPS is supported, and has been for many years, by the Rotary Club of Ku-ring-gai, so I am very familiar with Eagle RAPS' work from Rotarians within my electorate. I have met Sally and Martin from that organisation at, I think, Pymble Golf Club—it was possibly Avondale Golf Club—at one of the Rotary meetings. I had a nice chat to them about their work in the Blacktown area. I commend both of those organisations for the contributions they make to the welfare of our young people.

In conclusion, the Families, Communities and Disability Services Miscellaneous Amendment Bill 2021 will make several amendments to legislation within the Stronger Communities cluster to address emerging issues, support procedural improvements, clarify uncertainty and correct errors in legislation. The bill includes amendments to strengthen the community by supporting the principles in the Adoption Act 2000 of encouraging openness in adoption and allowing access to adoption information by streamlining the processes involved in applying for adoption information; making important amendments to the Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998 to clarify that the court's power to appoint guardians ad litem in care proceedings is discretionary, which will reduce unnecessary delays and adjournments in those care proceedings; and emphasising the importance of the role of employees and contractors in protecting the rights of older people and people with disability by increasing protections for employees who assist the Ageing and Disability Commissioner with reports. I commend the bill to the House.

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

Motion agreed to.

Third Reading

Mr ALISTER HENSKENS: I move:

That this bill be now read a third time.

Motion agreed to.

MUTUAL RECOGNITION (NEW SOUTH WALES) AMENDMENT BILL 2021

Consideration in Detail

Consideration of Legislative Council's amendment.

Schedule of amendment referred to in message of 10 June 2021

No 1 **OPP No. 1 [c2021-071E]**

Page 5, Schedule 1. Insert after line 15—

5D Minister required to seek exclusions for certain occupations

- (1) The Minister must, before or no later than 1 month after section 42T of the amended Commonwealth Act commences, make a declaration using section 42T (a **temporary exclusion declaration**) to exclude each relevant occupation from the operation of automatic deemed registration.
- (2) If a temporary exclusion declaration for a relevant occupation is not revoked before the end of the initial exclusion period, the Minister must make a declaration using section 42S of the amended Commonwealth Act (a **significant risk exclusion declaration**) to continue its exclusion from the operation of automatic deemed registration.
- (3) The Minister must make further significant risk exclusion declarations for an occupation mentioned in subsection (2) each time a previous significant risk exclusion declaration for the occupation ends for a reason other than revocation.
- (4) The Minister must comply with subsections (2) and (3) before the previous declaration ends.
- (5) The Minister must consult with relevant trade unions and industry groups at least once during each 12-month period during which a significant risk exclusion declaration for a relevant occupation is in force about whether the continued exclusion of the occupation is appropriate having regard to the purpose of the amended Commonwealth Act specified by section 3 of that Act.
- (6) The Minister must not revoke a temporary exclusion declaration or significant risk exclusion declaration for a relevant occupation before it is due to end unless the Minister—
 - (a) has tabled a revocation proposal in each House of Parliament; and
 - (b) the disallowance period for the proposal has ended or all motions to disallow the proposal have been defeated.
- (7) A revocation proposal for a relevant occupation must state—

- (a) the trade unions and industry groups the Minister has consulted about the proposal; and
- (b) the reasons why the Minister is satisfied the end of the exclusion of the occupation from the operation of automatic deemed registration would not—
 - (i) place the public at risk of harm, or
 - (ii) compromise the effective regulation of the occupation in the State.
- (8) The *Interpretation Act 1987*, sections 40 and 41 apply to a revocation proposal in the same way as they apply to a statutory rule.
- (9) This section does not limit or prevent the Minister making or revoking temporary exclusion declarations or significant risk exclusion declarations for occupations other than relevant occupations.
- (10) In this section—

amended Commonwealth Act means the Commonwealth Act as amended by the *Mutual Recognition Amendment Act 2021* of the Commonwealth, as in force from time to time.

automatic deemed registration has the same meaning as in the amended Commonwealth Act.

initial exclusion period means the period of 12 months beginning when section 42T of the amended Commonwealth Act commences.

relevant occupation means any occupation for which an individual must be lawfully authorised under a law of the State to carry on activities involving—

- (a) teaching work, or
- (b) electrical work, or
- (c) mining work, or
- (d) the work of a diesel mechanic, or
- (e) building, maintenance or construction work, including the following—
 - (i) engineering work;
 - (ii) gasfitting work, including medical gasfitting work and medical gas technician work;
 - (iii) mechanical services and medical gas work;
 - (iv) air-conditioning work;
 - (v) the work of a refrigeration mechanic;
 - (vi) plumbing work;
 - (vii) tunnelling work;
 - (viii) welding work;
 - (ix) drilling work;
 - (x) the work of a fitter and turner;
 - (xi) the work of a shotfirer;
 - (xii) the work of a rigger or dogger;
 - (xiii) the work of a machine and heavy plant operator;
 - (xiv) fire protection work.

Mr STUART AYRES (Penrith—Minister for Jobs, Investment, Tourism and Western Sydney) (16:22): On behalf of Mr Dominic Perrottet: I move:

That the Legislative Council amendment be agreed to.

Mr ANOULACK CHANTHIVONG (Macquarie Fields) (16:22): I will make some brief comments on behalf of the Opposition on the Mutual Recognition (New South Wales) Amendment Bill 2021 and consideration of the Legislative Council's amendment. I will keep my comments brief, as I know that my colleagues in the Legislative Council have thoroughly outlined NSW Labor's position on the bill and the need for the agreed amendment. Labor has worked collaboratively with the Treasurer's office to improve the bill, and the amendment addresses safety concerns across a variety of industries such as teaching, electrical work, mining and construction. It is appropriate for high-risk industries to be excluded from the legislation until safety concerns are adequately addressed. I commend the constructive engagement between the Government and the Opposition to achieve this outcome and commend the Legislative Council's amendment to the House.

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

Motion agreed to.*Community Recognition Statements***MCAULEY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Ms GABRIELLE UPTON (Vaucluse) (16:24): McAuley Catholic Primary School in Rose Bay invited me to join the special speaking and listening kindergarten to year 6 assembly yesterday, Monday 21 June 2021. I congratulate the student speakers on such a fantastic job presenting, including kindergarten students Grace Adams and Eve Scivetti, year 1 student Levi Irankhah, year 2 student Clementine Noga, year 3 student Isebel Cendron, year 4 student Santana Tonelli-Smith and year 6 students Thomas Harris and Caitlin Toomey. It was a pleasure to join the students, teachers and parents. They were very brave and very good at making their short speeches in the public eye. It is a challenge for anyone who does public speaking and I wanted to show my support by joining with them yesterday at the assembly. I also acknowledge the school leadership in principal Nicole Jones, assistant principal Karen Blacklock and P&C president Emma Harcourt.

LONDONDERRY PUBLIC SCHOOL

Ms PRUE CAR (Londonderry) (16:25): I thank the wonderful students at Londonderry Public School whom I visited last week. The students in years 5 and 6 have been learning about government and this place, the Parliament, so it is an honour to recognise them in the Chamber today. The students asked me some good questions, mostly relating to who my favourite Penrith Panthers player was. We had a good discussion about being a parliamentarian. They have even been working on their own bills and learning about what members of Parliament do. They showed me some of their bills and, I have to say, I was very impressed. I know they have been getting great lessons from their wonderful teacher, Ms Roschelle Morwood, whom I pay particular tribute to. I congratulate the terrific students, the dedicated staff and their wonderful principal at Londonderry Public School.

PETER BURFITT

Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal) (16:26): On 5 June this year at the Rural Fire Service Association [RFS] conference Ourimbah firefighter Peter Burfitt was named the Rural Fire Service Association's Member of the Year. The RFS is a support group offering assistance to RFS volunteers across the State, and Peter has been involved for more than 20 years. In addition to being a volunteer with the Matcham Holgate brigade, Peter has held a number of positions in the RFS, including secretary of both the Gosford and Central Coast South branches and delegate to the RFS State Council. He has also served on the NSW RFS and RFS consultative committees, and was the RFS delegate to the local district committee. Peter was a driving force behind the creation of RFS Division 17 on the Central Coast and integral to its development. The Member of the Year Award acknowledges a member who has made exceptional contributions to the RFS's projects and programs. Peter has campaigned tirelessly on behalf of his fellow firefighters on the Central Coast. I take this opportunity to congratulate him on this recognition. It is incredibly well deserved for all the hard work he has put in with the RFS and RFS.

TRIBUTE TO MIKE BAILEY

Ms JO HAYLEN (Summer Hill) (16:27): Growing up, Mike Bailey was pretty much part of the family to me, appearing on the ABC each night to tell us about the weather. He was a trusted, familiar voice. I was sad to learn of his passing this week, aged 71. Mike joined the ABC in the 1960s as a cadet, and after a period working for other networks returned to ABC Sydney as a weather presenter in 1984. As well as being the trusted source of information on the weather, Mike loved politics and sport. In 2007 my family and I were proud to campaign for Mike when he ran for Labor in North Sydney, giving Joe Hockey an almighty scare. In 2011 Mike was appointed the chairman of Wests Ashfield Leagues Club, where he was a passionate, bold and much-loved advocate for community sport. As chairman, Mike made an indelible mark on our local community and the outpouring of love from across the inner west is a testament to just how much he was loved and respected. I send my deepest condolences on behalf of the inner west community to his wife, Helena; his son, Michael; and his extended family.

PHILIPPINES INDEPENDENCE DAY

Mr JUSTIN CLANCY (Albury) (16:28): The 123rd Philippines Independence Day was celebrated on Saturday 12 June by the local regional Filipino community with a holy mass at St Michael's Cathedral, Wagga Wagga. In particular, I thank Bishop Edwards, who was celebrant for the holy mass, which means so much to that community. Independence day is an annual commemoration and celebration that marks the nation's declaration of independence from Spanish rule on 12 June 1898, and is also known as the Day of Freedom. Filipinos across the world gather to celebrate this day, which, in their homeland, is a declared public holiday. Following mass at St Michael's, the Filipino community joined for entertainment with national costumes and a presentation of

Philippine history and origins. I congratulate the Filipino community on their important day of celebrations and wish them every happiness and success for the future.

COAST HANDS

Mr DAVID MEHAN (The Entrance) (16:29): Yesterday I was pleased to join the launch of grassroots charity Coast Hands in my electorate at Tumby Wholesale Meats. The group assists those in need by supplying three frozen meals using produce from local businesses, cooked by local restaurants and delivered to neighbourhood and outreach centres across the coast and The Entrance electorate. I particularly thank Tumby Wholesale Meats for supplying the meat, along with Nick and his team from Fruit For All for supplying vegetables. I also thank the team from Lunch at Shelleys in Berkeley Vale, who will prepare delicious meals for the Bateau Bay Neighbourhood Centre and the meeting place in Tumby Umbi to distribute. It is a real tribute to my electorate and the people in my electorate who are stepping in to help those in need when the Government is not doing its job.

BRIAN AND JULIE WILCOX

Mr STEPHEN BROMHEAD (Myall Lakes) (16:30): I recognise Brian and Julie Wilcox. Brian and Julie were both recently recognised as life members of the Surf Life Saving Lower North Coast Branch. Brian has been a surf lifesaver since 1994 and has held various positions on club and branch executive boards for the past 22 years. That includes his current positions as Lower North Coast Branch president, which he has held for 10 years, as well as his current tenure as Deputy President of Surf Life Saving NSW. Julie held a variety of positions, including as the Lower North Coast Branch director of lifesaving and assistant director of lifesaving. She oversaw an unmanned aerial vehicles program with the Department of Primary Industries, which helped the patrol of shark sightings in Forster. Julie and Brian have had a significant impact on local lifesaving, undoubtedly contributing to saving many lives in our waters. I congratulate both Brian and Julie on this recognition and thank them for their ongoing commitment to keeping everyone safe on our coastline.

KEIRAN BOOTH

Ms LIESL TESCH (Gosford) (16:31): I say a great big hooray in New South Wales Parliament for a legendary contributor to the Central Coast community, Keiran Booth. We wish him the very best and thank him from the depths of our hearts for his contribution to our community sector and wraparound diligence, oversight and care for vulnerable people across the Central Coast. It has been an absolute pleasure to work closely with Kieran during my time in this role, and I wish him all the best in retirement. Kieran's vision and commitment to improving the lives of people who live in disadvantage and on the fringes of our society has overseen significant change and support for those individuals. I sincerely thank him for his 40 years as a JP and his community work, 20 years contributing on the Central Coast, his involvement in Medicare Local and his commitment to seeing Health on The Streets [HoTS] up and running. I thank everyone involved with our HoTS van—they are a friend, a protector, an overseer, a brother or sister, and a lifeline of appreciation and wellbeing. We offer extreme thanks to Kieran for his big-hearted generosity and passionate contribution to the Central Coast Community Council and the people of the Central Coast.

ROY CATO 100TH BIRTHDAY

Mr JONATHAN O'DEA (Davidson) (16:32): I honour Roy Cato on reaching his 100th birthday, which he celebrated on the weekend. In addition to the COVID-19 pandemic that we are currently experiencing, in his 100 years Roy has witnessed such world-changing events as the Great Depression, World War II and the Cold War. In Roy's time, flight has been taken from cloth-covered wooden biplanes, to the jet fighters of World War II, to passenger planes capable of carrying 500 people, to supersonic planes flying from London to New York in four hours and to space travel. Roy has seen much, from his youth to his time as a military policeman in Papua New Guinea and to his life in the wonderful environs of Fernbank retirement village at St Ives. A keen swimmer and golfer, Roy has been a member of New South Wales Golf Club for 74 years. He has hit three holes in one, the last at 91 years old. Last Friday I was fortunate to again visit Fernbank to mark the auspicious occasion in the life of Roy with many of his friends.

OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL WATERLOO

Mr RON HOENIG (Heffron) (16:33): It was wonderful as always to visit Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Primary School Waterloo to give years 5 and 6 students tips on public speaking. Mount Carmel was one of three local schools that chose to participate in the Botany-Randwick Sydney Catholic Schools Public Speaking Competition. It was wonderful for students to have the opportunity to develop and showcase their oral language skills and to engage with others across the network of schools and community. Two special Waterloo students, Romeo Ladero-Bispo and Ashanti Afu, progressed to the semifinals. The grand final will be held on 15 July and I will be on the judging panel with the member for Coogee and the member for Maroubra. I hope I was able to

give those four bright students some helpful, memorable tips and I wish them all the best for the rest of the competition.

JOHN RALSTON

Mr DAVID LAYZELL (Upper Hunter) (16:34): I congratulate John Ralston, the Senior Deputy Captain of the Bendolba-Salisbury Brigade, who was honoured for his bravery with a St Florian's Day Commissioner's Commendation for Service, which is only given out for outstanding actions. John's courageous efforts were recognised as he beat down flames that were two metres high so he could make a path to run his hose and make his way down into a steep, narrow gully, where he rescued a man. The fire was out of control and it was a very dangerous situation for all those involved. Again, congratulations to John on his recognition and I commend the members of the Bendolba-Salisbury Brigade for their diligent work.

CASSANDRA ELBOURN

Mr DAVID HARRIS (Wyang) (16:35): It was an honour to join Federal MP for Dobell, Emma McBride, to celebrate a rare occasion when Cassandra Elbourn from Wyong District Girl Guides received the prestigious Queen's Guide Award at the Wyong District Girl Guides Hall on 1 April 2021. The prestigious Queen's Guide Award is the highest honour a Girl Guide can receive and Cassandra was the first Lakelands Division Senior Guide to achieve this under the new badge system. To earn the Queen's Guide Award you must challenge yourself and connect with the community through advocacy and volunteer work as well as setting personal goals and following through with them. Each year only around 25 to 30 girls receive this award and not many girls get this opportunity or take the time to complete the requirements of the award. I congratulate Cassandra on her achievements and on becoming the first Lakelands Division Senior Guide to earn the prestigious Queen's Guide Award.

RICHARD DE CARVALHO

Mr PETER SIDGREAVES (Camden) (16:36): I recognise Richard de Carvalho, who decided to make a *Star Wars* short fan film in a galaxy not so far away. Inspired by the sunburnt landscapes and wanting something distinctly Australian, Richard found exactly what he was looking for in Camden. Owners of the lands were gracious enough to have their properties transformed into a planet straight out of a *Star Wars* universe. I offer my sincere thanks to the owners of the properties for supporting local, inspirational filmmakers like Richard. I am proud to recognise members in the community who support one another. I also congratulate Richard and his team on the short fan film and wish them all the best for future films.

ANTHONY WALLER, OAM

Dr MARJORIE O'NEILL (Coogee) (16:37): I congratulate Anthony Waller in my electorate of Coogee who has received an Order of Australia Medal as a part of the Queen's Birthday Honours List of 2021 for his exceptional service and achievements. I commend Anthony today for his commitment and dedication to surf lifesaving and to the community. With outstanding involvement in the Westpac Life Saver Rescue Helicopter service and Surf Life Saving NSW as a member and director of education, Tony's efforts are further extended to both Coogee Surf Life Saving Club as a former governor, president and committee member. Not only has he been involved in surf lifesaving, but also he has been a superintendent with Fire and Rescue NSW since 2019 and a firefighter since 1981. Additionally, Tony's involvement as scout leader for the 1st Clovelly Scout Group, Scouts NSW and deputy chair of the Fallen Lifesavers Memorial Trust has highlighted his admirable community involvement. Huge and personal congratulations go to Tony for his remarkable community work. The eastern suburbs is a far better place for having him in it.

NORTHERN BARBARIANS RUGBY CLUB

Mr MATT KEAN (Hornsby—Minister for Energy and Environment) (16:38): I congratulate the Northern Barbarians, who took out the award for Team of the Year at the NSW Community Sports Awards. The club, which also celebrates its sixtieth anniversary this year, has 180 registered players ranging from the under-6s through to the under-17s. The club, run by volunteers, has been working extremely hard to ensure that it is one of the best rugby clubs in the district and this award cements that position. I congratulate the committee, which is headed by president Adam Muir and includes Ben Pollock, Shane Williams, Louise Reid, Leanne Meredith, Ian Crofts, Tim Reid, Steve Mitchell, Mark Swindell, David Idstein, Matt Walmsley, Andrew O'Neill, David Reid and Anne Linsell. Running a sports club takes dedication and this committee has put in hundreds of hours to ensure that kids get on the field each and every week. It is a family-oriented club that welcomes new players of all abilities and supports their coaches at training and regular development sessions. Congratulations to all the committee, coaches, managers and players, both current and past, who have contributed to the club's success over the past 60 years and on this well-deserved award.

KYOGLE HIGH SCHOOL

Ms JANELLE SAFFIN (Lismore) (16:39): I recently attended Kyogle High School's student representative council assembly to hand out badges to the SRC's newly elected members. It was so inspiring to meet them all and it is inspiring to see local young people stepping up into leadership roles. I thank teacher Mia McDonough for running this important program at the school. It was great to catch up with SRC members Olivia Flower and Faryn Johnston, who are representatives in the YMCA NSW Youth Parliament, and I got to meet up with them again here. They are incredible young people who will represent our community well and do us proud. Congratulations go to teachers Ian Packer and Rebecca O'Meara on completing their NSW Secondary Principals Council Teacher Leader professional development courses. Principal Gae Masters and her staff are hardworking and dedicated to going the extra mile for their students, and I congratulate them all.

MR JOHN COCKBURN

Mrs WENDY TUCKERMAN (Goulburn) (16:40): I recognise Yass resident Mr John Cockburn. Mr Cockburn was a telegraph operator in World War II and retired from the Royal Australian Air Force in 1946. The 100-year-old veteran was the guest of honour at this year's Yass Anzac Day commemorations. The commencement of the ceremony saw the veteran arrive in an old army jeep surrounded by the Corps of Staff Cadets Long Tan Division from the Royal Military College, Duntroon. Mr Cockburn then undertook a solitary march, with residents cheering him on. Yass RSL Sub-Branch President Neil Turner reminded attendees of the sacrifices our veterans made for us. I publicly acknowledge Mr John Cockburn for his service and I wish him all the best in the future. Lest we forget.

NAVITAS ENGLISH FAIRFIELD

Mr GUY ZANGARI (Fairfield) (16:40): Navitas English Fairfield celebrated the launch of its "Our Journey to Unity" art project, in celebration of National Refugee Week, on Monday 21 June 2021. Over the course of term 4, young people at Navitas English Fairfield participated in a number of art lessons with the aim of utilising drawing to develop language skills. The students were given the brief to create vibrant artworks to celebrate the 2021 Refugee Week theme, "Unity—The way forward". The program not only allowed young people to build their art skills but also helped them develop the courage to speak with representatives, meet deadlines and work in collaboration with students and teachers. Along with each artwork comes a story of a young person's homeland and journey to Australia. On my visit I was fortunate enough to hear from the students themselves, who told me their stories of hope, happiness and optimism. I applaud the students involved, who approached the task with great enthusiasm and passion, and the staff at Navitas Fairfield for providing this wonderful opportunity.

TAMARA KENIRY

Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore) (16:41): I recognise Mosman mum and local business champion Tamara Keniry for her outstanding contributions to my local community. Tamara is a busy mother of three who runs her own business and is also president of the Mosman Chamber of Commerce. Tamara is leading the Think Mosman First initiative, aimed at supporting local shops and businesses recover from the impacts of COVID-19. The initiative is designed to encourage residents to spend locally and enjoy a meal at many of the great restaurants and cafes in my local area. Tamara is also the founder of PureFree, which designs and supplies re-usable coffee cups and glass bottles to reduce the impact of waste. With the onset of the COVID pandemic, Tamara had to adapt and overcome unprecedented challenges like many local businesses in my area. Yet still she is driven by a passion for creating sustainable solutions, and we talk about this particularly with the recent announcement about getting rid of single-use plastics in New South Wales. I congratulate Tamara on her continued commitment to and passion for the environment. I thank her for championing initiatives to support local businesses in our community.

JACOB VIVIER

Ms KATE WASHINGTON (Port Stephens) (16:43): Today I would like this Parliament to recognise a young man from my electorate, Jacob Vivier of Medowie, who carried out a random act of kindness. Sydney woman Sue Thomson embarked on a car trip recently to visit her family in Tea Gardens. Along the way her car was hit by some debris on the highway, damaging her rear tyre. After calling the NRMA, Sue was understandably anxious about the fast traffic travelling past her. Then, out of the blue, there was a knock on the car's door and a young face appeared. Jacob had witnessed the accident but could not stop because of the speed of the traffic. He travelled up the highway to the next exit and doubled back to help. He changed Sue's tyre. But his good deed did not stop there. Jacob arranged replacement tyres, guided her to the tyre dealership, took her to lunch whilst her car was fixed and then had Sue follow him up the Pacific Highway until she had her bearings to continue her journey. Later that afternoon Jacob called Sue to make sure she had arrived at her destination safely. The world needs more young people like Jacob in it, and we are so glad to have him as part of our Port Stephens community.

OATLEY FLORA AND FAUNA CONSERVATION SOCIETY

Mr MARK COURE (Oatley) (16:44): I acknowledge Kim Wagstaff, and the Oatley Flora and Fauna Conservation Society for their continued advocacy and commitment to protecting our local environment. The Oatley Flora and Fauna Conservation Society was established in 1955 by local residents with a passion for the preservation of plants and wildlife in local parks and reserves. Over their 65-year history, they have taught members the importance of environmental conservation, and the need to protect native plants and wildlife species. It is for these reasons that the organisation was honoured with an Environmental Achievement Award as part of the 2020 St George Community Awards. These awards honour some of the many wonderful community groups, businesses and individuals who go above and beyond each and every day to make our community a better place. This is a very well-deserved award. I thank Kim and his team for everything that they have achieved in the past 65 years.

PEARL BEACH ARBORETUM EPHEMERAL ART TRAIL

Ms LIESL TESCH (Gosford) (16:45): Massive congratulations to everyone involved in the fabulous Pearl Beach Arboretum Ephemeral Art Trail inaugural adventure. It was an absolute honour to join the community at the launch in the gorgeous arboretum, and have a sneak preview of the beauty, sheer bliss, relaxation, imagination and ephemeral joy that has been magnified by the arrival of the art trail. The Pearl Beach Arboretum is already an absolute thrill to the senses as a unique flora and fauna sanctuary on the beautiful Central Coast. The community is to be highly commended for its protection, enhancement, maintenance, management and promotion of nature conservation in our community. And this was before the 18 official artworks and the additional explosions of creativity that became a fantastic tourist location over the long weekend. Our artists are amazing and inspiration is alive. Congratulations and thank you to all involved. Bring on the creativity for 2022.

ROWENA MEREDITH

Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore) (16:46): I congratulate Mosman resident Rowena Meredith on securing her spot in the Women's Quad rowing team at the Tokyo Olympics. The crew won its final race at the Qualification Regatta in Lucerne, Switzerland, to book a spot on the Australian Olympic Team. Rowena and her team continued their dominant performance throughout the regatta. They led their final from start to finish and crossed the line in just under 6½ minutes. This is an excellent achievement as the regatta is known to be a tough qualifier, especially when battling adverse weather conditions. Rowena has won green and gold for Australia in many world championship events throughout her career and frequently appears on the medal podium. She is studying to become a paramedic at the University of Sydney—I am sure she will welcome today's announcements—where she also rows competitively. Congratulations to Rowena on securing a spot in the Australian Olympic team and best of luck in Tokyo.

ST THERESE CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Mr RON HOENIG (Heffron) (16:46): It was a pleasure to visit St Therese Catholic Primary School, Mascot, at the invitation of the school to give my public speaking tips to years 5 and 6 students before they participated in the Botany-Randwick Network of Sydney Catholic Schools Public Speaking Competition Grand Final in July. St Therese was one of three of my local schools that chose to participate in that competition to provide an opportunity for their students to develop and showcase their oral language skills, and engage with others across the network of schools and community. Claude de Merindol, Grace Kearney, Christine Nanna, Renee Richardson, Noah Wood and Eliza Camillos from St Therese all proceeded to the semifinal stage. The grand final will be held on 15 July. I will be on the judging panel with the members for Coogee and for Maroubra. I hope I was able to give those bright students some helpful, memorable tips. I wish them all the best for the rest of the competition.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM "BILL" BOYD, OAM

Mrs LESLIE WILLIAMS (Port Macquarie) (16:47): I pay tribute to a true gentleman of the Camden Haven community, William "Bill" Boyd, for his life well lived in service for others. Described as a community champion and the unofficial mayor of Herons Creek, Bill's passion to support local projects using his well-honed skills is simply legendary and is seen all around the countryside, including restoration works at the historical Roto House, the Big Axe at Kew Information Centre, the Chapel at Herons Creek, Coolamine Homestead in Kosciuszko National Park, Longworth Tramway, the Snowy Mountain Huts and the list goes on. Born in 1935, Bill grew up in the town of Herons Creek. At the young age of 14, Bill left school to become a wood chopper, where he spent his career in the forest as a sleeper cutter, expert woodcutter and timber cutter for NSW Forestry. He was also one of the first bullockies at Timbertown and was instrumental in the completion of the Turpentine Tramway Project. Bill's accolades continue with an OAM recognising his contribution to community groups and his 27 years of

service as a field officer for National Parks and Wildlife. On behalf of the community, I extend my sincere condolences to his beautiful wife, Betty, and their extended families.

NICOLA YOUNG

Ms KATE WASHINGTON (Port Stephens) (16:49): I recognise Nicola Young, the president of Tea Gardens Hawks Nest Surf Life Saving Club. I was delighted to attend the Hunter surf life saving gala awards night on Saturday night where Nicola received the most prestigious award of the night, which was Hunter Surf Life Saving's Lifesaver of the Year. I have witnessed Nicola's work firsthand. During her presidency of Tea Gardens Hawks Nest Surf Life Saving Club, Nicola has overseen the renovation and remake of the surf life saving club. It is now a spectacular site. More importantly, I have witnessed a huge cultural change to the surf life saving club there. The club has a new family feel, and Nicola's leadership has been so impressive. I am very grateful to her for her community service and to every single one of her club's members for keeping our beaches safe and building leaders for the future.

DUBBO CITY LADIES PROBUS CLUB

Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS (Dubbo) (16:50): The Dubbo City Ladies Probus Club recently celebrated a spectacular milestone—35 years of fun, friendship and fellowship. It was really nice to attend the club's anniversary lunch and hear from some of the members about what Probus means to them. It is more than just a social occasion—there are also opportunities to hear guest speakers and stay active by participating in a range of activities, including day trips around the region. In all, there were eight presidents in attendance, including life members Peggy Brown and Joan Yeo, as well as Babette Davis, Marie Norris, Liz Lamble, Nora Reece, Joy McLean and current president Annemeike Neville. I commend all of them for their service. It was a lovely lunch, which was certainly enjoyed by all, including me. Congratulations Dubbo City Ladies Probus and here's to another 35 years.

COFFS COAST CANCER COUNCIL

Mr GURMESH SINGH (Coffs Harbour) (16:51): June is Bowel Cancer Awareness Month. Currently in New South Wales only 40 per cent of the home test bowel kits are being returned. I join with Coffs Coast Cancer Council NSW in encouraging Australians aged 50 to 74 to be involved in the National Bowel Cancer Screening Program and to complete the free bowel screening test when they receive it in the mail. The Cancer Council's high-profile campaigns in my community are helping to save lives, and I applaud it for its vital work. I also congratulate Coffs Harbour Breast Cancer Buddies on its Australia's Biggest Morning Tea at the North Coast Regional Botanic Gardens. It was great to catch up with Coffs Coast Cancer Council NSW community programs coordinator Louise Jeffs, Cancer Council NSW board member Carolyn Heise, Breast Buddies Support Group leader Di Holt and Coffs Coast Cancer Council NSW community relations coordinator Brittany Raven.

CENTRAL COAST POTTERS

Ms LIESL TESCH (Gosford) (16:52): I congratulate the Central Coast Potters on its fifty-third birthday culminating in the fantastic opening post-renovation of its rejuvenated workshop. The Central Coast Potters started in 1968 with 18 founding members. It was a delight to meet some of them at East Gosford, joining the current 102 members in celebration. I congratulate those founding members on their vision and every single facet of success that the Central Coast Potter society is in our community. Here in the New South Wales Parliament, I celebrate the talents of incredible potters, the fantastic sense of community, talented teachers, fabulous committee leadership and damn hard work that keeps this fantastic organisation going. The workshop was built in 1980 on council land and funded solely by money raised by the Central Coast Potters society, including the car park. Everyone involved is to be absolutely commended for their efforts to date, with special thanks to the contribution from the Central Coast Council for the new roof and New South Wales Government for the Community Building Partnership contribution. Most importantly, enjoy potting.

GLENMORE PARK HIGH SCHOOL

Mrs TANYA DAVIES (Mulgoa) (16:53): I was at Glenmore Park High School last week where we officially turned the sod for the commencement of the new Performing Arts and Learning Centre. It was a pleasure to visit school principal Ms Lizette Gorick and school captains Jamie Chetcuti and Paige Petru, who joined the dignitaries at the sod turn for the new state-of-the-art facility. This building has been 10 years in the making. Prior to the last State election I promised that the Berejiklian-Barilaro Government, if returned, would deliver this creative facility. I am proud to say that the learning centre will also benefit the public schools linked with the Glenmore Park Learning Alliance, including Regentville, Glenmore Park, Surveyors Creek, Wallacia, Warragamba, Mulgoa and Luddenham. Through this upgrade the facility will enable the wider Glenmore Park school community to hold assemblies, presentations, and creative and performing arts nights, as well as other

school and wider community events. The new air-conditioned facility will include a multipurpose performance hall with seating for over 400, a raised stage area with back-of-house holding rooms, stage rigging, a theatre sound system, change rooms and stores, and two flexible learning spaces. I congratulate Glenmore Park High School on this fantastic upgrade. I look forward to seeing this project through to completion.

Community Recognition Notices

REVEREND GRAHAM CREW AND MRS JANE CREW

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla—Attorney General, and Minister for Prevention of Domestic and Sexual Violence)—I acknowledge the service of Reverend Graham Crew and his wife, Mrs Jane Crew, to Gymea Anglican Church and the wider community. Reverend Crew retired this month as the Senior Pastor at Gymea Anglican Church, where he has served since March 2010, complementing an extensive pastoral history at parishes in Sydney, the Blue Mountains and Lord Howe Island. Reverend and Mrs Crew have devoted themselves to building a servant-church: among their many achievements, they have partnered with Anglicare to offer a community food pantry, providing much-needed support to disadvantaged residents in the Sutherland Shire community. The Crews have provided hope, spiritual guidance and comfort to their parishioners. I wish them well for the next phase in their lives and thank them for their compassion and deep commitment to the gospel and to building a stronger community.

RUAN SIMS OAM

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla—Attorney General, and Minister for Prevention of Domestic and Sexual Violence)—I congratulate Cronulla resident Ruan Sims, whose service to women's rugby league was recognised with the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the Queen's Birthday Honours. Ruan, the NRL's first contracted female player, has also captained the Jillaroos and NSW State of Origin team. These days, in addition to being a rugby league commentator for the 9 Network and ABC radio, Ruan is an NRL Ambassador in the areas of mental health and domestic violence and a fire fighter with Fire and Rescue NSW. This award is deserved recognition of Ruan Sims' tireless dedication to, and promotion of, women's sport in our state as well as her generous community service.

BANKSTOWN/SOUTH WEST DIVISION LUNCHEON

Ms TANIA MIHAILUK (Bankstown)—Congratulations to Bankstown/ South West Legacy Division for their successful Appreciation Luncheon held on Friday, June 18 at the Bankstown Sports Club. The event was held by the Legacy Division to extend their thanks to those in the community who have supported them and helped enable their important work in providing essential services to the families of our many brave servicemen and women. For almost a century Bankstown Legacy has tirelessly worked to support those who have made great sacrifices for our country. Their crucial work is made possible by the generosity of their dedicated volunteers (legatees), who are worthy of great commendation. Congratulations and thank you to Alan Rawlinson, Chairman of the Bankstown/ South West Division for his outstanding efforts in support of Legacy and in coordinating the event. Thank you as well to the Legatees in attendance: Darrell Buckman, Lucy Clarke, Phillip Gifford, Mary Newell Wright, Alan Rawlinson, Robert Roach, June Young OAM, and Kenneth Young.

THUAT VAN NGUYEN, AM

Ms TANIA MIHAILUK (Bankstown)—Congratulations to Mr Thuat Van Nguyen, AM, who was awarded the Member of the Order of Australia in the Queen's Birthday Honours earlier this week. He was awarded this honour for "significant service to the multicultural community of New South Wales, and to Youth." Mr Nguyen had previously been awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) and recognised as Bankstown Citizen of the Year in 2006. Mr Nguyen has been an essential part of the Bankstown Children's Festival since its inception. This Festival is a staple of the Bankstown community and is an amazing event that promotes social harmony and provides a platform for local community and cultural organisations. Without the dedication of Mr Nguyen, this wonderful event would not be possible. While the Festival was unable to run last year due to COVID restrictions, I am very excited for its return later this year. I would like to extend my thanks to Mr Nguyen for his tireless service and again congratulate him on this prestigious achievement.

MINMI HOTEL

Ms SONIA HORNER (Wallsend)—The fires that devastated New South Wales in 2019 and 2020 were nothing short of catastrophic. Lives were lost, homes were destroyed and there was untold damage to our natural environment. The Minmi community knows firsthand the impact that fires can have on a local area. Like most small communities, the local pub is the heart of the town. On Australia Day 2020, Kelly Fitzsimmons, publican of the Minmi Hotel, held a bushfire appeal. Staff walked around with donation tins and the Hotel donated a portion of the money from the sale of various items on the day, such as roast rolls and Australia day themed desserts and

gold coin donations from the Courtesy Bus. Due to the generosity of patrons on the day and the Hotel, together they raised \$1,000. That \$1,000 was recently donated to Minmi Fire and Rescue NSW to assist in the purchase of specialised smoke alarms for residents who are deaf or hard of hearing. Thank you to Kelly, the Minmi Hotel and the Minmi community for their generous donations and continued support for the local fire brigade.

NSW FIRE AND RESCUE OPEN DAY

Ms SONIA HORNERY (Wallsend)—In May, Fire and Rescue stations at Tarro, Minmi, Wallsend, and Cardiff opened their engine bay doors to the public for a COVID-safe open day, to huge success. Local community organisations provided sausage sizzles and coffee to feed the attendees and a variety of fire safety demonstrations were available, including a kitchen fire simulation which was a big hit. Hundreds of kids, big and small, spent hours climbing over the trucks and playing with the equipment. Thank you to the crew from Tarro including, Captain Ian Smith (deceased), Deputy Captain Scott Pyne, Acting Deputy Captain Brett Mate, Retained Firefighters Peter McGee, Scott Ford, Gavin Hawes, John Thorne, Brodie Verschoor, the Minmi crew, including Captain Evan Downling, Retained Firefighters Daniel Boag, Royce Pearce, Craig Allan, Graham Moore, Phil Aitkin, the Wallsend crew, including Deputy Captain Graham Thorpe, Retained Firefighters Jason Bridge, Callan Newbey, Rod Cavallaro, Dominic Cavallaro, James Turner, Mark Dempsey, Mick Hodges and the Cardiff crew, including Captain Rhys Elsmore, Retained Firefighters Adam Brown, Shane Jones, Matt Dugan, Luke Collins, Adam Thompson, Marshal Nies, Lachlan Hetherington, Hamish Daley-Beggs. Thank you for a wonderful day that was had by all.

NAN TIEN TEMPLE KOGARAH

Mr CHRIS MINNS (Kogarah)—The birth of Sakyamuni Buddha, the founder of Buddhism who was born 2,600 years ago, was celebrated on 21 May 2021. Buddhism brings joy, happiness and peace to many people in my community of Kogarah. Buddha's Birthday and Multicultural Festival has been celebrated in Sydney since 1995. Because of COVID-19 and ongoing restrictions, the celebrations for this year were once again scaled back. This year, Fo Guang Shan Nan Tien Buddhist Temple Kogarah had over 1,000 members, volunteers and local residents attend the celebrations. Buddha's Light International Association's (BLIA) do great work in our community, with a focus on mindfulness, compassion and empathy. The weekend of celebrations included the Bathing of Buddha, vegetarian food, talks about living a peaceful life, mindfulness practise, an incense ceremony and tea making. I express my appreciation to Venerable Miao Yao, Superintendent of IBBA Kogarah and Francis Wong, President of BLIA and Chia Lee Tai the Administrative Officer for sharing their message of love, peace and faith to Kogarah, the broader community and society. Congratulations on a wonderful weekend of events.

THE SALVATION ARMY HURSTVILLE RED SHIELD APPEAL

Mr CHRIS MINNS (Kogarah)—I recognise the work undertaken by the Salvation Army Hurstville Corps in making a difference in people's lives through the Red Shield Appeal. The Salvation Army provide family welfare assistance, refuge for women and children in crisis, homeless shelters, emergency and disaster relief, drug, alcohol and gambling rehabilitation, and employment training amongst other programs. They officially launched their local Red Shield Appeal on 20 May 2021. This year, in line with health guidelines, The Salvation Army will collect in the community, doorknock in some locations and use online fundraising. Georges River Association played a vital role in the planning and organising of the local launch, with many local Chinese business representatives and owners attending the launch and providing their support. Thank you to Ben Wang and the Georges River Association who hosted and promoted the launch and volunteered during the Red Shield Appeal weekend. Thank you also to some Hurstville businesses for their support: Rainbow Star Furniture, More Beauty, Port No. 5 Australian Sea Products, W&J Cleaning Service, Perfect Electrical, Sleepmart, Yu Star BBQ Restaurant and Print Station.

KIM SUCKLEY

Ms ANNA WATSON (Shellharbour)—My congratulations to you Kim Suckley for becoming only the third bowler in more than six decades to clinch three successive Illawarra District Singles titles after sealing your victory at Towradgi. Playing for the Dapto Citizens club you were able to overcome Jannelle Jordan in a very tight final. With Jannelle Jordan making a late charge from 24 to 10 down losing narrowly to you 25 to 23 in a 35 end heart stopper. You now join a very illustrious group of Australian bowlers such as Merle Richardson and Julea Morgan as the only bowlers to win 3 consecutive District Single Bowls since the instigation of the championship in the mid 1950's. Congratulations on qualifying to face the Southern Highlands champion in the regional playoffs hopefully you will go on to win and so earn a spot in the Women's NSW championship in South Tamworth in August. As I understand it, this will be your third appearance at these titles. Once again congratulations on your win, I wish you all the very best for the upcoming competitions.

MS SHARMAN CLARKE AND MS VICKI BROWN

Ms ANNA WATSON (Shellharbour)—Congratulations Ms Sharman Clarke and Ms Vicki Brown on overcoming very trying weather to claim your first Illawarra district championship with a stunning win in the senior pairs at Figtree for your club the Oak Flats Bowling club. As I understand it you both held your nerve in your first appearance in the district decider winning against the defending champions 25 to 13. Winning the first 6 of the first 8 ends claiming a 15 to 2 lead. Making a district final is an achievement in itself, winning it is special. Your bowls throughout the tournament showed that you would be hard to beat, at no time throughout the tournament did you falter, you were never under any real threat, your consistent good bowling kept you ahead of the opposition at every stage. As the new District champions you now go onto face the Southern Highlands Senior Pairs championship winners in the regional playoffs at Wingdang later in June, to earn a spot in the August State championship. I wish you both all the best in your upcoming tournaments and look forward to seeing your names in the winners list.

JOHN BENNETT

Dr MARJORIE O'NEILL (Coogee)—Today I congratulate John Leslie Bennett in my electorate of Coogee who has received an Order of Australia Medal as a part of the Queen's Birthday Honour List of 2021. I commend John for his commitment and dedication to education, mathematics, and to curriculum standards throughout NSW and Australia. Since 2016, he has made significant contributions to the Malek Fahd Islamic School as Board Member, Deputy Chair and Honorary Chair. After holding an array of roles in the Department of Education New South Wales, John has also been involved as NSW Representative and Project Facilitator for the Australasian Curriculum, Assessment and Certifications Authorities. From 2002 to 2009 John took on the title of Chief Executive at the Board of Studies, Teaching, and Educational Standards NSW after previously held titles such as Director of Information Services and Senior Education Officer. His publications including Country Case Study; Australia published by Cambria Press have highlighted his exceptional knowledgebase and deservingness of this award. I congratulate John for receiving an Order of Australia medal and for his outstanding contributions to education.

SIMON BOUDA

Dr MARJORIE O'NEILL (Coogee)—I wish to congratulate Simon George Bouda in my electorate of Coogee who has received an Order of Australia Medal for his outstanding service and achievements as a part of the Queen's Birthday Honour List of 2021. I commend Simon today for his commitment and dedication to areas of television and print media, and to the community. Simon's years of service with Nine Entertainment Co in a wide array of roles such as Crime Editor and Senior Reporter for A Current Affair, State Political Correspondent and Assistant Chief of Staff have demonstrated his ongoing dedication to his work in media. Through his previous contributions to newspaper journalism for media outlets such as the Daily Telegraph, Simon later became the Chief Crime Reporter for both the Daily Mirror and The Sun. Simon's vast charitable works including his role as ambassador for the Steven Walter Children's Cancer Foundation and New South Wales Police Legacy are to be commended. I congratulate Simon on receiving this award and thank him for all the work that he does in our community.

WYONG NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE GOSFORD COMMUNITY HUB

Ms LIESL TESCH (Gosford)—I would like to welcome the Wyong neighbourhood Centre in their role as at Wyong Gosford Community Hub in the Gosford town centre. It's been tough times since the facility open on March 1, with people in crisis coming in for food, as lots of people across our community who are living on benefits do not have enough money to make ends meet. The fabulous team at Wyong Gosford community hub have open the doors to both singles and families as a wide cross-section of our community is seeking reduced cost grocery items and other support. The hub offers digital skills for people over 50 on Thursday, a good place for a chat, the opportunity to pick up a food hamper from food bank, plus frozen meals cooked at the Wyong hub - all fabulous support for you for young and old who, some of whom are on the edge of homelessness on the Central Coast. Thanks so much to everyone involved - in helping kids get back to school and providing education support, financial counselling and general ideas to support people before they end up homeless.

CENTRAL COAST SEAGULLS - GOLDEN OLDIES RUGBY

Ms LIESL TESCH (Gosford)—Argentina Hawaii Japan Ettalong Nelson Bay—all fantastic locations to play golden oldies rugby! Huge congratulations to everyone involved in the Central Coast Seagulls golden oldies rugby Gala Day held at Ettalong last Sunday. It was fantastic to see players come from far and wide, and not flinch as they ran out onto the field yesterday in a good steady shower. Despite the rain a good crowd turned out to both play and watch as teams from across the Coast and Hunter Join in the fun. The warm welcome of rissole and sausage sandwiches available on arrival, combined with a warm-up beer or half-time port add to the frivolity and

camaraderie. The respect and admiration provided to those wearing the red and gold shorts is a very important part of the Golden Oldies, as is that special shield no one wants to win. Its deep friendship, old talents, and good times - and with Raffle prizes totalling over \$80,000 – a general good time was had by all!

BASHAR HANNA

Mr GUY ZANGARI (Fairfield)—I wish to commend Mr Bashar Hanna on receiving the Medal of the Order of Australia as part of the Queen's Birthday Honour List for his service to multiculturalism and refugee support in Western Sydney through music. Bashar is known among the local community as the "Fairfield Man", a title he is proud to acknowledge as he performs at various events in the local area. Bashar has achieved much in the Fairfield community. He founded the Choir of Love and The Peacemakers Ensemble; he is the founder and president of the Australian Mesopotamian Cultural Association; he has been the keyboardist for The Mesopotamian Ensemble since 2016; he is a Community Liaison Officer at Prairiewood High School where he co-founded the Community Inclusion Program; he is a member of the NSW Council of Social Services and he is the founder of the Art and Community Development Centre in Fairfield. Bashar also assists refugees and newly-arrived migrants to connect with each other and settle into the Australian life by putting them in touch with the appropriate assistance agencies. I commend Bashar on his award and thank him for his continuing support.

ASSUR KINGS ENTERTAINMENT

Mr GUY ZANGARI (Fairfield)—I wish to commend the efforts of Assur Kings Entertainment in promoting and preserving the Assyrian music and culture through their drumming and music workshops. They recently visited Fairfield High School to take the students, many of whom are of Assyrian background, on a musical journey back to the time of their ancestors with a musical workshop. I congratulate Assur Kings Entertainment founder Mr Emmanuel Brikha on the establishment of such workshops. These workshops give students an insight on these ancient instruments which can be traced back 3000 years to ancient Assyria and which have shaped modern Assyrian music. I commend Assur Kings Entertainment on their efforts in maintaining the students' link with their ancient roots through music. I wish Assur Kings Entertainment all the very best with their plans for the establishment of a drumming and dance academy in Fairfield; and for their continuation of their workshops in other local schools.

CHRISTIAN BARBADILLO

Mr PETER SIDGREAVES (Camden)—Christian Barbadillo is an accomplished songwriter who recently composed and recorded a song titled "We Are the Reason" in celebration of Holy Week and Easter. I acknowledge Christian, a year 6 student of St Justin's Catholic Primary school, on his success in his debut music career. Last month, Christian's song was officially released to his parents and other members of St Justin's School community. Later the song was released on YouTube, shared over multiple social media networks and recorded on a CD. Congratulations Christian on this outstanding achievement. I wish you the best of luck in your continued and well deserved music career.

MADISON SILLETT

Mr PETER SIDGREAVES (Camden)—I recognise Madison Sillett from Spring Farm Public School who was a finalist in the Macarthur Young Champions Awards, and the Winner of the Junior Overall Encouragement Award 2021. Youth Champions Awards recognise the achievements of our young people and the valuable contribution they make to their local community in the Macarthur region. Madison is a three-time best-selling co-author of a series of books written by children aged 5-17 years all over the world, published by the Child Author Project. Madison also has started her own home-based baking business which she calls Flaky Bakey Neenish Tarts.

QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS

Ms JODIE HARRISON (Charlestown)—I would like to congratulate two extraordinary women in sport from the Charlestown Electorate - Mavis Randle and Dianne Pascoe - who were recognised in the 2021 Queen's Birthday Honours. Mavis Randle AM was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia for her significant service to hockey, and to the community. Mavis first got involved with hockey when she was twelve, and it has been a major part of her life ever since. She has helped build the sport as a local hockey umpire for 52 years, mentoring many people who have gone on to umpire at State and International level. Dianne Pascoe OAM received her Order of Australia Medal for her service to netball. I've known Dianne for years and am overjoyed her hours, months and years dedicated to the service of sport has been recognised. Congratulations to these women on their well-deserved recognition.

CHALLENGE CUP

Ms JODIE HARRISON (Charlestown)—Over the Queen's Birthday long weekend, Feighan Oval, home ground of the fantastic Warners Bay Bulldogs, played host to the Challenge Cup—a chance for local AFL juniors to showcase their skills and celebrate a sport which is rapidly growing in popularity in the Hunter Region. The two-day tournament, featured under-13, under-15 and under-17 boys' and girls' teams from AFL Hunter Central Coast. I would like to acknowledge the players and officials who made the Challenge Cup such a success, in particular AFL Central Coast competition coordinator Lauren Francis for organising a much-expanded event. Congratulations to the Challenge Cup regional winner – comprising of teams predominantly from Warners Bay, Cardiff and Newcastle City. I wish all the players the very best for the remainder of the season.

PARRAMATTA TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Ms JULIA FINN (Granville)—On Monday 26 April 2021 I met with representatives and a local teacher of the Parramatta Teacher's Association in the Electorate of Granville. We discussed the important work undertaken by teachers across Western Sydney. We also discussed the Gallop Inquiry which found that there have been profound changes to the workload of teachers. Significant increases in student need, constant policy changes and rapid changes in technology all contribute to the intensification of teacher's work. Despite these challenges, teachers have continued their selfless efforts to ensure our children are properly educated. I would like to thank teachers across the Granville electorate for their remarkable efforts despite these challenges. Parramatta Teacher's Association works to represent teachers and advocate for teacher's concerns across our area. I would like to thank Melissa Seymour, Parramatta Teacher's Association, for her ongoing commitment in advocating on behalf of local teacher and standing up for teachers' concerns. Teachers across our area have worked tirelessly for our children and I commend them for their ongoing support for the educational growth of our young people.

KEVIN ALFORD, OAM

Mrs LESLIE WILLIAMS (Port Macquarie)—I am honoured to acknowledge an exemplar of medical and educational development in our community, Associate Professor Kevin Alford and recognise his deserved accolade as a recipient of the Order of Australia Medal (OAM). Associate Professor Alford has dedicated forty years of his life to medicine as a cardiologist and in doing so has improved the health, lifestyle and longevity of his patients while at the same time raising awareness about heart disease. Commencing his career at the age of 29, Associate Professor Alford was the first cardiologist/physician in Port Macquarie at the then Hastings District Hospital in 1977. He then became the inaugural Director of Cardiology at both the Port Macquarie Private Hospital and the Port Macquarie Base Hospital while serving full-time as a consultant cardiologist/physician up until 2016. Associate Professor Alford founded Port Macquarie Cardiology and later Kevin Alford Cardiology in 2016 after identifying a need to provide more affordable cardiology services for lower income earners and our indigenous population. In 2002 Associate Professor Alford became a Senior Lecturer at the University of NSW Rural Clinical School. A community leader, I congratulate Associate Professor Alford on his inclusion on the Queen's Birthday Honours List 2021.

MEG MCINTYRE, OAM

Mrs LESLIE WILLIAMS (Port Macquarie)—I congratulate physiotherapist Margaret McIntyre from Port Macquarie for her well-deserved recognition in the Queen's Birthday Honours List. Margaret or 'Meg' as she is known has been awarded an Order of Australia Medal (OAM) acknowledging her dedication and commitment to sports physiotherapy and community service. Meg has committed her life to sports medicine after joining the then Hastings District Hospital and later the Port Macquarie Base Hospital as the Chief Physiotherapist from 1983 to 2001. Realising her passion in treating elite sportsmen and women, Meg started working at both State and National levels. From 1989 to 1998 Meg was employed as a physiotherapist for the Australian Women's Cricket Team, including the Australian Women's Hockey Team, before her promotion to the Hockeyroos Olympic Team in Atlanta in 1996. Meg's highlights include her appointment as the Deputy Director Physiotherapy Services and Clinical Senior of the Polyclinic at the Sydney 2000 Olympics, her Australian Sports Medal and a role on the Multiple Sclerosis Council NSW. Meg has raised an incredible \$170,000 for MS locally. A leader in sports medicine and a champion for those impacted by MS, I congratulate Meg on her inclusion in the Queen's Birthday Honours List 2021.

NANCY BOYLING, OAM

Mr STEPHEN BROMHEAD (Myall Lakes)—I recognise Mrs Nancy Boyling, OAM. Nancy was recently recognised for her service to the community through charitable organisations with a Medal of the Order of Australia in the 2021 Queen's Birthday Honours List. Nancy has been a member with Taree Quota Club since 1993, holding a number of executive positions over 28 years including two stints as President. She has purchased and donated therapy dolls to nursing homes to assist dementia patients and co-organised the Red Umbrella Project

which raised funds for farmers and their families in drought. As if this wasn't enough, she has also volunteered for the Taree Show Committee among supporting other charitable organisations. She has also previously worked as a volunteer with meals on Wheels. Nancy's contribution to the community over the decades has been outstanding and I would like to congratulate her for receiving the Queen's Medal of the Order of Australia and thank her for her relentless work in helping others.

FELICITY CARTER, OAM

Mr STEPHEN BROMHEAD (Myall Lakes)—I recognise Ms Felicity Carter, OAM. Felicity was recently recognised for her service to the community of the Great Lakes region with a Medal of the Order of Australia in the 2021 Queen's Birthday Honours List. A passionate and dedicated community worker, she has helped countless adults and children overcome obstacles and learn to read. As a member, and current President of the Forster Neighbourhood Committee, she has spearheaded a number of programs and groups – including the literacy program, Better Learning for Better Communities. This one-on-one tutoring initiative has ensured Aboriginal children gain the benefit of a closer connection with Elders. Felicity also founded a weekly singing group with Worimi Elders and worked on collaborative events like the Wallis Lake Cultural Cruises and the annual Big Sing by the Sea. Felicity has also been a committee member of the Great Lakes Women's Shelter since 2015 and founded the Coomba Park after school program. Felicity is a remarkable representative of our community and her contributions are outstanding. I thank her for all that she does and congratulate her on this well-deserved recognition.

REFUGEE WEEK

Ms JO HAYLEN (Summer Hill)—June 20 marks the beginning of Refugee Week. This year, I acknowledge the tremendous work of the Refugee Council of Australia and the many community organisations in the inner west who support the refugee community. The Refugee Council of Australia began organising Refugee Week in 1987. Refugee Week raises community awareness around the challenges and obstacles refugees face, both in their countries of origin and after arriving in Australia, and celebrates the extraordinary contribution of refugees to Australian society. This Refugee Week, I'd like to particularly acknowledge organisations in my community who work to support the refugee community, including Settlement Services International, the Bread and Butter Project, Metro Assist and the Addison Road Community Centre. I also acknowledge the Asylum Seeker Centre, Newtown. The work undertaken by these organisations is crucial to ensuring that when refugees and asylum seekers settle in the Inner West, they are afforded the same quality of life and opportunities as other members of our community. The best part about the Inner West is that no matter what walk of life you come from, there is always someone there to give you a helping hand – these organisations exemplify that spirit.

LANDCARE AT WILKINS GREEN

Ms JO HAYLEN (Summer Hill)—On 19 June volunteers from Landcare NSW and the Wilkins Public School Community joined to plant 400 trees on Wilkins Green, an extraordinary oasis of regenerated bush in the heart of Marrickville. Over the years volunteers have transformed an overgrown and disused plot of industrial land on the corner of Sydenham and Livingstone roads into a lush, thriving sanctuary. In addition to the hundreds of new trees that have been planted, the Green is home to an aviary to nurture native birds rescued by Wires, a pen housing some of the happiest chickens in the inner west, veggie patches, a purpose-built shed featuring a composting toilet and more. The Green has been cultivated over many years by students, parents and carers from Wilkins Public School; the exceptional teachers at the school, led by their Principal Sheila Bollard; Inner West Council; volunteers from the local community and from Landcare NSW. Thank you to everyone who braved the wind, rain and cold this past weekend and to all those who have worked to make Wilkins Green such a special place over the years.

FATHER JOHN TINKLER

Mrs HELEN DALTON (Murray)—Today I would like to recognise Fr John Tinkler of Moama for his years of service in the community and congratulate him on his retirement. Fr John "Tink" Tinkler is a beloved member of the several communities he has served over the years. A priest for more than 50 years, he worked in the communities of Moama, Mathoura, Bunnaloo and Womboota for the last two decades. Fr. Tinkler has also volunteered to run water for the Moama Football Club, and has volunteered in the canteens of local schools. Father Tinkler has been an asset to our communities during his time with us and will be dearly missed. I congratulate Fr. Tinkler on his continued dedication and loyalty to the community and wish him all the best in retirement.

STEVE HOLLOWAY AND ANDREW GIBSON

Mrs HELEN DALTON (Murray)—Today I would like to recognise and congratulate Steve Holloway and Andrew Gibson who achieved life membership of the Deniliquin Aero Club. Mr. Holloway joined the club in the 1990s and has been a valued member of the committee over the past decade in a number of roles. Mr Gibson

has been flying since the 1970s and joined the Deniliquin Aero Club 15 years ago, and has served on as the treasurer for the past decade. Both Mr. Holloway and Mr. Gibson are to be commended for their years of service to the Deniliquin Aero Club community and congratulated for their life membership awards.

KARABI SEVEN HILLS SENIORS KNITTING AND CROCHETING GROUP

Mr MARK TAYLOR (Seven Hills)—I acknowledge the recent and great work of Karabi Seven Hills Seniors Knitting and Crocheting Group. With the weather cooling, as we approach winter, the knitting and crocheting group at Karabi Seven Hills has been busy knitting a number of items that will be donated to victims of the recent floods as well as to persons sleeping rough in our community. The group has been knitting handmade and beautiful scarves, neck warmers, beanies, hats, blankets, and quilts. In addition to the fine knitting and crocheting, by Karabi Seven Hills, the group will also be donating a number of new items, including plush blankets, throw rugs, and pillows. I have seen first-hand the impact that their work has had on patients at the Westmead Hospital. On behalf of the entire local community, I thank this wonderful group for their altruism, and continued generosity of spirit.

THE WILLOWS RECREATION CENTRE UPGRADES

Mr MARK TAYLOR (Seven Hills)—I was fortunate enough to attend The Willows Retirement Village in Winston Hills to reopen their community centre following its recent refurbishment. The Willows is a friendly community with a wide range of modern dwellings that house nearly three hundred retired locals. The Willows Retirement Village is a proud community in the Seven Hills Electorate with terrific staff with whom do a superb job in ensuring the facilities are clean and safe as well as ensuring that residents are cared for and feel at ease. I was amazed to see the outstanding, modern design of the new community centre. The residents of the Village were particularly proud to show me their new and refurbished recreational facilities. I am informed that the refurbished recreation centre creates a great sense of comfort and belonging to a space that they can share with their fellow residents, family and guests for special occasions such as birthdays and anniversaries.

20 YEARS OF LIFEBALL IN TEMORA

Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra)—I wish to acknowledge Lifeball in Temora which has been operating for 20 years. Lifeball was introduced to Temora by its creators, Brian and Colleen Lord, who were in town for the celebrations. The game, which is similar to basketball and netball, was developed by Brian and Colleen to encourage movement, coordination, good mental health and stimulation. It was originally aimed at players in their mid to late 50s although it now attracts players up to their 90s. Temora has embraced the game with 10-12 players turning up each week and coordinator, Gloria Pike says the group has enjoyed lots of fun and had a wonderful time while looking after their health and wellbeing. I hope Lifeball will be going strong for at least another 20 years.

HAROLD PORTER

Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra)—I would like to congratulate Harold Porter who in March this year achieved 30 years of service as a member of the Riverina Zone Aviation & Junee Brigades. Harold commenced work with the Rural Fire Service in 1990 as a founding member of the Junee Brigade, he then went on to found the Riverina Zone Aviation Brigade in 2010. Harold has been a very valuable member of the Rural Fire Service serving as captain from 2010-2012 and again from 2013-2020. Harold was also elected treasurer of the Junee Brigade for 14 years from 2003 to 2017. These are outstanding achievements, well done Harold! Congratulations once again Harold on reaching this milestone and thank you for your very valuable service to the community.

JOHN RISBY, AM

Mr TIM CRAKANTHORP (Newcastle)—Congratulations to John Risby on being recognised as a Member of the Order of Australia in the 2021 Queen's Birthday Honours. John has been recognised for his significant service to the steelmaking industry through his roles as the General Manager of BHP and the Newcastle Steelworkers, and his ongoing service to the community of Newcastle. John dedicated almost 50 years to BHP, joining the company as a teenager in 1941 before progressing to his first role as General Manager in 1975. During his time in that role in Newcastle, he focused on ensuring that BHP were good corporate citizens. This commitment to community stayed with him, seeing him take on board and council member positions with Coal and Allied, Port Waratah Coal Service, Hunter Ports Authority, the Newcastle Port Advisory Committee, the Maritime Services Board, Newcastle Chamber of Commerce, Newcastle Newspapers and the University of Newcastle. As a result, he was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Engineering in 1996. John's contributions are very valued by those who worked with him and the wider Newcastle community. Congratulations John.

DR LAURENCE RODDICK, OAM

Mr TIM CRAKANTHORP (Newcastle)—Congratulations to Dr Laurence Roddick who was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia in the 2021 Queen's Birthday Honours for service to paediatric medicine. Dr Roddick has worked in the field for 40 years, and led the Cleft Palate Team at Newcastle's John Hunter Children's Hospital since 1986. He was also instrumental in setting up the hospital's fundraising, the Ronald McDonald House and a regional infant deafness clinic. Additionally, Dr Roddick is the Medical Director of Rotary Oceania Medical Aid for Children, a program which provides surgical treatment for children in Pacific Regional developing countries, a Conjoint Senior Lecturer at the University of Newcastle and an Advisory Board Member for the Nicholas Trust for Paediatric Palliative Care. Congratulations on this recognition, Dr Roddick. Your work has undoubtedly improved thousands of children's lives.

OATLEY WRITERS' GROUP

Mr MARK COURE (Oatley)—I acknowledge the Oatley Writers' Group who launched another outstanding book in 2020 entitled "Memory Lane." The book is an anthology that combines multiple stories on life experiences into a streamlined narrative about people, culture and history. In 2019, the team also created the book "Kaleidoscope" that represents polar opposites to create meaning by showcasing different perspectives and viewpoints for the reader. This book can be found at Hurstville Library or at the State Library of NSW. The Oatley Writers' Group are a fantastic organisation of like-minded people who join together on the first Wednesday of every month to share their love of writing at the Oatley Library. I do encourage anyone in the local community of any age or ability to join this outstanding organisation to build on their writing skills, establish lifelong friends and make some wonderful memories. Well done to the entire organisation for releasing this fantastic book, I cannot wait to see what you all put together in the future.

SHOALHAVEN EMERGENCY SERVICES COMMUNITY AWARDS

Mrs SHELLEY HANCOCK (South Coast—Minister for Local Government)—On June 9 the 2021 Shoalhaven Emergency Services Community Awards were announced to coincide with First Responders Day, and it was wonderful to see so many locals acknowledged for their service. These community awards, organised by the Shoalhaven - Berry, Bomaderry, Milton-Ulladulla and Nowra Rotary Clubs, recognise those in the community that give up their time to ensure that our community is safe. Comprised of all our Police and Emergency Services organisations, NSW Ambulance, Fire and Rescue NSW, NSW Police, Marine Rescue NSW, NSW Rural Fire Service and the State Emergency Service NSW – these awards are the only time paid and volunteer personnel are recognised in a single awards ceremony in the Shoalhaven local government area. I would like to congratulate the following recipients who received awards for their respective organisation - Tara Picker, John Dun, Senior Constable Kyle Wilson, William Welch, Ronald Ashton ASFM OAM and Allan Pheeneey. These recipients have gone above and beyond and it is great to see that they have been recognised for their service to our local community.

OATLEY HERITAGE AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Mr MARK COURE (Oatley)—Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the Oatley Heritage and Historical Society who have recently created an outstanding book entitled "A Place Called Oatley." This is an outstanding read for anybody who is interested in the history of the Oatley community. It features a number of amazing facts, statistics and personal stories designed for people of all ages to enjoy. I have lived in the area all of my life and I was still able to learn something new on every page. I would like to thank Vice President Julian Sheen for his role in putting this fantastic piece together. I know how much time and effort he has put into this project and for that our entire community is very grateful. I would also like to mention President Laurie Yeomans, Vice President Graham Lalchere, Treasurer Geoff Ingram and Secretary Rodger Robertson for all of their hard work in getting this project off the ground. Well done to everyone at the Oatley Heritage and Historical Society, I cannot wait to see what you put together next.

GAIRY ST CLAIR

Ms ELENi PETINOS (Miranda)—I acknowledge Gairy St Clair of Kirrawee for his charitable work raising funds for Sydney Children's Hospital at Randwick. Gairy recently held Harper's Charity Fight Night which was dedicated to his beautiful niece Harper, who sadly lost her battle with brain cancer in 2019. Gairy donated \$20 from each ticket sold to the event to support the Sydney Children's Hospital, whose staff cared for Harper during her time in hospital. Each year, Sydney Children's Hospital assist more than 69,000 critically ill and injured children, and fundraising efforts like this continue to help little ones like Harper during their medical journeys. By way of background, Gairy is the owner of Gairy St Clair Boxing Gym in Gympie and has over 30 years of experience in boxing. He is a former Junior Lightweight World Champion who began boxing at the age of nine, and went on to represent his native country of Guyana at the 1994 Commonwealth Games in Canada. In 2001,

Gairy moved to Australia to continue his boxing career. I commend Gairy for raising much-needed funds for the Sydney Children's Hospital in Randwick, and wish him well in his future endeavours.

SUTHERLAND SHIRE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION HEAD SHAVE CHALLENGE

Ms ELENI PETINOS (Miranda)—I acknowledge the outstanding Sutherland Shire Football Association for raising funds and awareness for men's cancers through the Cancer Council's Inaugural 'Balls for Balls' Great Shave Challenge. The Association's Presidents got ballsy about men's cancers and lost their locks on 30 May 2021 to support this important cause. The 10 participating presidents have a combined goal of raising \$35,000 by the end of June, and are currently over halfway. With more than 76,000 men projected to be diagnosed with cancer this year, I was pleased to see our community rallying behind this important cause. I especially commend the President of the Sutherland Shire Football Association, Matt Brady, for his outstanding fundraising efforts and for embracing his new hairstyle after I took the clippers to his head. I also congratulate President David Brownhill of Gwawley Bay Football Club for his incredible commitment to fundraising for the Cancer Council's initiative. I commend both Matt and David for making the hairy sacrifice for such an important cause.

MOOREBANK HIGH SCHOOL – THE PUSH-UP CHALLENGE

Ms MELANIE GIBBONS (Holsworthy)—I would like to acknowledge Moorebank High School for participating in the Push-Up Challenge. Both staff and students have been taking part in the challenge and partaking in exercising to raise awareness about mental health within our local community. As part of the competition, the school community will be raising funds for the Push For Better Foundation. The foundation raises money for those facing mental health issues and raise awareness around mental health. This is a fantastic initiative for the school to be a part of. Not only is it encouraging fitness and fun, it's also helping to highlight the importance of mental health. So far, the school community have done over 67,000 push-ups and has raised over \$380. What an amazing effort! Mr Speaker, once again I would like to commend Moorebank High School staff and students for taking part in this challenge and wish them all the best with their fundraising. Thank you.

SERVICE NSW HAMMONDCARE VISIT

Ms MELANIE GIBBONS (Holsworthy)—I would like to recognise Service NSW for visiting the residents at Hammondcare Hammondville Residential Care Unit on 18 June 2021, to assist them with getting their Dine & Discover vouchers. Luke and Lisa from Service NSW set up in Bond House and assisted the residents in downloading their 4 x \$25 vouchers and also offered hardcopy versions for those who don't own a smart phone. I was pleased to hear that the residents were going to use their vouchers to go out for dinner and go to the movies together. Ms Yasoda Poudel, Manager of Bond House, said the workers were going to take the residents out on the bus with their vouchers and visit local businesses. Not only will it support our local community but will help the residents get out and about after such a difficult time during COVID-19. Once again Mr Speaker, I would like to thank the team at Service NSW for visiting Hammondcare and wish the residents a fabulous time on their outings! Thank you.

ANSTO'S NEW NANDIN INNOVATION CENTRE

Mr LEE EVANS (Heathcote)—It was fantastic to join the Premier for the official opening of the Nandin Innovation Centre at the ANSTO Innovation Precinct in Lucas Heights. This is a new space for members to connect with the power of Australian science, technology and our future thinking graduates. Since the new centre opened, it has created 66 new jobs and their long term goal is to generate 5000 jobs, which supports the NSW Government's economic recovery post COVID-19 pandemic. It's been exciting to see the conception of this initiative through to the development and now to its fruition. I acknowledge ShireBiz, in particular Barry Alchin and the late Tony Blain for the efforts with driving this major project during the initial stages. I'm pleased my government has supported ANSTO through a \$12.5 million grant to develop this Nuclear Medicine and Technology Hub. Finally, I take this opportunity to commend the important work ANSTO undertake across multiple areas, in particular health. I look forward to the Nandin Innovation Centre developing medical and technological breakthroughs which will make a difference to people's lives.

ARMIDALE DRAMATIC AND MUSICAL SOCIETY

Mr ADAM MARSHALL (Northern Tablelands—Minister for Agriculture and Western New South Wales)—I recognise Armidale Dramatic and Musical Society as a significant asset to the Armidale community performing an array of drama and music while supporting other community theatre groups and local school drama productions. In response to the love of the performing arts, the Society began in 1922, suffered an interruption during the war years and then resumed in 1963, producing musicals and plays ever since. The Armidale Dramatic and Musical Society is a major community hub as its doors are open to new members whatever their supportive talent, not to mention a very appreciative audience. I congratulate President Neil Horton, Liz Smidt, Lindy Hardman and a host of supportive members and cast on their many successful performances. I commend the

Armidale Dramatic and Musical Society for its inclusive culture making the performing arts accessible in regional New South Wales for behind the scenes contribution, for actors, and for the audience. Its success has taken hard work, leadership skills, organisational skills, passion for the arts and dedication to an ideal. Thank you.

COOLATAI WAR MEMORIAL

Mr ADAM MARSHALL (Northern Tablelands—Minister for Agriculture and Western New South Wales)—I recognise the many locals and volunteers who were involved in the establishment and official opening of the Coolatai War Memorial and Founding Families Memorial rock in Coolatai on 24 April 2021. I particularly commend Michelle Coulton, Donna Smith and Angela Stewart on their impressive research and determination to recognise and commemorate those who served in war from the Coolatai area. I also commend Tim Cox, Georgia Standerwick and Courtney Loosemore from Gwydir Shire Council, Sharon Gilmour, Leeah Daley, Anthony Logan and Tracey Milne. A number of local businesses and other volunteers also made invaluable contributions to the creation of this modern and impressive memorial. The Coolatai War Memorial is made up of three plaques, detailing the World War I Honour Roll originally displayed from 1922 in the Coolatai Church, the World War II Honour Roll and the third plaque recognising the story of Kathleen Ionie Farr who was the first female vet to work in the Australian Army Veterinary Corps in World War II. I commend all involved on the new Coolatai War Memorial which will serve as an important reminder and commemoration to all those that have served in war from our rural communities.

MAUREEN TURNER

Mr GREG PIPER (Lake Macquarie)—I acknowledge the wonderful efforts of Maureen Turner from Toronto. Last year I had the pleasure of meeting Maureen through U3A, but I didn't learn until recently about the decades she has spent helping those who truly need it, not just at home but across the globe. Maureen has been involved with Rotary for over 20 years and currently serves as the International Service Director for Toronto Rotary Club. She has travelled at her own expense to Cambodia on numerous occasions to help build 11 water wells for villagers, and distributed mechanical prosthetic hands for landmine victims. She also travelled to Vanuatu to help make school uniforms and repair schools which had been destroyed by cyclones. Closer to home, Maureen volunteers with Toronto and District Stroke Club, helping people rebuild their lives after a stroke. As a volunteer with The Salvation Army, Meals on Wheels and Bolton Point RSL she has distributed countless food packages and presents each Christmas. Maureen really is one in a million. I thank her for all that she has done and continues to do for the vulnerable in our local and global communities.

MICHELLE TEEAR

Mr GREG PIPER (Lake Macquarie)—I acknowledge the extraordinary talents of Blackalls Park artist Michelle Teear. Michelle's striking landscape paintings capture the raw essence of the Australian environment. Much like the old masters, she makes her own oil and tempera paint and mediums to create and add vibrancy to her works. In 2019 she won the Packers Prize in the Newcastle Emerging Art Prize for her painting 'Bongon Depths', and that same year exhibited her first major solo work after a research trip to the Pilbara region of Western Australia, with one of her works shortlisted for the Evelyn Chapman Award. I'd also like to highlight her efforts to promote creative arts in Lake Macquarie. Michelle now runs a range of art and craft classes and workshops through her business Michelle Leilani. At these classes, participants learn about painting, basketry and textile arts. She has also promoted the arts via her involvement in community groups such as Hunter Organic Growers Society, delivering monthly workshops, school holiday projects and artist in residency stints for the Museum of Art and Culture, Lake Macquarie. Well done Michelle on your exceptional talent and work to share your love of the arts with the Lake Macquarie community.

WOLLONGBAR TAFE

Ms TAMARA SMITH (Ballina)—Today I recognise 12 years of devoted work by staff and apprentices of Wollongbar TAFE in a collaborative project that supports saving lives. Teachers and apprentices from the Automotive Mechanical, Body Repair and Refinishing trades classes have combined to restore a VL Commodore restoration – the finished vehicle to be sold and the funds to be donated to the Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service. The Rescue Helicopter provides a vital, life-saving service to Northern New South Wales, where it is available to respond to the emergency needs of 1.5 million people. The dedication of the TAFE teachers and students has provided a great opportunity for apprentices to refine and demonstrate their skills in line with the requirements of their units of study. It has also led to enhanced personal pride, as they work together on a project that will contribute something of tangible significance to their community. Wollongbar TAFE is to be congratulated on its creative response to fundraising for such a worthy cause.

BALLINA & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Ms TAMARA SMITH (Ballina)—Today I congratulate the Ballina and District Historical Society on the imminent opening of the Ballina District Museum at Pimlico – the result of community goodwill and the concerted efforts of a handful of dedicated volunteers. Ballina Shire Council is to be thanked for leasing the old Pimlico Hall to the society, and for its work in painting, replacing lighting and improving access to the building, as well as providing financial assistance. A thank you too to the many businesses in Ballina – and plenty of individuals – who have donated financially and with goods and services to make the dream a reality. But it is the volunteers who have done the heavy lifting, meeting every Friday at the hall to paint cupboards, refurbish flooring and most recently begin to install the historical items that will be on display – photos and documents, farm equipment, tools and furniture, including a pianola given to them by the Lennox Head CWA. Their work is an important contribution to preserving the past for those interested in exploring the European settlement of the area.

LISMORE ROWING CLUB – 5KM REGATTA AN INCLUSIVE, FUN EVENT

Ms JANELLE SAFFIN (Lismore)—I congratulate the Lismore Rowing Club on holding their inaugural 5km regatta commence at their South Lismore Club. It was an inclusive day with the oldest competitors being Peter Mears (87) and Nick Reeves (86) and the youngest competitor being 13 year old Sebastian Cox. The event was only made possible by the volunteers who keep the club running. I wish to thank Officials Laurie Lynch, Jim Munce, Mark McMahon, Ron Chittick and Cathy Drum. I also thank Boat Drivers Mick Lynch, Dave Lynch, Phil Benfield, Jim Hones, Gavin Murray and Safety Marshalls Rob Lynch, Aina Marlin, Jodie Growhler and Rory Lynch. Peter Wallace and Ken Maugham were the team who managed the finishing line. Teams came from across the region to compete with many competitors from the Lismore Electorate. I congratulate Trinity College rowers Olivia Crick, Molly Green, Molly Drum and Layla O'Reilly. Murwillumbah Rowers Michelle Grimes, Helen Lloyd, Helen Albury, Jan Mills, Gaye Pullynn, Scott O'Reilly, Rob Blanch, Michal Mills John McDonald and Pacey Rogers. Lismore Rowers Electra Jensen, Lyndall Allen, Phil Makings and Andrew Gordon. I congratulate all and look forward to the continuation of the annual regatta.

LISMORE LANTERN PARADE – A GREAT SUCCESS

Ms JANELLE SAFFIN (Lismore)—The Lismore Lantern Parade is one of the most iconic events on the Lismore calendar and loved by locals. The Lantern Parade is usually held in the Lismore CBD but this year due to COVID 19 was held at the Lismore Showgrounds. 5000 tickets were sold - a sell-out event. The community came together to celebrate this wonderful parade. The lanterns were spectacular and created by so many school and community groups. It is also impossible for the Lantern Parade to happen without the enormous amount of volunteers that worked tirelessly. There were over 2000 volunteers and participants presents at the parade. I wish to thank founder Jyllie Jackson. Volunteers Louise Sommerville, Virginia Waters, Brett Haydon, Shannon Stone, Robyn Kelly, Jacob Kelly, Karen Chaffer, Suze Smith, Elly Bird, Amber Gooley, Stephen Hill, Emma Newman and Gilbert Laurie That is only a very short list of all who helped. Thank-you to the sponsors including Lismore Show Society, Lismore City Council, Northern Rivers Conservatorium, Summerland Credit Union, Southern Cross University, Lismore App, Northern Rivers Review, TAFE and many other local businesses. I congratulate the Lantern Parade and I look forward to seeing it back in 2022.

CWA CENTRAL WESTERN GROUP'S SCHOOL PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION

Mr PHILIP DONATO (Orange)—I wish to recognise the Country Women's Association Central Western Group's delivery of and commitment to the School Public Speaking Competition Program. The Country Women's Association performs an important role in our community. The School Public Speaking Competition is just one of the many projects this dedicated group oversees, yet it is one of vital importance. The Central Western Group Country Women's Association has been running the School Public Speaking Competition for around 20 years, providing a valuable experience for students from schools in regional and remote areas. Students are given the platform and opportunity to write and deliver a timed speech on subjects that are relevant our region, such as drought and water management. The competition instils confidence in the children and helps build vital communication skills that can be of benefit for a lifetime. The dedication, time and effort these women commit to this program is remarkable. I congratulate the CWA Central Western Group on the magnificent achievement of 20 years of the School Public Speaking Competition. Well done.

RICHARD THIRKELL

Mr PHILIP DONATO (Orange)—I wish to recognise Mr Richard Thirkell on his remarkable 40 years of service to Wangarang Industries, an organisation with a mission to facilitate opportunities and actively support people to enhance their abilities and fulfil their goals and aspirations. Richard Thirkell was recently acknowledged by the Chairman of Wangarang Industries and the Mayor of Orange, for his 40 years of employment with the not-for-profit Australian Disability Enterprise based in Orange. Richard was just 15-and-half-years-old when he

started working at Wangarang Industries in 1981, what an amazing amount of dedication and loyalty he has displayed within in his role, an exemplar employee who I'm sure will be sorely missed. I congratulate Richard on this magnificent achievement of long service with Wangarang Industries. Well done.

FIVEWAYS FESTIVAL

Mr ALEX GREENWICH (Sydney)—On behalf of the Sydney Electorate I wish to commend the excellent Fiveways Festival held last Saturday in Paddington. The Visit Paddington business group obtained a Sydney Solstice Grant through Destination NSW to host the festival, with live music, laneway cocktails and an eclectic collection of fashion, art, and specialty market stalls to celebrate the local area and the longest night of the year. Local hospitality venues well established through to the very new offered an array of food and drink, there was a range of children's activities and a diverse parade of fabulous live music through the day. This was a great collaboration with Woollahra Municipal Council for road closures and event promotion. The event team and businesses put together the event in record time. I note Cllr Harriet Price's strong advocacy and liaison between the event team and council. I congratulate the Visit Paddington and Fiveways businesses for their efforts to build this economic hub and provide local events, especially during the pandemic, and hope that the event can become part of the annual must-attend calendar.

SUZI WARD

Mrs TANYA DAVIES (Mulgoa)—I would like to congratulate local Glenmore Park resident and NSW Volunteer Mentoring Coordinator, Suzi Ward, for her ongoing resilience, determination and support of young people who have been impacted by family violence through Big Brothers and Big Sisters Australia. Suzi is a single mother of three girls, who aspires to raise awareness surrounding the problem as she herself has experienced domestic violence and abuse. She started studying a Master Diploma in Counselling and has since started to volunteer to help families know they should speak up and speak out and that there is always help readily available. She will be a mentor to help guide and support young people in any issues they are dealing with in their lives. Suzi is a strong, spirited woman who is recognised for her passion and dedication to support vulnerable youth through difficult times. I congratulate Suzi on her achievement and wish her all the best.

TALDUMANDE YOUTH SERVICES 2021 GALA DINNER

Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore)—I recognise Taldumande Youth Services for their tireless devotion to significantly improving the lives of young people in our community. I had the pleasure of attending their 2021 Gala Dinner at Luna Park last month where over \$100,000 was raised. This money will provide residential support homeless and vulnerable children and young people, while helping to restore relationships with their families. The Gala Dinner was an excellent turn out after COVID-19 restrictions saw many important fundraising events put on hold last year. Through the pandemic, Taldumande has continued to play an integral role in empowering young people by offering them specialised care and support. I congratulate Taldumande Youth Services for their successful Gala Dinner and thank CEO Lisa Graham, Chair Virginia Howard, Her Excellency Margaret Beazley, and Ambassador Jean Kittson for having me attend. Thank you also to the network of volunteers and sponsors for everything you do to change the lives of our young people.

MIDDLE HARBOUR YACHT CLUB WINNING PERFORMANCES

Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore)—Well done to constituents of my electorate who have delivered outstanding performances as members of the Middle Harbour Yacht Club. I congratulate Chairman Rob Aldis and member Colin Gunn for taking out Division 1 and 2 respectively in the Short Ocean Pointscore Series. In the same series, Walter Carpenter took out fifth place on both handicap systems. The true talent of members was reflected by the Club's dominance across seven of the nine races. In the weekly Wednesday series, a number of local constituents deserve notable mention for their excellent performances. I congratulate Gunther Schmidt-Linder, Todd Trenear, Kerry Burke and Rob Reynolds for their remarkable sailing technique that places them in leading positions week to week. It always appears to be a tight race with all participants giving it a go. Well done also to Tracy Richardson for her Division 2 win in the Women's Regatta and for claiming the Harken Women's Trophy for all female crew.

ST MARKS COPTIC CATHOLIC CHURCH

Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect)—On Sunday 30 May 2021, I attended St Marks Coptic Catholic Church to participate in Mass and to present the Church Community with a Prospect Community Building Partnership Grant. St Marks Coptic Catholic Church, in the Electorate of Prospect, is the only Coptic Catholic Cathedral in Australia. In 2019 the Cathedral was consecrated by His Beatitude Ibrahim Isaac Sidrak, the Patriarch of the Coptic Catholic Church of Alexandria, who travelled from Egypt for the event. The consecration of this Cathedral was a milestone for our Coptic Catholic Community. We have a Coptic Catholic community of around 200 families in Western Sydney. It was a pleasure to present the Parish Priest, Fr Andrawes Farag, a Prospect

Community Building Partnership Grant of \$50,000. The funds from this grant have been used to purchase a van for the community transport of infirmed, elderly and disabled parishioners. Thank you to the wonderful community at St Marks Coptic Catholic Church for welcoming me into your beautiful Cathedral and allowing me to participate in your mass. I would also like to thank Fr Andrawes for his continued dedication and service to the Coptic Catholic Community in Western Sydney.

SETTE GIUGNO COMMEMORATION

Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect)—On Sunday 6 June, our local Australian Maltese Community remembered the 102nd Anniversary of the Sette Giugno and held a Commemoration Service. The Maltese Community Council of NSW hosted the Commemoration Service. On 7 June, we remember the Maltese victims who suffered during the 1919 uprising against British rule. On Sette Giugno, we remember the blood shed by five martyrs and over 50 unarmed civilians who were fired on by the British Military. We remember the 7th June 1919 as the day where Maltese nationalism surfaced and a movement against British colonialism prevailed. The Maltese people have been ruled by several foreign powers throughout history, including Romans, Greeks, Turks, French and the British. During these struggles to achieve self-determination, the people of Malta have shown strength and determination. I would like to congratulate the wonderful Australian-Maltese community in the Electorate of Prospect and throughout NSW for contributions they have made to our State. I would also like to thank Frances Montesin, Secretary, Maltese Community Council of NSW, for organising the Commemoration Service. Sette Giugno is a very important day that demonstrates sacrifice but also the strength at the desire of freedom of the people of Malta.

LEICHHARDT SWIMMING CLUB

Mr JAMIE PARKER (Balmain)—Today I bring to the attention of the House the Leichhardt Swimming Club for its ongoing contribution to our community. The Leichhardt Swimming Club was formed in 1962 and has operated in the local community for almost 60 years. The Club has been dedicated to supporting swimmers of all ages and abilities with events, fitness, and competitions. On Sunday 20 June 2021 I was delighted to present trophies to swimmers for their achievements at the Annual Presentation event in Leichhardt. In particular, I would like to acknowledge the following people for their contributions to the Club: President and Life Member Anne-Marie Whelan, Vice-President, starter and Life Member Ray Morris, Vice-President and Race Secretary Peter Nyvlt, Secretary, Referee and Life-Member Ralph Hall AM, Treasurer, Registrar and Judge of Strokes Andrew Maggs, Co-starter and Web maintenance officer Rohan Nyvlt, Social Secretary, Communications and Publicity Officer Peter McDonald, Uniforms Officer Claire Dunne, boys Club Captain Connor Robertshaw and girls Club Captain Areti Kelly. On behalf of the Balmain Electorate I would like to thank all the Leichhardt Swimming Club members and volunteer officials for their service to our community.

JAN BRILL

Dr JOE McGIRR (Wagga Wagga)—The late Jan Brill devoted countless hours to the community especially through the Country Women's Association (CWA). Mrs Brill worked tirelessly, serving at different times as national secretary, NSW state secretary and vice-president, group president of the Riverina branch and in many other roles for the CWA. Mrs Brill was made a life member of the association and awarded a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for her work. She was also named patron of the Riverina group. Originally from Ganmain, Mrs Brill moved to Yathella when she married her husband Alan. They lived on the land, and it was then that she joined the Yathella-Coursing Park branch. Mrs Brill's service to the community extended beyond the CWA. She served on the board of the Wagga Wagga Base Hospital and was also involved in numerous committees and with St John's Anglican Church. Described as a keen gardener and wonderful cook, Mrs Brill has been remembered as a lovely lady who was always prepared to share not only her knowledge, but also a smile. My deepest sympathies are extended to Mrs Brill's husband Alan and their whole family.

PIE TIME

Mr NATHANIEL SMITH (Wollondilly)—June 1 was National Pie Day, and for the rest of the month, the Southern Highlands is the number one destination for all the pastry-loving pie fans from NSW and beyond. This year marks the fifth running of the month-long Pie Time which has become an institution in the Highlands, with bakeries along the 'pie trail' invited to create a 'hero pie' for visitors to sample. It has become an excellent opportunity for local businesses to turn what used to be an off-peak season into a tourist destination month. I encourage everyone to heed the advice of Dipper, AFL legend and our 'Pie Minister', and take a road trip to my electorate of Wollondilly and enjoy the beautiful countryside, outstanding hospitality and, of course, legendary pies!

BLUE SQUARE ART COMPETITION

Mr NATHANIEL SMITH (Wollondilly)—May 28 marked the fourth annual ArtHeadHQ Blue Square Art competition held at the Bowral Art Gallery in my electorate of Wollondilly. This year the competition was judged by local Bowral resident and decorated artist, Zoe Young. The event raised funds for CanAssist, an organisation committed to ensuring that all country people, regardless of where they live in NSW, have access to cancer treatment and care. The competition was put on by the Moss Vale Company ArtHead, and demonstrates the importance of art to the Highlands community. ArtHead was established by Bob and Sonja Millis in 1996 as a retail outlet of fine art products, and has been a major sponsor in many competitions and events over the years. When Bob passed away in 2017, Sonja Millis was inspired to create the Blue Square Art competition as a legacy to her late husband. The competition is all about inclusiveness and encourages all ages and stages of artmaking to participate. Congratulations to Yvonne Studdert, who created the winning artwork and thank you to Sonja Millis and all those who supported the event and donated to CanAssist.

QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS

Dr JOE MCGIRR (Wagga Wagga)—I wish to commend recent Australian honours recipients from my electorate. Former Member for Riverina for 12 years, Kay Hull, has a long, proud history of public service and was named an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) in the Queen's Birthday Honour's List. The honour recognises the former Wagga Wagga deputy mayor's unwavering service to rural and regional communities through health, skills development and agricultural organisations. Since retiring from federal politics in 2010, Mrs Hull has chaired boards focusing on palliative care, agriculture sector research and alcohol and other drugs policy. Dr Faye McMillan, a Wiradjuri woman, Australia's first Indigenous pharmacist and a deputy national rural health commissioner, is being appointed a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for her work in indigenous mental health and tertiary education. Batlow's John William Melrose will be awarded an OAM for his decades and decades of service to the community through multiple local groups. Former Kapooka commandant Mick Garraway will be awarded the Conspicuous Service Cross for his part in bushfire and COVID-19 disaster responses, including helping people he grew up with around Tumut. I thank these people for their dedicated service to the community.

PARRAMATTA MISSION BICENTENARY

Ms JULIA FINN (Granville)—I was delighted to attend Leigh Memorial Uniting Church in Parramatta on 20 June to join the congregation in celebrating 200 years of Parramatta Mission. The Guest preacher was Rev. Simon Hansford, Moderator of the Synod of NSW/ACT in the Uniting Church in Australia. Parramatta Mission, as part of the Uniting Church, has been providing continuous worship and service to the community for over 200 years. The construction of the first Wesleyan Methodist Chapel on the current site in 1821 was funded by Rev. Walter Lawry and Mrs. Mary Lawry. Rev. Lawry was the second Wesleyan Missionary to NSW, arriving in 1818. He followed Rev. Samuel Leigh, who had arrived in 1815 and conducted a successful ministry on horseback throughout the Greater West. I was privileged to join the congregation in praying for those who are experiencing anxiety around home, work or life changes and praying for those unable to gather, community members who are unwell, people who are unable to work and those who are lonely or depressed. I congratulate all the members and staff at Parramatta Mission for their leadership, programs and faithful service and outreach, to the most vulnerable in our community.

ROBYNE SHEA

Mr CHRISTOPHER GULAPTIS (Clarence)—I offer my congratulations to Robyn Shea who was recently recognised by the Red Cross for her wonderful volunteer and charity work. Robyne was acknowledged for her incredible effort and awarded an Outstanding Service Medal at a recent ceremony held in Sydney. Robyne has been a member of the Red Cross for 50 years. This is a wonderful achievement in itself, but Robyne has also taken on a number of positions within the Red Cross at the various branches she has been a member of across three states within Australia. Robyne is an outstanding role-model to everyone in our community through the support she has shown to the most vulnerable. Thank you Robyne for your dedication.

DALE KEOGH – BUDOKAN JUDO CLUB

Mr RAY WILLIAMS (Castle Hill)—I would like to take this opportunity to recognise Dale Keogh, a life-member and coach of Budokan Judo Club, within my electorate of Castle Hill. Dale has been involved in Judo for 65 years, starting as a participant in 1956, at only 10 years old. In 1969, already a black belt, Dale established Castle Hill Judo, which was a precursor to the current Budokan Club. Dale has had tremendous success on the mat, winning 7 open division events at the World Masters, as well as winning many Metropolitan and State events. Dale is now involved in regular coaching at the Club, and was appointed as a life-member 20 years ago. Last week, Dale won a Sports NSW Distinguished Long Service Award, for her many years of dedication to Judo,

at a presentation at the wonderful Bankwest Stadium. I'd like to thank Dale for her commitment to the community, and thank all involved in Budokan for providing Dale with these opportunities, including Rob & Kerry Katz.

PARRAMATTA EELS JOIN NRLW

Mr RAY WILLIAMS (Castle Hill)—I would like to take this opportunity to update the House with the wonderful news that the Parramatta Eels will be competing in the NRLW Premiership in 2021. The expansion of the NRLW now means that 6 teams are competing in the 2021 Premiership, meaning a wide range of NSW and Queensland have a team they can support, and I know that much of Western Sydney will throw their support behind the Blue and Gold. As the women's game starts to pick up, I'm immensely proud of my local club for being one of the first to commit to having a team participate at the highest level. The Club will be able to use the brand new Parramatta Eels Centre of Excellence for their training, and I know the centre in Kellyville will have the best facilities for the team's use. I'd like to thank all involved with the Club for their work in setting up this new chapter in the Eels' history, including CEO Jim Sarantinos.

MAITLAND WELCOMES 22 NEW AUSTRALIAN CITIZENS

Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland)—On 17 June I had the pleasure of attending Maitland City Council's Australian Citizenship Ceremony which saw 22 permanent residents become Australian Citizens. The ceremony marks a special chapter in each and every new citizen's migration story and their ongoing commitment to Australia and our shared values. I would like to extend a warm welcome to this latest cohort of new Australian Citizens, who have joined us from 16 countries including Afghanistan, Britain, Bangladesh, China, Iran, India, Ireland, Kenya, Liberia, New Zealand, Nigeria, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, South Africa, Thailand, United States of America and Zimbabwe. Their presence and contribution to the Maitland community has been positively felt and goes a long way to further enriching the diversity and multiculturalism of Maitland. It's wonderful to have these people and their families in the Maitland community as proud Australian Citizens, continuing to contribute to the economic and social development of our community. Congratulations!

CWA CONFERENCE STATE AWARDS

Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland)—On the first weekend of May this year, 400 members of the NSW Country Women's Association visited Bega Showground for the CWA's 99th Annual State Conference. On the fourth and final day of the conference state award winners were announced, acknowledging the tremendous work of the many dedicated and talented country women from across the state. While I congratulate all of these women, I would especially like to acknowledge the three special country women from Maitland who were recognised in the awards. Congratulations to Sandra Fox of Maitland Branch who won second prize in 'The Art Section' for Mixed Media. Congratulations also to Barbara Read and Jenny Geczy from the East Maitland Branch. Barbara was won second prize in 'The Land Section' for Knee or Cot Rug sewn using natural fibres and Jenny won third prize in 'The Land Section' for Felted article or Garment. Well done to all of these women on their achievements in craft and your continued work as members of the Country Women's Association, the largest women's organisation in Australia, working to improve conditions for country women, children and regional communities. Congratulations to all NSW country women who participated in the awards.

Private Members' Statements

GREAT SOUTHERN WALK

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla—Attorney General, and Minister for Prevention of Domestic and Sexual Violence) (16:54): I was delighted to see \$80 million in the New South Wales budget for new multi-day walks that will showcase the spectacular beauty of our State's national parks. I am delighted that the environment Minister is in the Chamber this afternoon and especially delighted that the first of these new walks will be the Great Southern Walk, which will span 59 kilometres from Kamay Botany Bay National Park in the north, starting at Kurnell in my electorate, to the Illawarra escarpment in the south. The funding will assist in the development of glamping-style accommodation at various sites along the route, most likely the Southern Gateway Centre, Maddens Plains, Garie Beach, Wattamolla and Bonnie Vale. Trekkers will be able to walk with whales on one side and wallabies on the other as they make their way along the track, taking in the site's extensive Aboriginal history and biodiversity.

The Royal National Park is remarkable. It is probably the only major national park in the world next to a major city. It is therefore a popular attraction for tourists and locals in search of a restorative escape from the frenetic pace of Sydney. With the opportunities for bushwalking, surfing, cycling and historical discovery, the Royal National Park is a sanctuary for nature lovers and adventurers alike. The Great Southern Walk will offer trekkers a glimpse into Australia's ancient heritage, with the Jibbon rock engravings east of Bundeena among its highlights. These engravings are some of the best preserved Aboriginal rock art in Sydney and date back over a thousand years. At least one image depicts the orca, a powerful totem of the Dharawal language people, whose

occupation in this area dates back more than 8,000 years. Extensive evidence of that occupation exists at sites throughout the Royal National Park.

In addition, the park is home to 347 native vertebrate species, making it one of the most fauna-rich reserves in the State, as well as a diversity of plant communities that range from dry sclerophyll woodlands to rainforests. The Great Southern Walk will highlight the area's incredible biodiversity, increase conservation awareness, boost the local tourism economy and create local jobs both during construction and as the walk welcomes national and international visitors once it is completed in 2024. The great work that will be undertaken in the Royal National Park section and south of the Great Southern Walk complements work that has already been done, and continues to be done, in Kamay Botany Bay National Park.

That work includes a new whale watching station at Cape Solander due for completion later this year, a new visitor centre at the Kurnell site near where Cook and his crew first met local Gweagal people in 1770 and also the construction of two ferry wharves at La Perouse and Kurnell. In the case of Kurnell, that will replace the ferry wharf that was swept away by storms in 1974. It means that people will be able to arrive from the eastern suburbs and the centre of Sydney to Kurnell and walk 59 kilometres all the way down to the Southern Gateway Centre, or the reverse. It will complement work being done on a new walkway at Hungry Point of several million dollars expenditure to allow people to walk from the southern end of the esplanade right around the south Cronulla peninsula and back in lower-middle tide to Cronulla station.

It will be one of the great walks of the world, with spectacular coastal scenery, rainforest, sclerophyll forests and Aboriginal heritage from Kurnell down to the Southern Gateway Centre. It will be a major tourist drawcard, not only for the southern end in the Heathcote electorate but also for Cronulla. It will basically mean you can now walk from Kurnell around to Cape Solander, the Cape Baily track down to Boat Harbour, and along the largest beach in Sydney to Cronulla. If you do not want to walk the esplanade and go around the peninsula and come back via Hungry Point you can catch the ferry to Bundeena and walk past magnificent coastal scenery there—for example, Wedding Cake Rock—all the way down to the Southern Gateway Centre.

I congratulate the Minister for Energy and Environment, who is in the Chamber today, on this fantastic initiative. Some great walks overseas you can do include walks around the Amalfi Coast or the walk of the pilgrims in the Pyrenees. This will be up there as one of the great walks of the world. It also encourages conservation because, if people are doing these walks and seeing the spectacular natural beauty we have, they will want to encourage that beauty all the more. It is not just about tourism. It is about encouraging awareness and support for conservation as well. It is a great initiative, which I welcome very much.

Mr MATT KEAN (Hornsby—Minister for Energy and Environment) (16:59): I thank the Attorney General for his outstanding advocacy not just for national parks but also for the environment. He is one of the great champions of protecting our environment in Parliament and in our community. Our national parks are one of the most important assets that we all have, and we need to treasure them. This walk will highlight the spectacular natural beauty in one national park, or a number of national parks, in southern Sydney. But we are investing \$80 million to ensure that we are creating more great walks right across New South Wales. Our national parks are home to some of the State's most beautiful, endangered and important biodiversity. This is not only about protecting that biodiversity but also about ensuring that it is accessible to everyone, regardless of age or ability. These should be iconic walks that will drive tourism, grow our economy and create jobs, and protect our environment to ensure that future generations will be able to enjoy it.

Public Interest Debate

STATE BUDGET

Ms ROBYN PRESTON (Hawkesbury) (17:00): I move:

That this House acknowledges that the New South Wales Budget 2021-22 delivers for all communities across New South Wales.

The New South Wales Coalition Government's strong economic management ensured that we were in the position to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic in the way that we have. We have created stability, progression, and a pathway to prosperity and recovery in a time of crisis. Over recent decades NSW Labor created crisis in what should have been times of prosperity. Thankfully, we have cleaned up its destruction as we prosper despite the challenges that our State has faced. The Chris Minns "Can't Recall" Opposition, as I call it, claims the budget is all about tolls, fees, fines and taxes. I do not believe the Leader of the Opposition was old enough to drive when, in 1995, Bob Carr promised to scrap tolls on the M4 and M5 freeways and won Liberal-held seats on the back of these promises, only to renege on them upon becoming Premier. I know the good, honest voters of New South Wales would have felt betrayed. However, we do know betrayal is a trait shared by successive Labor leaders, but I will not go into that at the moment.

Whether they betray the voters or betray each other, over the decades NSW Labor members and their leaders have lied, broken promises, and done and said anything to grab power. The good people of New South Wales have seen that history repeat itself one too many times. They have now entrusted the Coalition Government with the honour and responsibility of leading the State. And this is not a responsibility the Government takes lightly. Considering the Opposition's concerns, it would be fitting to refer to the Bob Carr "Built Nothing" Government's disastrous economic management, as well as that of successive Labor leaders. Bob Carr backflipped on his plans for electricity privatisation as he did not have the support of his own party, only to later claim that his failure to carry through with the privatisation—that he absolutely admits—was the reason he could not spend as much as he would have preferred to spend on infrastructure.

From 1995 to 2011, NSW Labor had a habit of promising railway lines, but not delivering them. It completed half of its promised Parramatta to Chatswood line, but failed to even commence many of the other announcements, including the Sydney Metro Northwest, which I stood and watched Morris Iemma and his Government announce time after time. Nothing was delivered until 2019, by this Government. Labor managed to leave behind a \$35 million infrastructure backlog for the Coalition to clean up. This budget invests \$3.5 billion through the Jobs and Infrastructure Acceleration Fund. If the Leader of the Opposition is concerned about fees, he should welcome our support for small business through the \$1,500 small business fees and charges rebate.

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER: I call the member for Wollongong to order for the third time.

Ms ROBYN PRESTON: When it comes to Labor, it is new faces but the same predictable story: broken promises, no plans, economic mismanagement and a trail of destruction left for incoming Coalition governments to fix. This Government will not allow those opposite to get in the way of our Government's record investment as we work towards the continued prosperity of our State and recovery from the pandemic. As the Treasurer quite rightly explained in his Budget Speech today:

Our job is to be disciplined in the good times, so we are ready to weather the hard times.

This discipline, which is unique to the Coalition, is the reason we can invest \$108.5 billion in infrastructure over the next four years and why New South Wales is the only State in Australia to have a triple-A credit rating. Unemployment in New South Wales was 7.5 per cent pre-pandemic; now it is 5 per cent and falling. That does not just happen; we make it happen. Because of our strong fiscal management we have recovered 270,000 jobs since the pandemic and added another 36,000.

The budget also provides \$6 billion in stimulus support, \$1.1 billion in health towards the COVID-19 response, \$2.1 billion in digital investment and a record \$7.9 billion in investment for over 210 new and upgraded schools in New South Wales. Hip hip hooray! We are looking into the future, and for that reason all electric cars priced under \$78,000 will be exempt from stamp duty. It is clear that everything Labor has said and done in recent decades has turned to disaster, which is why there is more focus by recent New South Wales Labor leaders on just saying and doing nothing. The past 10 years under the Coalition have been a decade of delivery.

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

Ms ROBYN PRESTON: The Bob Carr "build nothing" Government raised taxes in the good times and that practice would have crippled the economy throughout the pandemic. New South Wales will get back in black by the 2024-25 financial year. Our people deserve a government that will continue delivering for them and that is what we have continued to do in today's budget.

Mr ANOULACK CHANTHIVONG (Macquarie Fields) (17:07): I thank the member for Hawkesbury for bringing this public interest debate to the House. She has obviously been in the winners' circle of the *Wheel of Fortune* of speaking opportunities but she did not see that this public interest debate, like the other two, are just the bankrupt tiles. She obviously missed it. In the public interest debate on 11 May she was caught superspreading bad economic decisions by her colleagues on how not to build a post-COVID economy. On 8 June she infected the member for Manly with the economic plagiarism virus. Now she has been sent out again to talk about a budget that is held up by higher taxes, increasing tolls and more fines. She never misses an opportunity to miss an opportunity.

As a humble, working-class economist, let me tell members that this magical Pareto-optimal unicorn budget has losers—plenty of them. Earlier today the Treasurer had the gall to ask whether any of us across the Chamber have read the Intergenerational Report. I have, and I have also read the Productivity Commission report, since he is so big on productivity. Productivity is everything; the key is productivity. Let us go through the facts in the paper *Projecting Long Run Productivity Growth Rates for the 2021 Intergenerational Report*. Let us talk about productivity. Chart 9 shows that New South Wales productivity is 0.7 per cent and the national average is 1.0 per cent since 2012. Productivity is so important that the mob opposite has led us down the gurgler—

30 per cent lower than the national average. If we look at productivity growth against other States, guess where we come.

Mr Paul Scully: Last?

Mr ANOULACK CHANTHIVONG: As another humble, working-class economist, the member for Wollongong gets the prize. He certainly did not land on the bankrupt tile; that is for sure.

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER: Order! The member for Macquarie Fields does not need any assistance.

Mr ANOULACK CHANTHIVONG: There is an old saying for investigators or detectives: Always follow the money. The same is true if one is the shadow finance Minister, because one will find out who has been relegated to the losers column. The simple truth is there are plenty of losers, so many that I do not have enough time to speak about all of them. The Treasurer—or should I say the Premier in waiting? Surely the member for Hornsby has to put up a bit of a fight. The Treasurer reminds me of an old-time spruiker at sideshow alley—"Roll up, roll up, people! Everybody's a winner." But we know that not everyone is a winner on the sideshow alley because for every large stuffed animal that gets taken home, far more kids leave with empty pockets, dashed hopes and some useless piece of plastic—and so it is with this budget. There are plenty of dashed hopes and empty pockets. For all the spruiking by the Treasurer—"Look here, look here!"—I prefer to look elsewhere, to those who miss out on the prize and have to settle for next to nothing.

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER: Members will cease interjecting. I cannot hear the member for Macquarie Fields.

Mr ANOULACK CHANTHIVONG: As I stated, always follow the money. Let me start with a brief analysis of the first big loser: toll users, the suburban motorists in south-west and western Sydney who work so hard but are taxed every time they get in their cars. I really do not need to say any more, but suffice to say there is zero in this budget for toll road users. This Government could be renamed the Dairy Farmers Government because all it does is milk motorists dry. Tolls will increase by an average of 8.1 per cent per year over the forward estimates—\$677 million from household budgets over the next four years. Couple that with its compulsive addiction to unmarked speed cameras, and this Government is really the enemy of the motorists, especially of those in south-west and western Sydney—like where you live, Mr Assistant Speaker. It is a never-ending tax on suburban voters, who work so hard but never seem to get ahead under this Liberal Government. The tradies lose out as well.

What about our public servants? The Treasurer says, "Look over there! Look over there!" They remember all too well last year's offer of zero pay increase, only to be given a little by the Industrial Relations Commission. Those very same frontline workers—the teachers, the nurses, the paramedics and so on—are meant to leap for joy that they are getting a 2.5 per cent pay rise that they should have got last year. If only I had more time. All I will say is that there are always more losers in a Liberal government budget.

Mr JUSTIN CLANCY (Albury) (17:12): I welcome the opportunity to speak to this debate on the budget for 2021-22. The member for Macquarie Fields took us down sideshow alley. Obviously there was a little bit too much sugar in his show bag and a little bit too much excitement, so we will bring it back to the debate. I speak to what the Treasurer said: that this budget comes from a position of strength. As the Treasurer said:

Our job is to be disciplined in the good times, so we are ready to weather the hard times.

To imagine a better future, and to do the hard work to make that possible.

In that regard, the member for Hawkesbury noted the \$9.4 billion in tax support. I note Labor's comments with regard to tolls. It was raised in question time a week or so ago that the current Opposition leader was part of the roads Minister's team of 2004 when the 4 per cent escalation rate was baked into our tolls. But those opposite raise a good point around support for our communities and that is very much this budget—support for our families, communities, farms and businesses. It does so from a position of strength.

The member for Macquarie Fields introduced the notion of comparing and contrasting with other States, so let us journey south of the Murray River and have a look at the Victorian budget. The New South Wales budget deficit forecast for 2021-22 is \$8 billion. Victoria's forecast is an operating deficit of \$11.6 billion. The New South Wales budget is looking at being \$500 million in the black in three years. At the same time, Victoria will still be in the red to the tune of \$2 billion. That is what a Labor government does for you. The Victorian unemployment rate is expected to average 5.75 per cent in 2021-22.

Mr Stephen Kamper: Compare the Northern Territory.

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

Mr JUSTIN CLANCY: We would love to see Labor in government bringing us an economy the size of the Northern Territory. It would be something we would be pretty proud of from the Labor Party. The unemployment rate in New South Wales is already at 5 per cent. The State has recovered all 270,000 jobs lost to the pandemic whilst adding 36,000 more. But it is not just that it is a position of strength; it is looking at charting a way forward for the future and in that regard this budget is good for families. There is support for our families, our communities, our farms and businesses. There is a litany of good news for the community, so much so that *The Sydney Morning Herald* lists "All the budget winners". It says, "There's quite a few winners in this year's state budget. Here's our list for you to see if you made it on".

The list includes families, the Powerhouse Museum, future electric vehicle [EV] drivers, public servants, women, domestic violence services, CBD businesses and hotels, kids in the bush, renewable energy projects, schoolteachers, koalas, the events sector, Wentworth Point residents, rough sleepers, children and young people, and construction workers. The Herald did say there were losers—not quite as many losers but there are a few mice and people who did not strike gold. That is right, it was able to list four things—one of which is mice. They could have mentioned a fifth, and that would have been the Opposition. We will look at the chart for the future here and the Government has a litany of support.

There is \$8.5 million in vital support programs for refugees. It is support for compassion. As the Treasurer said, it is values based. There is \$200 million for community sports facilities. There is the Learn to Swim Active Pre-Schooler—I know the cost of living is something that interests the member for Macquarie Fields. There is also the free preschool program, technology for the agricultural industry, support for our schools and the bushfire support, which is so important for my community. The list goes on. This budget comes from a position of strength to do right for our people and our State. There is a vision for the future. There is business and consumer confidence in this Government and its program.

Mr CLAYTON BARR (Cessnock) (17:17): It is a bit like Groundhog Day when it comes to this Government crowing and patting itself on the back with regard to the economy. It is certainly inconvenient for Government members to face the reality of their budget papers. I am a little perplexed about the Treasurer. It is his fifth budget and, famously, he introduced a tax reform a few years back, the Fire and Emergency Services Levy, which was going to be "the greatest tax reform that this State has ever seen". That one did not go so well for him in so much as he was embarrassed and had to withdraw it sometime later when businesses figured out the terrible impact it was going to have on their work and their costs. I have also noticed a distinct change in the Treasurer's character. It is almost like he is trying to create a bit more of a statesman-like aura about him. He might be thinking there is going to be a job available soon—wondering whether the Premier is going to be sticking around in the longer term.

Let us face it: Anyone can go back through the speeches of the Treasurer and look at some of those he made in this place when he was being true to his ideology—for example, when Donald Trump won the election and he came in here with a "Make America Great Again" logo on his jacket. We all know what a wonderful success Donald Trump was for the world. That is the real core of this guy's heart and soul. In softening his image he came into the House today with a budget with some soft edges around it. One that I really liked was this one: The \$50 million to sponsor boozy Friday lunches for people who work in the Sydney CBD—I can imagine people from Cessnock rushing down to the Sydney CBD to get their \$100 voucher so they can go out on the booze from lunchtime onwards.

[Government members interjected.]

I can imagine them coming in from Hawkesbury. I can imagine them coming in from Coffs Harbour. I can imagine them coming down from Oxley. And I can see them coming up from Albury as well. They are going to be coming into the Sydney CBD on a Friday afternoon—oh no, hang on, only if they are at the executive level where they control their own diary. Heaven forbid you are an employee who might not control your own diary. Let us say you are a schoolteacher or a nurse or a police officer or a firefighter. You possibly do not get to control your own diary on a Friday afternoon so the boozy long lunch—50 million bucks worth of boozy long lunch—is out of the question for you. But here is something that I am missing in the electorate of Cessnock. I would not mind a new K-12 school in the 7,500-home development called Huntlee, which is going to have an enormous number of kids. That would have cost less than the \$50 million boozy lunch that the Treasurer wants to sponsor and fund.

The Treasurer is all about appealing to a certain class or style of people. It is not about the regular Joe and Jane out there. It is not about regional communities. It is not about people out there who, in Maslow's hierarchy, just want to deal with the fundamentals like a roof over your head—I am not sure the boozy long lunch is going to deal with homelessness. Food on the table for some of the poorest people in our community, education and prosperity for the young people in our community—they might have been the people who would benefit from that

\$50 million instead of the big boozy long lunch that the Treasurer is riding on the back of. The budget emphasises something that I have said in this House many times before. The Government is addicted to asset sales.

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER: Order!

Mr CLAYTON BARR: The Treasurer of New South Wales today publicly broke the Premier's promise at the last election when she said, "If we were going to sell off more assets we would have told you." Today the Treasurer came in and said the Government is going to sell off WestConnex. He is not just auditioning for the role of Premier; he is sticking the knife well and truly in to make sure it comes through. That is the truth of the New South Wales budget and the guy over there who delivered it. [*Time expired.*]

Mr GURMESH SINGH (Coffs Harbour) (17:22): I thank the member for Hawkesbury for bringing this motion before the House. I think the member for Macquarie Fields had it right when he quoted "everyone's a winner". Everyone is a winner in this budget. It is a fantastic budget for everybody in New South Wales.

Mr Anoulack Chanthivong: Don't think I said that.

Mr GURMESH SINGH: Read the *Hansard*; it will be in there. Before we go forward, though, we must look back at the past 10 years and how we had to fix the budget we inherited from the Labor Government. The Government is responsible for over \$150 billion of infrastructure, more than 160 new and upgraded schools, nearly \$10 billion in tax relief, \$20 billion in budget surpluses, over 170 completed projects across 65 hospitals, and four years of negative net debt. The Government was ready for the challenges of the COVID crisis. How did it lead the world in handling the COVID crisis? There have been over six million tests, 260,000 people contacted through contact tracing and, despite having only one-quarter of Australia's population, New South Wales has taken in more than double its overseas quarantine load. Shame on those Labor States that were not pulling their weight. There is \$4.9 billion in direct support for businesses in our economy, and that includes a \$1,500 small business fees and charges rebate, the \$500 million Dine & Discover program—have you used yours, Cessnock?

Mr Clayton Barr: I haven't even applied for it.

Mr GURMESH SINGH: You have not applied for it? Well, you are missing out. Your community is missing out on the \$100—shame! The Government is responsible for the \$1 billion Working For NSW fund, \$6.2 billion in capital stimulus, the \$3 billion Jobs and Infrastructure Acceleration Fund and \$900 million in communities and social support.

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER: Order! There is too much audible conversation in the Chamber. The member for Cessnock will come to order.

Mr GURMESH SINGH: That includes the Together Home program, successfully housing people in electorates like mine in Coffs Harbour; the domestic family violence support package; the Social Sector Transformation Fund; return-to-work grants and supports; sports recovery package; and support for international students. We are seeing consumer confidence at an 11-year high. After COVID, consumer confidence is higher than in every other State. We are seeing business confidence reach a record high this year, which is leading to further investment. Our economic activity is beyond pre-COVID levels. Our employment rate is better than pre-COVID levels. We have made significant advancements in health, education and stronger communities. In the planning and environment area, \$785 million is provided for national parks and \$250 million to protect invaluable biodiversity across New South Wales.

Other initiatives include the State Significant Event Fund, \$240 million to get the best events for New South Wales; the Multi-Sport Community Infrastructure Fund, \$200 million; upgrades to 21 regional race clubs; and the Regional Tourism Activation Fund, which we announced in Coffs Harbour. A gentleman by the name of Des Ahoy was at that early-morning announcement. Des runs Ahoy Traffic Control. I first met him a few years ago when he was managing traffic at the Coffs Harbour Base Hospital. As governments and politicians, we love to take credit for creating jobs, but really the people who create the jobs are people like Des. When I first met him, Des employed only four people. Off the back of the record investment in regional New South Wales, in a few short years Des has grown his business to 50 employees with three trucks and eight utes spread over a large geographical area. His Indigenous owned and run business employs 50 people in northern New South Wales across the electorates of Coffs Harbour, Oxley, Clarence and Northern Tablelands. His business is a great success story.

There is also the Regional Events Acceleration Fund. Recently in my electorate we saw a New South Wales rugby league game. I think it was the first time in history that we have seen a round game. The Sharks smote the Gold Coast Titans. I saw quite a few thumbs up on the other side of the Chamber when the Community Building Partnership was announced today. Some \$80 million was also announced for great walks. There are so many great things. Another exciting announcement in today's budget was about electric vehicles [EVs]. Our party does not

simply talk about getting to net zero and about our environmental credentials; we actually have environmental credentials. Stamp duty on all zero- and low-emission vehicles is to be progressively phased out. Three thousand dollar rebates will be provided for the first 25,000 new battery and hydrogen fuel cell vehicles sold. The government fleet will transition to EVs by 2029-30. There is too much in this budget to cover in only five minutes. Certainly, this is a budget that delivers for all communities across regional New South Wales. I commend the motion to the House.

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER (Rockdale) (17:27:3): Mr Speaker—

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

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: I move:

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

"this House calls on the Government to reintroduce warning signs for mobile speed cameras in communities across New South Wales as part of the 2021-22 budget."

On 17 November 2020 in his 2020 Budget Speech the Treasurer stated under the heading "Tax reform":

... the greatest potential to unlock prosperity is tax.

That is what the Treasurer said on 17 November 2020. The same Treasurer says the Opposition is only about taxing, so I put the Treasurer's statement on record. At that stage the Treasurer was referencing the property tax reform. As I said, he stated, "the greatest potential to unlock prosperity is tax". The property tax has been kicked down the road. It was supposed to have been a done deal by now, but the Treasurer has kicked it down the road. I am not sure where he is with it. He is all over the shop, just like he has been with everything he has done. He has changed direction again. I am not sure what stamp duty he is referring to now. Now he has gone to cars; he is talking about motor vehicle stamp duties. For the time being he has gone off property stamp duty and gone on to motor vehicle stamp duty. This Treasurer needs to make a decision.

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER: Order! The member for Rockdale does not need any help, assistance or guidance from members.

Mrs Melinda Pavey: I think he does.

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER: No, he does not.

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: He needs to have a good look at himself and ask, "Have I got the guts like John Hewson did? Am I going to own this? Am I going to take this property tax on and drive it through?" No, he does not. This Treasurer is consistently all over the shop with everything. One minute he is on the vessel; one minute he is off the vessel. One minute he is worried about the fat cats and their lunches. He thinks it is 1980; we need to bring back tax-deductible lunches, remove the fringe benefits tax. That is what he thinks it is all about.

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER: Order! The member for Rockdale does not need any help.

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: This is what he is focused on: trying to get people a free lunch, to get them out of work early on a Friday. We should be talking about productivity. All of the tradies out west or down south are working their guts out on a Friday. Their objective is to finish their day's work, and then they cop another toll on the way home to see their families. All he cares about is his merchant bankers and all his mates getting half a day off on a Friday and a free lunch. I cannot believe his outlook.

Mrs Melinda Pavey: What about the small businesses?

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: There is nothing wrong with the small businesses. Small businesses are hard working. Leave them alone!

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER: Order!

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: The Government throws these \$1,500 government levy rebates to them but there is only a 5 per cent take-up because the Government never hits the target with anything it does for small business. It should leave them alone and get the red tape away from them. We also have a situation now with covert cameras slugging those same people I referred to earlier who are out there working hard and trying to get home. Without warning, they go home with \$200, \$300, \$400 fines. If it is double demerits, God help them! If we really cared about families, we would be doing something about the toll impost and the fines that are being thrown at them. It is hurting families hard. Every single day we talk to them in the streets; they are hurting every single day.

The Treasurer has not addressed that at all. He will go off on some other crazy idea—some other free lunch—but at the end of the day he is not hitting home when it comes to looking after the average family. He is

not hitting home. All he is doing is looking after his mates while the families are suffering in our communities. No more; forget about it. I have a superhero name for him: He is "Voucher Man". Dom Perrottet is Voucher Man! All he can do is throw a voucher. Next year he will be throwing a voucher for sardines. Let us look after our families.

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER: Order! Members will come to order. Now is not the time to misbehave.

Ms ROBYN PRESTON (Hawkesbury) (17:33): In reply: I thank the member for Macquarie Fields, the member for Albury, the member for Cessnock, the member for Coffs Harbour and the member for Dine & Discover—I mean the member for Rockdale. When I look at where we are now and at the 10 years in review, it is a good story. This is after the Bob-Carr-built-nothing Government days. Now we have the Treasurer whom the member for "Dine & Discover" Rockdale fondly refers to as the Treasurer for vouchers. There is nothing to be ashamed of in offering great opportunity for businesses to be supported in the city. We have to drive business back there. Would Opposition members deny a cafe owner the opportunity to have a sale from a customer as a result of a government incentive?

Opposition members are denying local business owners in the city that opportunity to grow. They are also talking about tradies. I love the fact that Hawkesbury territory is tradie territory. They all want to work. And guess what? I do not have enough tradies in Hawkesbury to do the work. Guess why? It is because Hawkesbury is getting a \$500 million infrastructure spend that will provide masses of jobs, including 850 local jobs in the Richmond Bridge and bypass. I am surprised that Opposition members are not surprised about that.

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER: Order!

Ms ROBYN PRESTON: I am reminded that it is not Bob the Builder; it is Dom the Builder. We are building \$109 billion worth of infrastructure projects. I remind members that \$71 billion from the budget will go towards Transport, \$8.5 billion will go towards Education and \$10.8 billion will go towards Health. Members opposite must be very embarrassed with Labor's record compared with what the Government is offering. Some \$3.5 billion will be provided for Stronger Communities, and we have not forgotten social housing, which will receive \$2.4 billion. This is a giving Government. This is a Government that gives back in so many ways. Members opposite have forgotten what it is like to give—

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER: Order!

Ms ROBYN PRESTON: —they just like to receive.

Mr Mark Speakman: Point of order—

Mr Clayton Barr: Hang on. We are not in debate. How can the Leader of the House take a point of order?

Mr Mark Speakman: The Opposition has proposed to move an amendment and I take a point of order on that amendment.

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER: The point of order relates to the amendment.

Mr Mark Speakman: The amendment is out of order because it contravenes Standing Order 160, which states:

Amendments must be relevant to the question which it is proposed to amend.

Members cannot add on to any substantive motion something they would like to talk about when it is not relevant to the question that it is proposed to amend.

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER: Order!

Mr Mark Speakman: Therefore, the amendment should be ruled out of order.

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER: I thank the Leader of the House. I have heard enough.

Mr Clayton Barr: That is brand new. Is that a new standing order?

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER: No, it is Standing Order 160.

Mr Ron Hoenig: To the point of order: If you read the amendment in its entirety, the amendment relates to the New South Wales budget and it removes those flattering words. It specifically relates to a revenue issue within the budget, which shows the income that has been obtained from speed cameras and is directly related to the income shown in the budget. For example, if the House moved the motion as amended it would impact upon the total revenue in the budget because people would not be paying 1,600 per cent extra in fines, which impacts upon the bottom line.

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER: I thank the member for Heffron. I have heard enough. Standing Order 160 states:

Amendments must be relevant to the question which it is proposed to amend.

Therefore, I do not accept the amendment from the member for Rockdale. The question is that the motion be agreed to.

Mr Ron Hoenig: Before you make your final decision—

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER: I have already put the question.

Mr Ron Hoenig: I was going to ask you to consult the Clerk, who gave advice in relation to the wording of the amendment to start with. Usually when Speakers have concerns they will consult the Clerk. I ask you, Mr Assistant Speaker, to consult the Clerk because it may well prevent—

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER: I thank the member for Heffron. I have consulted the standing orders. The question is that the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Private Members' Statements

MRI TECHNOLOGY

Mr EDMOND ATALLA (Mount Druitt) (17:39): I bring to the attention of the Parliament the latest advancements in medical imaging and highlight the importance of using the latest technologies available. The development of magnetic resonance imaging, or MRI, has permitted medical diagnoses to be performed by doctors without exposing patients to the doses of radiation inherent in computed tomography scanning, or CT scanning. A traditional MRI machine is built in the form of a tunnel, which can be highly claustrophobic for children and some adult patients. The small size of children and the necessity to hold still for extended periods to achieve optimal imaging are some of the greatest barriers to children using MRI machines. Children who would benefit from MRIs do not always receive them. Children are often given a general anaesthetic to alleviate the issues of claustrophobia and distress but that option has its own problems and carries additional risks.

Along with being smaller in size, children also breathe faster and have higher heart rates than adults. Those factors make capturing a clear image more challenging. However, child-friendly MRI equipment allows young patients to receive MRI exams that are less confronting and require less anaesthesia. It stands to reason that young children who require medical imaging for timely and accurate diagnoses would be the greatest beneficiaries of child-friendly MRI technology. The increased availability of that imaging technique, which is absent of the radiation that is required in CT scanning, would avoid the need to subject patients to a potential source of harm in the earliest and most formative years of their lives. Newer, open-style MRI machines that take into account that very issue have been developed in recent times so children can have an MRI scan sitting in a chair or standing on a platform. They can even watch a video in the machine. Younger children can sit in the MRI machine while a parent stands beside them to reassure them and to remind them to remain still. Young babies can also be scanned while comfortably asleep in a parent's lap.

The children of New South Wales deserve the safest and most effective technologies for their medical imaging needs. The early and accurate diagnosis of an illness has flow-on effects that can help to ensure a fulfilling quality of life. MRI machines have the benefit of eliminating the risks caused by radiation from CT scanners. It beggars belief that, in a country such as ours, the technology is not yet available in our public hospital system. In fact, I am aware of only one of those machines in New South Wales and it is located in a private clinic at Blacktown, which is not covered under Medicare and with a price tag of approximately \$600 for a patient to access. That is too expensive for most people. It is about time that NSW Health steps up to the plate and embraces the technology and makes it available for all to access. I urge the Government to consider the benefits of that new child-friendly MRI technology to give our children who need it the best chance in life.

LACHLAN'S LINE BRIDGE REDEDICATION

Mr ANTHONY ROBERTS (Lane Cove—Minister for Counter Terrorism and Corrections) (17:43): On 26 May I was joined by Minister Dominello and former Leader of the Opposition John Brogden at Macquarie Park, where we had the solemn privilege of rededicating the Lachlan's Line Bridge in honour of Christopher Cassaniti. As I am sure many members would know, Christopher was working as a first-year apprentice on the construction site of the Lachlan's Line development in Macquarie Park when the scaffolding he was working on collapsed, resulting in his death and also serious injuries to a co-worker. Christopher was killed five days after his eighteenth birthday in what has since been deemed an easily preventable accident, robbing him

of a bright future. Since Christopher's death, his parents, Rob and Patrizia, have dedicated themselves to ensuring that no-one else is robbed of their future in the way that their son was robbed of his.

They host regular seminars on worksites to help construction workers identify hazardous situations and they have partnered with SafeWork NSW to develop and launch the Speak Up Save Lives app, to help workers report hazardous working situations anonymously. Rob and Patrizia have also established the Touched by Christopher Foundation to support families who have lost loved ones on a construction site by paying for their groceries and utilities during their time of need. The devotion that Rob and Patrizia have shown to eradicating workplace fatalities and supporting those affected by those tragedies is nothing short of astonishing. Just like Rob and Patrizia, the Government is devoted to eliminating all workplace fatalities. With the backing of this Parliament the Government has introduced the strongest legislation in Australia, which will make it easier to prosecute businesses that put their workers at risk of serious injury or death. Coupled with new penalties, including up to five years imprisonment for the most serious of offences, this demonstrates how serious the Government is about eradicating workplace deaths.

Since the Government was elected in 2011 there have been clear and tangible improvements in workplace safety. In fact, over the past decade there has been a 25 per cent reduction of workplace fatalities because the Government's focus has been, and will always be, returning workers back home to their families. Whilst at the ceremony it was rather poignant to observe how many young families and schoolchildren were using the footbridge to avoid the rather intimidating intersection below. Those children have their entire lives ahead of them and one would assume that a number of them will inevitably end up working in construction, just like Christopher. For those who do end up working in the construction industry I hope the work that is being carried out in Christopher's memory by his family and by the Government will ensure they return safely to their families at the end of every day, just as the bridge named in his honour returns them safely to their families now. Every single day this bridge will be returning mothers, fathers, sons and daughters safely back into the arms of their loved ones. Let this bridge stand as a symbol of safety—a word that I hope will be forever synonymous with the name Christopher Cassaniti.

JANELLE BURKE

Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS (Dubbo) (17:46): I congratulate Janelle Burke on her retirement from the position of director at Orana Early Childhood Intervention in Dubbo. I thank her for her incredible contribution. Janelle has dedicated almost 32 years of service to the centre, and even longer to the early childhood education sector. Orana Early Childhood Intervention is a community-based, not-for-profit organisation and a registered NDIS provider. It supports babies and young children up to the age of 12 with additional needs, to help improve their ability to participate in a range of environments. Delivering services for over 35 years to children and families in Dubbo and surrounding areas, the centre now supports children and their families not only in Dubbo but also in the surrounding towns of Wellington, Narromine, Warren, Trangie, Gilgandra, Tottenham, Nyngan and Yeoval. At the start there were some tough times. The service originally operated just three days a week, with a part-time teacher and an assistant offering limited therapy and fundraising providing the much-needed funds for resources.

Now more than 250 children are receiving help. The service operates five days a week and 19 staff provide a multidisciplinary approach, including education, occupational therapy, physiotherapy and speech therapy. Janelle has been a big part of that growth and success. She is a country girl at heart. Janelle grew up in Gilgandra and on leaving school went to study early childhood education at the Sydney Kindergarten Teachers' College. After completing her studies, Janelle returned to regional New South Wales and took up a position as an educator at Dubbo and District Preschool. In 1983 she married her husband, Warwick, and Janelle left Dubbo and District Preschool when their first child, Lauren, arrived in 1986. Her second daughter, Jess, arrived in 1988, and it was at about that time that Janelle started teaching early childhood studies at TAFE, which was something she continued doing until about 1990. Janelle's passion for the early childhood sector was further demonstrated when the Charles Sturt University campus opened in Dubbo and Janelle accepted a position to teach early childhood education there for a time.

In 1990 Janelle started at Orana Early Childhood Intervention as an educator for children with special needs, and so that journey began. Not long after starting, Janelle was offered the director's position. Sandra Ayres, the director at the time, was retiring due to illness. Sandra felt that Janelle was the perfect person to continue on with her vision, and so it was. Sandra was certainly right about Janelle. Her amazing work ethic and her passion for the centre has seen it thrive, along with the staff, the children and their families. Janelle's dedication has seen her involved with a number of industry groups including, at a State level, Early Childhood Intervention Australia, which was the leading Australian group for early childhood outcomes for young children with a developmental delay or a disability and their families. She was secretary for a number of years and only left the role when the State group folded and became Reimagine Australia.

Janelle has also contributed significantly through her involvement with the Dubbo early years education support group; in fact, she was in a meeting with Minister Mitchell and me just last week, discussing education and wait times for children accessing allied health services in regional New South Wales. The introduction of the NDIS has seen significant change to service delivery at Orana Early Childhood Intervention. Under Janelle's leadership, and with the support of the board of management and staff, the centre has been able to survive and grow. I know that Janelle considers it a privilege to have been part of so many families' journeys. Sharing their tears of joy, and sometimes despair, has been a humbling experience for her. I also know the families feel extremely privileged because they know that they have had someone really caring, with a lot of passion and dedication, in their lives.

To Janelle I say it is time to enjoy a well-deserved break and spoil her grandchildren, Lucas, Charlotte, Aubrey and Remy. Congratulations to Janelle on her retirement from Orana Early Childhood Intervention. It is noted by a few that although Janelle is retiring from that role, she may well pop up somewhere within the early childhood sector at some point down the track. I thank her again for her contribution; I know our community is far richer as a result of it.

STATE BUDGET AND CAMPBELLTOWN ELECTORATE

Mr GREG WARREN (Campbelltown) (17:50): It is quite fitting that I speak on budget day about the needs of Campbelltown and the matters that concern my community, which we must address. I would like to see a collaborative approach from this Parliament and from the Government to see better outcomes for Campbelltown but, sadly, I have not seen that today. Members saw the budget—we saw more tolls, higher taxes, less wages and more debt. I will start with health. I was proud to work with my community to see the stage two upgrade of Campbelltown Hospital, which was a fantastic outcome. But members on this side of the House know—and the people of Campbelltown know—that it is not bricks and mortar that cures people and cares for people; it is staff. It is our health workers, nurses, doctors, physicians and clinicians. They need the funding, and we did not see that in the budget today. That comes at a cost and has a serious effect on local families, local patients and their carers. Now they have to pay to park at their very own hospital, where taxpayers' money was used to build a car park for the profit of the private sector.

Speaking about roads, there needs to be adequate funding for the upgrade of Appin Road—the 10.4-kilometre stretch from Fitzgibbon Lane to the roundabout at Appin is vital. There needs to be another connection down into Appin, but members need to acknowledge that if there is to be an orbital, which is proposed, adequate funding should be in place to ensure it connects to the major arterial of Picton Road. In this budget adequate steps have not been taken to ensure that the Hume Highway is connected to Menangle Road to provide for new residents—the thousands of families who are destined for the south of Campbelltown—to get their fair share. There is no commuter car park at Menangle, but thousands of families are destined to live there under the Government's urban population growth plan. It is simply unacceptable.

Mrs Melinda Pavey: Housing affordability.

Mr GREG WARREN: We have not seen the adequate influence, motivation or initiative from the Government to reduce housing prices. I note the comment from the member opposite about housing affordability. Yes, we need to see housing affordability. We need to see growth. You could never blame Campbelltown and south-west or western Sydney for not accepting new people to our region. But we cannot accept the Government's plan to see urban population growth without the adequate provision of infrastructure and services so they too can enjoy the good lifestyle that we in Campbelltown and western Sydney have long enjoyed. That was not in this budget today. We did not see a new school proposed to be built in the electorate of Campbelltown. We have seen broken promises in Gregory Hills and Leppington. The Government is trying to amend that. I welcome those schools. I will never stand in the way of or criticise something that is good for our region. But I will never take any steps backwards when it comes to ensuring that we get our fair share.

We cannot discount the effect of wage reductions on working families and our economy. If they do not have the money to spend, they will not invest in local communities and businesses. That is the subsequent fact of the matter. We have not seen those provisions in place. Those are just a few of a number of things that the Government has not addressed but needs to address. They have been ignored. They must be given priority by the Berejiklian Government. That simply has not happened. I will continue my pursuit of my community's prosperity to ensure that people get their fair share. I thank the House.

MAJOR GENERAL CHRIS FIELD, AM, CSC

Dr GEOFF LEE (Parramatta—Minister for Skills and Tertiary Education) (17:55): I acknowledge the service and valuable contributions of Major General Chris Field, AM, CSC, in his role as the Australian Defence Force trustee for the Anzac Memorial as he concludes his two-year term on 30 June 2021. The Anzac

Memorial (Building) Act was amended to include an Australian Defence Force representative as an important legacy of the Centenary of ANZAC and an acknowledgement of the ongoing service of our contemporary service men and women, as embodied within the Anzac Memorial's Centenary Project, Hall of Service. Major General Field was appointed on the recommendation of General Campbell, AO, DSC, as Chief of the Defence Force, following a brief period under Major General Bilton, AM, CSC.

The two years in which the major general has served as a trustee have been significant in, first, managing the newly opened and expanded operations of the memorial with its centenary extension, and then as the trustees and staff pivoted and managed the memorial through reduced operations during the COVID-19 pandemic and increased the digital outreach. Major General Field's contributions have been enormously valued by the board of trustees of the memorial as well as the staff and the veterans community who interact with and support the memorial. He is passionate about Australia's military history and the important role that Australia plays internationally. He has brought this interest and commitment to his role as a trustee.

His contributions are particularly notable, as he has attended meetings and provided input and advice while also serving in Kuwait as the deputy commanding general of operations of the 48,000-person United States Army Central, known as the Third United States Army, to which role he was appointed in March 2020. Here his responsibilities include relationships in the Middle East theatre, sustainment, medical, movement, maintenance, engineering, intelligence, communications and security. His previous service includes Commander, Australian Army Forces Command; Vice Director of Operations, United States Central Command; Commander 3rd Brigade; Chief of Staff, Forces Command; Head of Corps, Royal Australian Infantry; Regimental Colonel, The Royal Australian Regiment; and Deputy Commanding General, 82nd Airborne Division, Regional Command, South Afghanistan.

When he was Commander of the Forces Command his team mobilised and deployed approximately 6,000 people, from September 2019 through February 2020, in three multinational joint task forces on Operation Bushfire Assist in 2019 and 2020 throughout New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania, Victoria and the Australian Capital Territory. As Commander 3rd Brigade, he was appointed Queensland State Recovery Coordinator following Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie. In this role, he established Joint Task Force 661 and served 60 days designing, developing, gaining approval and implementing Operation Queensland Recovery, supporting one-third of the State—1.2 million people—and \$3 billion in lost economic activity. As a colonel, he served as Chief of Operations and Plans, Queensland Reconstruction Authority, and Director of Future Land Warfare & Strategy, Army Headquarters.

A 2010 fellow of the Centre for Defence and Strategic Studies, he was awarded the Geddes Gavel for consistency and the Richard Leaver Award for scholarship. His earlier service with 2nd/4th Battalion, 2nd Battalion and 1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, provided him command experience, from platoon to battle group. As Operations Officer 2nd Battalion, he served in East Timor. As Commanding Officer 1st Battalion, he led Joint Task Force 635, Solomon Islands. He served as J3 Operations, 1st Division & Deployable Joint Force Headquarters in Brisbane and in J5 Plans, US Army Central in Atlanta, Kuwait and Iraq. In addition, he served as an Army Reserve Adjutant, Royal Military College Duntroon Instructor, aide to the Chief of Reserves, and United Nations Military Observer in Lebanon and Syria. Today I acknowledge Chris for his dedication, service and sacrifice for our nation and thank him for his contribution to the Anzac Memorial.

WESTERN SYDNEY HERITAGE AND OPEN SPACES

Ms LYNDA VOLTZ (Auburn) (18:01): The protection of our local heritage and open space is at the heart of core values of the people of Auburn. The lands on which we live, the lands of the Wangal and Wategoro peoples, are also the site of the earliest expansion of the European colony, stretching away from the harbour. That is why, as the member for Auburn, I am pleased to note that 16 June 2021 marked the fiftieth anniversary of the first green ban by the Builders Labourers Federation's [BLF] secretary, Jack Munday, on Kellys Bush at Hunters Hill. The first green ban was an important turning point in the protection of Sydney's heritage when a group of women from Hunters Hill, who were trying to save Kellys Bush—the last remaining open space in that area—teamed up with the union movement.

The women had exhausted all their other options—approaching the local council, the mayor, the local State member and the Premier, Robert Askin, all to no avail. They then sought the help of the New South Wales branch of the Builders Labourers Federation, which joined the struggle. That saw an initial 600 people protest to save the land from development. The first green ban, as it became known, was a complete success, and Kellys Bush is still there as a constant reminder of the importance of our precious open public space and the ongoing fight to protect it. The fiftieth anniversary of the green ban is an important reminder of what could have been: The Rocks wiped away, the Botanic Gardens turned into a car park for the Opera House, and Kellys Bush not saved.

Today that struggle is ongoing. The union movement, led by the Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union, has joined with community organisations and local residents to protect another important part of our heritage, through a green ban: the historic Willow Grove and St George's Terrace. On May Day some 4,000 people marched through the streets of Parramatta to stop the ongoing destruction of our heritage and open spaces in western Sydney and to protect those buildings. Unfortunately, it appears to have fallen on deaf ears. I noted just a couple of days ago the response of the Premier to the court's decision on Willow Grove, when she said, "Some people are never happy." If she means some people who want to protect heritage and open space under this Government, perhaps she is correct: People are not happy.

So far not only have we seen the compulsory acquisition of the land for the Powerhouse Museum in Parramatta—which is a piece of land purchased by the council to form an open-air amphitheatre on the banks of Parramatta River—and the proposed destruction of Willow Grove and St George's Terrace, but also we have been confronted with the ripping up of 60 trees to put a car park in Parramatta Park, the removal of the beautiful Moreton Bay fig trees in Robin Thomas Reserve to put light rail across a public park, and the building of a business hub and commercialisation of Australia's oldest convict building, the Female Factory. The same people are also not happy, four years later, about Wisteria Gardens, which was promised to be added to Parramatta Park at the time of the construction of Western Sydney Stadium. They are asking why it is still not part of the parklands and has fallen into disrepair.

Under the plans of this Government, Willowgrove will be destroyed and the gardens around it lost so that the New South Wales Government can have an empty commercial event space on the banks of the Parramatta River. The open-air amphitheatre on the banks of the river, like the Government's promised redevelopment of the riverside theatre, is now just a distant memory. As more heritage buildings come down, more paving is laid, more trees destroyed and more and more high-rise goes up—mostly in western Sydney—we stand at a precipice. This Government has taken its direction from Pope Sixtus V, whose notorious destruction of Rome in pursuit of modernisation saw the Trajan and Marcus Aurelius obelisks have statues plonked on top. It also saw the destruction of the ruins and bath of Diocletian and the demolishment of the magnificent facade of Septizodium of the Emperor Septimius Severus. To quote Robert Hughes:

The truth was that Sixtus V, like many another man of unbridled power, believed in the future more than the past, because the future could be shaped but the past could not.

It is clear that the Premier and her planning Minister are determined, like Sixtus V, to leave their mark on western Sydney's heritage and open spaces. What is unknown is what, if any of it, will be left after they are finished. It is an important reminder that the green bans of 50 years ago are as relevant and important today as they were when a group of women from Hunters Hill landed on the doorstep of the BLF.

LINDFIELD LEARNING VILLAGE

Mr JONATHAN O'DEA (Davidson) (18:05): Lindfield Learning Village is an inspirational and innovative new school in the Davidson electorate, which opened in January 2019 at the former University of Technology Sydney Lindfield site. Due to extensive renovations required to the heritage-listed building, enrolments have been increasing over time and will reach about 2,000 students at the beginning of 2022. Next year will also be the first year that school enrolments will be accepted based on a Department of Education catchment area. Lindfield Learning Village values the importance of every member of its community, including parents, and embraces their input.

Last month I met with the president of Lindfield Learning Village P&C, Jason Wong, and David Hope, president of the Northern Beaches P&C Association, about a range of issues relating to Lindfield Learning Village. Jason and David emphasised that parents at the school are supportive of its principal, Stephanie McConnell, and her vision, and look forward to the expansion of the school community in coming years. I commend the principal and school community for all the positive initiatives taking place at the school. The discussion included the issue of the contentious poster about Black Lives Matter, which was highlighted by the media. While expressing my support for a review into the incident, I also emphasised my continuing support for the school and its empowering attitude to children expressing their own views.

Work is still being carried out at the school, and when the current works are complete—stage 2C—the school will be able to accommodate up to 2,000 students. It currently accommodates 800 students. Stage 2C is forecast for completion in early 2022, and a further \$51 million has been allocated in today's budget for the school's capital works, which is very welcome. The main works for stage 2C are tracking well and are anticipated for completion in mid-2021. Unfortunately, the associated roadworks that are part of the planning conditions will not be completed until early 2022, so student numbers will not be able to increase beyond the approved 800 until then.

Part of the project involves relocating Aurora College, a virtual opportunity class and selective high school for rural and remote students, from its existing set-up at Mowbray Public School. As those works will also be completed in mid-2021, the relocation will likely take place this year instead of in 2022. I commend the New South Wales Government for this excellent educational facility. I note that it has often been a somewhat difficult journey to restore and renovate this heritage building from a tertiary education facility to a kindergarten to year 12 school. I look forward to acknowledging future progress in due course regarding the development of Lindfield Learning Village as a highly innovative educational model for a school in New South Wales.

TUGGERAH RAILWAY STATION

Mr DAVID MEHAN (The Entrance) (18:09): I update my constituents and the House on the progress of upgrades to Tuggerah railway station, which I concede is located in the Wyong electorate. But I am sure my colleague the member for Wyong would agree that the station is used mainly by constituents of The Entrance electorate. It is one of the busiest railway stations on the Central Coast and remains one of the busiest railway stations that does not have lifts installed or being constructed. When we talk about access to our public services like public transport, equal access is fundamental if we are going to provide what I think this House should be aiming to provide—that is, a fair and equal society. Equal opportunity can never be afforded to all members of our community unless they have equal access to all of our public services, including public transport.

As I said, Tuggerah railway station is used by a tremendous number of my constituents. I remind the House that the over-65s population is above the State average and is one of the highest in New South Wales. The number of people who require assistance with their day-to-day living is also above the State average and there is a large number of people with disabilities. The lack of adequate access at Tuggerah station is a big issue for my community. In 2015, as a newly elected member holding a mobile office at Tuggerah railway station, the situation was impressed upon me by a constituent who raised it. When I pointed out that they may not have lifts but there are ramps, I was told in no uncertain terms that ramps were not good enough because they are difficult to navigate and, as a consequence, instead of catching public transport at Tuggerah railway station, a large number of my constituents made more complicated arrangements to their travel to catch the train at other railway stations where lifts were available.

One of my staff members, Peter Duggan, suggested we might campaign around the issue. As soon as we floated the idea we were overwhelmed by the community's response. This campaign has been pushed by my community since 2015, when I was elected to this House to represent them. They have supported the campaign all the way. Initially, the response from the Government was very clear: We were never going to get lifts at Tuggerah station. At the time in 2017 when the campaign was running, Scot MacDonald, then Parliamentary Secretary for Planning and the Central Coast, said:

The advice from Transport for NSW is pretty clear. The ramp at Tuggerah Railway Station meets disability guidelines. There are no plans to install lifts.

Similar comments were made by the Minister in response to a petition we lodged in the House. He said:

Contrary to comments made by the Member for The Entrance, Tuggerah Station is accessible. The ramps on both sides of the station and to the platforms comply with gradients for wheelchair accessibility.

That was not good enough for my community and we continued to campaign in the lead-up to the 2019 State election. I convinced my party that we should promise lifts, which we did on 9 November 2018. The Government matched that promise, which was a great outcome for my constituents. However, since then I have been really disappointed by the lack of progress, so much so that I have again launched a petition to get the situation moving along. Earlier this month I was accompanied to the station by Josephine Johnston and Heather Marler to launch a new petition to push the matter forward.

Today I was really pleased to see that \$912,000 has been allocated towards getting the project moving. But nothing has happened yet, and that is the problem. We need to see site investigation undertaken and plans released for my community to comment on, and I want to see construction begin sooner rather than later. I was promised that construction would begin this year, but I do not think that is going to happen now; I think it is more likely to be next year. This Government needs to meet its commitment to the Central Coast community and get the installation of lifts at Tuggerah station moving sooner rather than later. [*Time expired.*]

STATE BUDGET AND PORT MACQUARIE ELECTORATE

Mrs LESLIE WILLIAMS (Port Macquarie) (18:14): I start by commending the Treasurer for today's budget, a budget that invests to keep our communities COVID safe and to also keep our recovery going. It is about creating a better New South Wales for families and for our future. When it comes to the Port Macquarie electorate, we have seen the Hastings Secondary College Port Macquarie Campus, the new police station for Port Macquarie and the Ocean Drive duplication progressed with funding allocated in today's budget. The New South Wales

Government is delivering for the Port Macquarie electorate and I am very pleased that we will now start to see these important infrastructure projects get underway. Included in the budget is \$18.5 million towards the first stage of the redevelopment of Hastings Secondary College, Port Macquarie Campus, as well as \$500,000 to commence design works for a new PCYC, as part of a \$2.1 billion budget allocation right across education, which includes funding to deliver 44 new and upgraded schools.

The redevelopment of Hastings Secondary College is welcome news. I am looking forward to working alongside our school community as this critical project evolves. Detailed design for stage one of the upgrade at the Port Macquarie Campus, which includes a new technological and applied studies building, refurbished learning spaces in one building and associated landscaping, has progressed and a complying development certificate has been received for the works. Stage two will include a new creative and performing arts building, the refurbishment of two other buildings, external works and a new school entrance. Stage three includes the shared multipurpose facility with PCYC, which is, of course, subject to further approvals.

The much-anticipated duplication of Ocean Drive will soon see construction underway, with a massive \$30.8 million allocated to Port Macquarie-Hastings Council to undertake the works, along with \$1.1 million to upgrade Hatch Road on the north shore. The \$9.9 million allocated in the budget for the new helipad at Port Macquarie Base Hospital, as well as \$3.8 million to further expand the hospital car park, reflects our commitment to provide world-class health facilities. Also, \$5.7 million has been allocated for much-needed new social housing in Port Macquarie, along with \$109,000 to upgrade current social housing accommodation. These investments also mean the creation of local jobs in our communities. Overall, this budget reflects the needs of our growing community across the Port Macquarie electorate, with funding commitments to support essential services including health, education, roads and social housing.

A number of really impressive statewide announcements will benefit those of us who live in the Port Macquarie electorate. I think all of us who live in regional communities are excited that the regional seniors travel card—which has been a very popular initiative, with more than 300,000 applications across regional New South Wales—will now be extended for a further two years and will include others as part of that allocation for the card. In our local government area in Port Macquarie, of the 18,336 eligible applicants for the current rounds, over 14,166 people have applied, which is a 77.26 per cent take-up rate. That is really impressive, but I am calling on those other seniors across our regional communities, and particularly across the Port Macquarie-Hastings local government area, if they are eligible—and clearly there are others who are eligible—to get in their applications and make sure that they are the beneficiaries of the \$250 regional seniors travel card.

It is exciting to know that we will have record government investment in child and adolescent mental health. We know that this is a growing issue across all our communities. This investment will ensure that thousands of children and teenagers across New South Wales have access to specialised care, with 25 Safeguards Child and Adolescent Mental Health Response teams included in the State budget. Homelessness is something that a lot of us are very much aware of in our communities. We know that hundreds more rough sleepers will be helped into housing connected to tailored supports, with the New South Wales Government announcing a \$57 million expansion of the very successful Together Home program over two years as part of the budget. As I said, all in all this is a very impressive budget. Certainly in the Port Macquarie electorate we will see incredible investment continue as it has over the past 10 years that the Liberals and Nationals have been in charge of this State.

STATE BUDGET AND THE CENTRAL COAST

Ms LIESL TESCH (Gosford) (18:19): Today's Berejiklian budget offers nothing new for coasties, just more old promises and more planning money. If you are a teacher in the local school who is having to spend your own money to resource your classroom, or if you are a parent who is giving up more of your own time to volunteer in the school canteen and cook in an outdated kitchen with a leaky roof with water running across the floors when it is raining, Gladys Berejiklian does not have anything new for you. If you are a coastie who uses our congested roads in the morning to get to work and gets caught up in the frustrating congestion of pothole-riddled roads across our Central Coast, Gladys Berejiklian does not have anything new for you. If you are a nurse working at Gosford Hospital who is feeling the pressure of more demand but fewer staff and a thinner pay packet, Gladys Berejiklian has very little new for you. If you are an aspiring coastie who is battered by the ever-increasing rental market and you yearn for the security of owning your own home and achieving the Australian dream, Gladys Berejiklian does not have anything new for you.

Instead, Gladys Berejiklian and the New South Wales Treasurer today announced a \$100 voucher scheme to be spent by people having long lunches in Sydney. The people of the Central Coast are incredibly disappointed with this. We have just celebrated an injection into our economy due to people working from home and also the Dine & Discover vouchers. To know that coasties will be pushed back into workplaces in Sydney—that is four hours less a day coasties will have for themselves—so we can spend the money somewhere outside the electorate

is very poor vision by the Treasurer, who is possibly focusing on long lunches for bankers. It is typical of this out-of-touch Liberal Government, which puts George Street before West Street in Umina or Mann Street in Gosford. Instead, the Government announced old funding and planning money for old promises. It is like Gladys has rewrapped the Christmas present and given it to you for your birthday.

While the Minister for Health sprouts a good budget outcome for people across New South Wales, I express my disappointment on behalf of our nurses and midwives. Not only in Gosford Hospital but also outside the Parliament this morning, in the Parliament two weeks ago and across New South Wales we are hearing devastating stories about the nurses and midwives being squeezed and squeezed and squeezed. The other day in an electorate meeting that I had in East Gosford I spoke to one of the young mums, whom I had never met before, about her concerns in our community. She said she is frightened by what is happening to our public health maternity system. She talked to her friends across our community and they said, "Don't do it." Nurses and midwives are really scared that this is what is happening to our community, that young mums who have the opportunity to choose between public and private hospitals are choosing to go to our local private hospital rather than our great public hospital. This is at the same time that Wyong maternity was shut down because of COVID and has still not reopened.

At Gosford we have had cuts to our fantastic, world's best practice midwifery group practice service, which is a wraparound service that has been available for mums of the Central Coast for years and years and years. Some of the mums across our community have had their first, second and third child with the same midwife. Research shows that continuity of care produces really good outcomes, whereas at the moment we have midwives who are working under massive stresses and do not have time to spend with the mums. They do not have continuous relationships with the mothers. These midwives are crying when they go home at the end of the day because they have not had time to show the young mums how to bath their child, and they have not had time to do the paperwork because they have been rushed off their feet.

In our nurse and midwifery practice areas we have not got anything near the ratios in other hospitals in New South Wales because the bubs are not counted. The babies are not counted in the hospitals. While the nurses may be caring for five mums, they are also caring for five babies. I do not know what it looks like in Coff's Harbour, but in my electorate mums with very complex needs and babies with complex needs mean that the poor nurses have 10 people to look after on their shift. When one nurse is away, they are not replaced in Gosford Hospital. It is time for the Minister for Health and Medical Research to look very carefully at what is happening in midwifery sections across hospitals in New South Wales. Our mums deserve more than being told to watch the YouTube clip on how to bath their babies before they go home. They have the right to a follow-up phone call and they have the right to ring the hospital to ask questions. The readmissions are sky high. It is time the Minister looked very carefully at care for the midwives and nurses and our young mums across our communities in New South Wales.

TRIBUTE TO TERRY OAKES-ASH, OAM

Mr NATHANIEL SMITH (Wollondilly) (18:25): It is with great sadness that I draw to the attention of the House the passing of Terry Oakes-Ash, a prominent community and business leader in the Southern Highlands and my electorate of Wollondilly. I got to know Terry well before and after I was elected to the Parliament in March 2019. He was a source of valuable advice on business and economic issues as my region was ravaged by drought, fire, floods and the pandemic. The oldest of eight children, Terry was born in 1937 in the eastern English town of Norfolk. He met his bride, Joy, at a local village dance and before too long they were married and had started a family. In 1970 the family left Britain for a life of opportunity Down Under. When Terry arrived in Australia he began working in the resources industry in Queensland. He later moved to Sydney and eventually rose through the ranks at Boral Resources Australia, where he eventually became chief operating officer. His success in that role is legendary. In little more than a decade, he grew revenue from \$140 million to \$1.45 billion. Much of this has been attributed to his personal leadership style, which involves each of his 4,500 employees feeling valued and an integral part of the success of the company. At the time, this was a novel leadership approach.

When he retired in 2001, Terry did not exactly settle for a quiet and uneventful life. Instead, he involved himself in a range of boards, charities and community endeavours. We are fortunate that around this time he relocated across the road from Bradman Oval. As a cricket tragic myself, it is a great place to live. He engaged with and re-energised the Bowral Chamber of Commerce and the Southern Highlands business chamber, the Illawarra Business Chamber and Regional Development Australia Southern Highlands. Terry loved the Southern Highlands and was passionate about fostering cooperation between government and business to support business and industry and the growth of employment. He was a firm believer in individuals and organisations collaborating to bring about positive outcomes, whether that be for employees, shareholders or the wider community.

To this end, he was a co-founder of the Southern Highlands Key Stakeholders Group and was instrumental in its continuing success. This group gathers to offer a united voice for the business sectors of the Southern Highlands and includes representatives from the Southern Highlands Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Illawarra Business Chamber, Moss Vale Chamber of Commerce, Southern Highlands Food and Wine Association, Wingecarribee Shire Council, Destination Sydney, Surrounds South, Destination Southern Highlands, Low Carbon Living Southern Highlands, Regional Development Australia Southern Inlands, Southern Region Business Enterprise Centre, TAFE NSW and the University of Wollongong. It also includes me and the member for Goulburn. The benefit of this group is enormous. It brings together the job creators with those who can provide the policy settings to foster and encourage that job building.

Let me assure those on the other side of the House that it is not just a talkfest: Positive outcomes are achieved. Only last weekend a complaint regarding a local tip impacting nearby businesses and hotels was raised. Because the council administrator, the legendary Viv May, was present, an immediate commitment to send a council inspector the following day was given—an example of actions rather than just words. This level of cooperation and collaboration is exactly what Terry was seeking to achieve and would not have been delivered without his foresight, leadership and perseverance. He is held in such high regard within the community that the Southern Highlands Key Stakeholders Group is keen to create the Terry Oakes-Ash, OAM, Award for Collaboration Delivering Outcomes. I understand that it is keenly supported by his daughters and will be awarded on an annual basis.

Terry also found time for local charities and saw them as an essential part of a thriving community. He was chairman of both Challenge Southern Highlands and the Salvation Army Southern Highlands Red Shield Appeal, and he was on the board of the Mary Poppins Committee, Youth Radio 92.5 FM and Interchange. His dedication to these organisations and his charitable works would eventually earn him a well-deserved Order of Australia Medal in 2016. In addition, he was awarded 2007 Citizen of the Year and received the New South Wales Premier's Award for community service in 2011. On behalf of a grateful Southern Highlands community, I offer my condolences to Terry Oakes-Ash's family, in particular his three daughters, Caroline, Libby and Rachael. I thank Terry for his wise counsel and service to our community. Our region is richer because of him.

ST PETERS PUBLIC SCHOOL

Mr RON HOENIG (Heffron) (18:30): I draw to the attention of the Minister for Transport and Roads my very grave concerns about student safety at St Peters Public School in my electorate. Campbell Street, St Peters, has been widened to four lanes as a consequence of WestConnex. It is in fact an off-ramp for WestConnex, sending thousands of vehicles into the inner west via Campbell Street and Bedwin Road. The problem is that St Peters Public School is only 150 metres from Campbell Street, with dozens of parents and children crossing that road every day walking to and from school. WestConnex even constructed a car park on Campbell Street specifically to function as a pick-up and drop-off zone for the school. In planning WestConnex, the risks to children were obvious—crossing a motorway off-ramp by foot is immensely dangerous, even more so if you are a young child walking to primary school.

The request I made to the Government nearly four years ago was simple: Introduce a school zone on Campbell Street and lower the speed of the cars, trucks and buses exiting the M8 motorway to 40 kilometres per hour around school hours. The Minister will be aware of this issue because I have been writing to him, speaking to his department and raising the issue through the Inner West Council Local Traffic Committee for nearly four years now. The Mayor of Inner West Council, Councillor Darcy Byrne, and his council staff have been doing the same. The proposal has the full support of the school community, principal, P&C, the council and me. But would you believe it? Transport has refused the request at every step along the way, citing some bureaucratic excuse that the criteria for school zones have not been met, as there is "no direct access point" for the school on Campbell Street.

I quote from the response from the Parliamentary Secretary for Transport, the Member for Miranda, who wrote, "Transport for NSW does not support a school zone on Campbell Street at this time." It is the worst sort of technocratic nonsense because not only is it wrong in every practical sense, but also it ignores the importance of road safety and puts the lives of children at risk. My worst fears and those of every parent almost came to pass a few weeks ago, when a truck ran a red light on Campbell Street at the school crossing and, at that exact location, nearly killed two nine-year-old girls who were walking to school. Mercifully no-one was hurt, but it was an incredibly near-run thing. Witnessed by other parents and children, it easily could have gone a different way. As a parent, it chills your blood. That is precisely why I am so concerned and why I demanded the installation of a school zone on Campbell Street as a matter of urgency.

I warn the Minister—and I hope that he and his department are listening—that if a child is killed at that location by a vehicle speeding or running a red light, the blood will be on the Minister's hands and on the hands of the department. I will hold them responsible for their lack of action. I have tried to raise this issue locally with

transport officials, but I have been blocked at every turn. Since the amalgamation of the former Roads and Maritime Services with Transport for NSW, the previously cooperative bureaucracy has become sluggish and unresponsive, to the point where my repeated requests for a meeting with the new Precinct Director, Ms Sundkvist, has been met with stonewalling, delaying tactics and refusals for well over a year now.

I warned the Minister when the Coalition first proposed to create a mega-bureaucracy that exactly this sort of unresponsiveness would occur, and I have not been proven wrong yet. It is very grave that a basic request for a meeting with a senior departmental figure has been delayed, especially when children's lives are at stake. The WestConnex M8 motorway is expected to expel 61,000 vehicles each and every day out of the Euston Road off-ramp, which runs directly into Campbell Street. The volume of traffic on the road is only going to increase. Every day that goes by is another day that the hundreds of children and parents from St Peters Public School are at unnecessary risk. I urge the Minister for Transport and Roads to act without delay.

TRIBUTE TO TERRY LUCAS

Mr PHILIP DONATO (Orange) (18:34): I pay tribute to Mr Terence Timothy Lucas, more formally known as Magistrate Terry Lucas, or His Honour, who recently passed away in Bathurst. Terry was born in Wentworthville, New South Wales, in 1959 and was the eldest of two children of Terence Denis and Maureen Mary Lucas. Upon completion of year 12 in 1977, Terry applied for positions with both the Royal Australian Navy and the local bank. Terry was successful in his application to join the bank and, whilst he may have harboured aspirations to be a high-flying banker, his career lasted approximately eight hours. In February 1978 Terry took up a position as a midshipman with the Royal Australian Navy. He completed his training at HMAS *Creswell* on the South Coast and was posted to Garden Island. Thereafter, Terry was deployed to Fiji on HMAS *Melbourne*. He also served on patrols off the east coast of Australia. Terry served as a full-time naval officer for 18 months. He separated from the navy on 3 August 1979, but he continued to serve as a reservist from then on.

After leaving the navy, Terry served with the Australian Federal Police until September 1980, when he then joined the NSW Police Force. He spent his first few years stationed in Sydney before transferring to Bathurst in August 1983. In 1986 Terry joined the police prosecuting branch and predominantly prosecuted in Parramatta and Penrith local courts. His aptitude to interpret and advise on the law was quickly recognised and he soon joined what was known as the "writers" section of the prosecuting branch, which involved reviewing briefs of evidence and providing advice in relation to complex legal issues. In 1990 Terry was promoted to Prosecuting Sergeant, Head of Court, at Bathurst. Soon after, he commenced a diploma in law through the Solicitors Admission Board, which was administered by the University of Sydney. Balancing work and raising a family with study is never easy, but Terry completed his legal qualifications in 1998 and then became a legal officer with the naval reserve.

On 8 May 2000 Terry became a magistrate of the Local Court of New South Wales. His Honour sat at various courts, including the Downing Centre, Burwood, Penrith, Mount Druitt and Campbelltown. I first met Terry when I was a junior police prosecutor working with His Honour at the Campbelltown Children's Court. In 2001 His Honour took up the position of magistrate at Broken Hill. He finished his tenure there in 2007 and returned to Sydney, where he sat in the Licensing Court before moving to Campbelltown Children's Court. His Honour returned to the Central West in 2009 and took up the position of magistrate at Orange Local Court, involving circuit work at both Wellington and Mudgee local courts. I was reunited with His Honour then and worked with him on a regular basis.

Terry was a proud Australian and always had a close affiliation with the military. On 2 December 2011 he was appointed chairman of the Central West regional committee of the Defence Reserves Support Council. He also sat on the Group 10 Rugby League Tribunal. His Honour retired from the Local Court bench on 14 May 2019. Professionally, His Honour was known to be polite, kind and respectful to colleagues, legal professionals and individuals appearing before the court. His Honour came from a humble background and readily related to and empathised with all who appeared before him, particularly individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds. He dispensed justice in a measured and balanced way, taking into account the subjective features of those who appeared before him. At the same time, he ensured that the public interest was always maintained in the judgements he delivered.

Terry was a great friend and mentor to many, myself included. As far as I am aware, he was the last police prosecutor appointed directly from the NSW Police Force prosecuting branch to the bench. Terry made a monumental difference to the lives of many through his work, guidance and mentorship. He was down to earth, always willing to help, kind and generous. Nothing was beneath him. Terry will be sadly missed but always remembered by his many friends and family. To his wife, Kerry, and his children and grandchildren—of whom he was tremendously proud—I extend my sincerest and deepest condolences. Terry was a good man who has left us far too early. May he rest in peace. Vale, Terry Lucas.

EASTERN SUBURBS BUS SERVICES

Dr MARJORIE O'NEILL (Coogee) (18:38): Today I talk about—shock, horror!—public transport in the eastern suburbs. Before I talk about the egregious and outrageous cuts and the removal of 25 bus routes from my electorate, it would be remiss of me not to reflect on new information from today's budget. Shock, horror! The light rail was voted the most unreliable piece of public transport in the entire heart of Sydney. Shock, horror! It is no wonder no-one wants to use it. It is right there in the budget papers, but I will get to that later. We are aware that the New South Wales Government plans to remove 25 fundamental and critical bus routes from across the entire eastern suburbs. People rely on those buses every day. They rely on them to get to work. They rely on them to get to their libraries, doctors, friends and families. They rely on those bus routes remaining committed.

I have been asking for a briefing about the proposed bus cuts from Transport for NSW and the Minister for Transport and Roads for more than 12 months. We recently had one. In the meeting it was revealed that, in addition to taking away 25 bus routes, 40 bus stops will be removed from across the eastern suburbs. It will be harder for people to get where they need to go. There will be fewer destinations to travel to. It will be much more difficult for people who are disabled because they will have to catch multiple modes of transport. With the removal of 40 bus stops, it will be harder to access a stop. We have asked Transport for NSW to give us a detailed list as well as a map of where the bus stops are being removed from so we can make informed decisions about how they are being removed and how that will impact people. We are yet to get that map and we are yet to receive that information.

I had been calling on the Government and the Minister to have a meeting with me about the proposed bus cuts for more than 12 months because more than 12 months ago a brave public servant from Transport for NSW leaked a document to us. We attempted to request the document under the Government Information (Public Access) Act—GIPAA—but we were unsuccessful. We attempted to have it made public, but Transport for NSW would not release it. At that point we thought it was only going to be 16 bus routes, but we know now it is 25. We know the bus cuts are going to have a huge effect on people like Michael Fotoulis, who is a great nurse at St Vincent's Hospital. He has already had his salary reduced and he desperately relies on the 373. Under the bus cuts, Michael will no longer be able to get to work outside peak hour.

It is the same for Jenny Shaw, who lives in Coogee and needs to get to the Sydney Eye Hospital. She also relies on the 373. Chad Cowling is a nurse unit manager at St Vincent's Hospital who lives on Coogee Bay Road. He and Michael desperately rely on the 373 to get to work in Darlinghurst. Under the proposed bus cuts, there will no longer be a way for them to get there. I received a shocking letter from the Minister about this. The tone was quite alarming. In the letter, the Minister said, "Unlike you, Transport for NSW has access to Opal data and has analysed it." There are two things I will say about that. First, I made a GIPAA request for the Opal data covering the past 10 years. I know exactly how those buses have been used for the past decade.

The other thing is that, unlike the Minister, I live in the electorate and I witness how people use the buses with my own eyes. I talk to people about how they use them. The role bestowed upon government is to make people's lives better, not worse. It is to improve the lives of people whom it has a duty to look after. The bus cuts do exactly the opposite; they are going to make our lives a lot harder. It is going to be harder for people to get around and harder for people to access services. We are calling for an independent inquiry to take place immediately.

TRIBUTE TO JOE BOSNICH

Ms TAMARA SMITH (Ballina) (18:43): I pay tribute to an incredible man, an absolute legend and icon in public education, much-loved activist and friend Joe Bosnich on his recent passing. It is very fitting—and I know that members of his family are listening right now—that this morning when I came in, on budget day, the Teachers Federation and other unions were picketing the back of Parliament, basically to say, "Are you kidding us?" in terms of not delivering any kind of wage increase for teachers and public sector workers for so very long, and the impacts of that. Anyone who has been to Broken Hill in the past 50 or 60 years and knows anyone in education or teaching would have heard of Joe Bosnich. Indeed, if you were a teacher or an educator, he certainly would have heard of you.

Joe passed away on the evening of 13 May 2021. My sincere condolences go to his family, whom he loved above all: his children, Kim and Michael, Tracey, Joseph and Melissa, Curt and Frances; his grandchildren, Taryne, Amrah, India, Hudson and Iggy; and his great grandchildren, Tully and Alby. His beloved wife, Jean, and children, Rhett and Lorraine, are also remembered at this time. To all of the students, teachers and colleagues who benefited from his indomitable spirit and for the thousands of lives that he influenced with over 50 years of service in public education as a teacher and principal, we mark the man and we certainly mark this moment. I have a lot of memories about Joe, as I had the pleasure of socialising with him and a motley crew of unionists and educators in Broken Hill at the Hicks' on a Friday night for about five years, and we stayed friends ever since. But since Joe

gave his life to public education and serving others, I will save my memories and reminiscences for another occasion. I do not want to waste a second of this speech being about me.

Joe was born in Broken Hill, the son of Yugoslav immigrants and a mining family, in the days when picket lines went for years—the days when families on strike would feed each other and look after each other for years at a time in a solidarity unmatched. I believe it was those memories and that legacy and love for his father that were part of forging Joe to become the man he was—a man who, above all, stood for the collective above the greed and self-interest of the few. Joe was made a Life Member of the NSW Teachers Federation in 2004 after 50 years of service to public education. He was a principal at Willyama High School for 24 years, and that made him the longest serving principal in New South Wales at that time. The man was an instigator, an agitator, a strategist, a negotiator, an orator, an observer and a frontline activist across countless industrial disputes and campaigns in his time. To hear him speak at Trades Hall was really something, and to stand with him in the trenches was thrilling and made life more meaningful.

If you worked or studied in his school, you were in a club—not unlike his beloved Carlton Football Club—and he would do anything for you as long as you were working in the best interests of students as a teacher or, as a student, in the best interests of your own self-growth and empowerment. If you were mean spirited and interested in feathering your own nest, you were in trouble. If you were a company man or company woman and selling your soul for personal advancement, look out. To be loved by him was fierce and to be loathed by him was fiercer still. I do not think I can resist one particular anecdote because it highlights a couple of classic Joe traits: fierce loyalty and placing principles above personalities.

In 2011 I took a relieving country organiser position with the Teachers Federation in Dubbo. On this one occasion, a man not to be named—a principal—stood behind me at a meeting with members and mouthed obscenities. Suffice to say that afterwards I went straight into his office and told him that he was a gutless wonder. Joe found out and, although he did not say much at the time, I know that when the teaching fraternity found out through the bush telegraph—also known as Joe's phone calls—the man in question never lived it down. And if he is reading this: Mate, it really will never be lived down as it is now in *Hansard*. It was not because I was a friend that Joe was offended on my behalf; it was the notion that a school principal would disrespect the union members' right to meet and discuss their rights and the right of a union official to meet with members. I conclude in the only way I think Joe would approve. First, vale, Joe Bosnich; and, secondly, I call on the Premier and education Minister of this State to act urgently on the findings of the Gallop inquiry and protect our precious public education legacy.

HOLSWORTHY ELECTORATE COMMUNITY FUNDING

Ms MELANIE GIBBONS (Holsworthy) (18:49): On recent visits with our local community and sporting groups I was able to see the successful completion of some of their projects funded by the New South Wales Government. Due to COVID there has been a delay visiting some of these groups and seeing last year's completed projects, so I was happy to have the opportunity to get out and see the amazing plans and initiatives finalised. On 18 May I visited Pastor Shane Bywater and other members of Fellowship Baptist Church in Moorebank to see their recently completed half basketball court and surrounding landscaping. The court looks awesome and the brand-new facilities will be open to the local community and not just to members of the Fellowship Baptist Church, meaning everyone can enjoy them.

The basketball court and new play area will promote community participation and open up another opportunity for children and young people in our local area to engage in physical activity. It will provide a social outdoor space and encourage positive interactions. The church has been spruced up with a new kitchen and bathrooms, so it is great that it also has this facility to offer to its members. It is amazing to see these projects come to life to and see firsthand how they will promote enhanced community participation. I also had the opportunity to visit the Moorebank Rams Rugby League Football Club on the same evening to officially turn on the new lights at its home ground. I was able to assist the club to secure the new lights with a \$57,000 grant through the same program. It was fantastic to be able to flick the switch and watch as the grounds completely lit up.

It will encourage more utilisation of the grounds as the club's night games and training will now be well lit, which will make a huge difference to the atmosphere and safety of all the players, the volunteers and their families. It was also fantastic to see firsthand how the Moorebank Rams community was so excited about the lights and the positive impact they will have. The community was really appreciative and the cheers were awesome. I am extremely proud of the community coming together to play sport and to get active. That is why I was delighted to announce this funding and then to get to see it all completed. The Moorebank Rams Rugby League Football Club has also benefited from funding in the past, receiving \$400,000 as part of one of my election commitments. The club plans to use this funding to upgrade and improve the clubhouse.

I have seen the plans and they involve enhancing the club for women and for those with a disability, which is something it has lacked for a long time. It is great to see the club taking on more female players and more players who have a disability. It opens the club up to more members of our community. The Rams community is amazing and it has been rewarding to watch that community continue to grow. The club has more and more teams every day. One of the most important parts of my job is making our community stronger and better. That is why securing funding through the Community Building Partnership program for projects like these is so special. Projects like these help to improve the services and safety for residents of the Holsworthy electorate and provide an improved environment for everyone to enjoy.

A number of other amazing community organisations have also been recipients of funding this year. I was happy to secure funding of \$8,000 for the Shirewood Forest Archers at Barden Ridge, or the Lucas Heights complex, to help construct a concrete path in order to provide accessible access to their field—once again, opening up the club particularly to help people with disabilities to engage in the sport. The Holsworthy Girl Guides also received funding of \$16,500 towards the repair and replacement of their meeting hall roof. This will make a huge difference to the members every time it rains as they will now be dry and have a safe meeting space. Through the New South Wales Government's 2020-21 multicultural community support grants, some of our local multicultural organisations have benefited from funding as well. El Clandestino Radio received funding of \$10,000, which will go towards the radio station's website upgrade project.

The Sabian Mandaean Association in Australia was also a recipient of funding through this grant program. It received \$5,500, which will go towards purchasing equipment for its Reaching You project. I am pleased to be given the opportunity to help so many different community organisations and clubs across the Holsworthy electorate to receive funding to enhance their facilities and services. We do not want to hear anymore that there is nothing for our young people to do. Hopefully, things like the basketball court and the Holsworthy Girl Guides funding will help members of our community have more safe places to spend their time. We know that this funding will benefit residents of the wider community as a whole.

CEMETERIES AND CREMATORIA TRUSTS

Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect) (18:54): I speak on an issue of great concern to the spiritual and faith leaders in the electorate of Prospect and throughout New South Wales: the announcement made in May 2021 by the Premier of New South Wales and the Minister for Water, Property and Housing that faith and charitable groups will be excluded from cemetery management in New South Wales. In a decades-long restructure of the cemeteries sector, the New South Wales Government reduced the 17 cemetery trusts operating in New South Wales to five. The New South Wales Government's most recent decision forces the remaining five trusts into administration and a forced merger of the trusts into one entity named OneCrown. In essence, the cemetery sector—previously managed by religious and charity organisations—is set to be privatised.

A significant cemetery trust that is to be forced to merge is the Catholic Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust. One of New South Wales' largest operators, the trust manages five notable cemeteries on Crown land including Rookwood General Cemetery, Liverpool Cemetery and a number of others in Sydney's west. I have spoken to constituents who have family members buried at Rookwood and some 20 of my family members are buried in the Liverpool Cemetery. The Premier's and Minister's decision acts in response to the cemetery sector crisis currently facing New South Wales. In the State we face a significant challenge of combating burial space shortages in cemeteries. Additionally, due to a supply-demand imbalance, the cost of burying a loved one has become a burden on grieving families. In February 2021 the final report of the statutory review of the Cemeteries and Crematoria Act 2013 was tabled in the New South Wales Parliament. The report found that some cemeteries that have served Sydney for more than a century will close within three years. Conversely, all existing operational Crown cemeteries will close in some 12 years.

The troubling report reveals that if the crisis is left unaddressed, burying loved ones with respect to religious customs will become completely unsustainable and unaffordable within the decade. The Government needs to act responsibly and it needs to act now. However, forced administrations and forcing faith-based organisations from the cemetery sector is not the answer. I have been approached by religious leaders in my community and families in the electorate of Prospect who express noteworthy concerns as to the Government's approach to this crisis. Most Reverend Anthony Fisher, the Catholic Archbishop of Sydney, has personally written to me and many other members of Parliament. For more than 150 years the Catholic Church has been trusted to bury our dead. The Australian community trusts that the Catholic Church will bury and care for our loved ones in the upmost respectful and dignified way. This fact unites Christian, Islamic, Jewish, Hindu and other faith communities, whose faiths require reverence to be shown to the deceased through their ritual burial.

The Government's decision to introduce OneCrown completely takes cemetery management away from trusted and experienced faith and charitable groups by handing the responsibility over to a secular bureaucracy. Archbishop Fisher has stated fears that it will lead to burials being stopped altogether, cremation becoming a

forced decision and existing graves being used for additional burials. An entirely spiritual tradition is to be handled by the secular Government. The New South Wales Government needs to stop its ongoing attacks on religious and faith communities in New South Wales. I find it astonishing that the Government would exclude groups that have managed the cemetery sector for more than a century from any part of the decision-making process. The future of cemetery management decisions must require proper consultation between the Government and religious and spiritual leaders. I agree that the Government must make significant changes to the sector. However, faith and charitable groups must be part of the process.

For the past four years, religious groups like the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney have worked with the New South Wales Government to work on repairing the cemetery sector. The Catholic Church has offered the New South Wales Government solutions that address these issues immediately at no cost to the taxpayer. The solutions are supported by Christian, Jewish and Islamic religious groups. Archbishop Fisher has informed me that the Premier's and Minister's recent announcement to exclude religious groups in the future of cemetery management came as a great shock to the Catholic Church. Given the years of healthy consultation between the church and the New South Wales Government prior to the current Premier, the Catholic Church feels it was deceived by the decision. I acknowledge that the Premier has overruled the Minister and appointed the Deputy Premier to speak with the Catholic Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust and Archbishop Fisher to negotiate a way forward. As a member of the Opposition, I am pleased to hear of this development and last week I offered my bipartisan assistance to the Deputy Premier in that regard.

Mr KEVIN CONOLLY (Riverstone) (18:59): I thank the member for raising his genuine and valid concerns and those of people of faith in his electorate and other places around the issue of cemeteries. As the member acknowledged towards the end of his speech, the Premier and the Minister have undertaken to make sure that there is further dialogue with the Catholic Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust and other stakeholders to ensure that there remains a place for people of faith in the business of burying the dead in a way that is respectful to those faith traditions. I expect that the Premier will ensure that it does occur. I thank the member for raising people's concerns in a way that will ensure that they are heard.

STATE BUDGET AND MULGOA ELECTORATE

Mrs TANYA DAVIES (Mulgoa) (18:59): I commend the Treasurer Dominic Perrottet on a budget built to keep New South Wales safe and the economy open. The budget forecast last year looked grim as we were in the grip of the COVID-19 pandemic. But because of the hard work of the New South Wales Liberal-Nationals Government, New South Wales is in a better and stronger place. Less than a year ago we were looking at the worst recession to hit our shores in 80 years; now we are witnessing our economy on a growth trajectory and we have more jobs than before the pandemic. I commend the Treasurer, Premier and Cabinet for their navigation of the State throughout this past year in particular. In my own electorate of Mulgoa today's budget was a huge win, with schools across the electorate receiving a total of \$35 million in funding for construction and upgrades. At the last election I promised a new primary school for Mulgoa Rise at Glenmore Park and a performing arts and learning centre at Glenmore Park High. I am pleased to announce that this budget delivers on those promises.

Today's budget delivered \$23.6 million for the new Mulgoa Rise primary school to accommodate the growing region. At Glenmore Park High School, works are already underway and, thanks to the \$6.7 million allocated in today's budget, will continue on the performing arts and learning centre that will serve the Glenmore Park Learning Alliance as well as the wider Glenmore Park community. A major upgrade of Cecil Hills High School has today been announced and will be undertaken thanks to the \$4.6 million allocated in this year's budget to begin construction. But it is not just bricks and mortar that is needed to transform our children's education and their futures; the quality of the teaching and the curriculum being presented in the classrooms are more critical to securing higher educational outcomes. That is why the New South Wales Liberals and Nationals are committed to supporting our education system holistically.

This month a \$196.6 million package over four years has been allocated to the first major rewrite of the school curriculum in 30 years. The curriculum will be updated and streamlined by more than 200 syllabus experts to ensure that it provides a strong foundation in literacy and mathematics as well as clearer post-school pathways linking learning to future employment or study. The new curriculum will be delivered on a new interactive digital portal to support teachers to deliver it in the classroom—which is a first for New South Wales. This future-focused budget will build strong foundations for our local students so that they can have the best possible opportunities for a quality education. It is a win for not only education but also road safety across western Sydney, thanks to the new Western Sydney Growth Roads Program. That program will see \$899.7 million over the next four years, including \$201.4 million in 2011-22. Of the six projects funded under this program, three fall in the Mulgoa electorate: Mulgoa Road upgrades, funded by the State and Federal governments; Mamre Road, from the M4 Motorway to Erskine Park Road; and The Horsley Drive, from the M7 Motorway to Cowpasture Road.

At the last election I made a commitment to upgrade Mamre Road and Mulgoa Road; the budget will provide funding to ensure planning for those vital upgrades. Communities across the State are in line for better facilities and infrastructure with the Community Building Partnership program to receive an additional boost of funds. Funding for that program will increase in my electorate from \$300,000 to \$400,000 over the next two years. That funding will assist community organisations to build things like playgrounds, upgrade sport facilities, provide equipment for men's sheds or to buy a new school or community bus. The Western Sydney International (Nancy Bird Walton) Airport falls just outside of my electorate, but my community is already directly benefiting from the infrastructure spend occurring in and around this transformative project. Not only are the roads being upgraded but also funding for rail connectivity has been announced.

The budget will deliver \$943 million in capital expenditure this year and \$8 billion over four years for the planning and construction of the Sydney Metro – Western Sydney Airport, funded by the New South Wales and Federal governments. That metro is to be completed in time for the opening of the new airport. It will also deliver \$269.4 million in capital expenditure this financial year and \$1.3 billion over four years for the joint-funded road upgrades to support the new western Sydney international airport at Badgerys Creek, including The Northern Road between Narellan and Penrith and the M12 Motorway. I am pleased to announce that funding of more than \$1 billion has been committed to the new Bradfield city centre. Bradfield is Sydney's newest city; it is being built adjacent to the western Sydney international airport.

Funding of \$1 billion will help to create an Indo-Pacific economic hub, unleashing international investment in advanced manufacturing, aerospace and defence, agri-business, pharma, freight and logistics, health and education. The State budget will continue to support families. Over \$6 billion in cost-of-living support across 130 different measures will offer savings for families, including a \$100 voucher for children aged three to six years for swimming lessons, continuation of the Start Strong Free Preschool program for the 2022 school year, and continuation of energy rebates and emergency vouchers. This Liberal-Nationals budget will take New South Wales from recovery to transformation for our families and our futures.

MARKETPLACE RAYMOND TERRACE

Ms KATE WASHINGTON (Port Stephens) (19:05): Not many members of Parliament could confidently lay claim to having the best shopping centre in Australia in their electorate, but I am proudly able to back that claim by telling you about MarketPlace Raymond Terrace in my electorate and its amazing centre management team. It is not simply a cluster of shops and eateries. It is woven into the fabric of our community and is the first on board for anything our community needs. As the member for Port Stephens I have watched the staff and management of this wonderful centre back their community in any way they can.

The centre management of MarketPlace—Colleen Mulholland-Ruiz, Stewart Murrell and their dedicated team—tirelessly involve themselves in the community of Raymond Terrace, Karuah, Medowie and surrounding areas. They host weekly members nights—interrupted only by COVID—which have become important community outreach events for disconnected members of our community who need contact and kindness above all else. At Christmas time they run a free community event to celebrate Santa's arrival at the centre, with free rides, activities and stalls, where community stakeholders provide information, local schools and dance groups perform, and there is a giant parade for all to join in. Thousands flock to the event and the community looks forward to it every year. They support all the local schools. They assist with fundraising and sponsorship events, concerts, interstate trips and representative sporting and musical events.

In particular, their involvement in the local Positive Behaviour for Learning, or the PBL, program deserves a special mention. MarketPlace Raymond Terrace has become well known as the biggest supporter of this special program. The program's success in our local schools is largely credited to its involvement and passion for showing our young people how good it is to be positive and to do great things for others. It helped to take an initiative that was first driven by the schools and turned it in to a weekly showcase of the achievements of local kids throughout the schools and communities. For those young people and their families, the nights of recognising the students for their positive behaviour in our community are very special and the positive results are seen throughout our town.

I have witnessed Colleen and her team helping locals—whether it is the Lions Club or community organisations—and giving a hand to her shop owners in and outside the centre. They regularly run competitions for children and families, and a lot of families look forward to their school holiday project workshops. Colleen recently handed out vouchers to hundreds of people during Pay It Forward Day. The team have also never been too scared to either shave or colour their hair for the World's Greatest Shave, and they have hosted countless other fundraisers and community groups over the years to help charitable events. It has also not gone unnoticed that they have attended the funerals of long-time customers whom they have held dear and offered much support to their grieving families. After the intensity of COVID in 2020 they helped me host a week-long community pop-up shop in one of their empty stores to join community members with services to help them through some of the hard times that they found themselves in.

Their doors are always open. They always contribute great ideas and passion to the local people. They never shy away from people who are struggling. MarketPlace Raymond Terrace has become a community institution of support and connection, which can only be attributed to the dedication and enthusiasm of the centre management team. Sadly, after 22 years of owning and operating MarketPlace Raymond Terrace, the owners have made the difficult decision to sell. I know that the decision has hit businesses and our community hard; it has probably hit Colleen and Stewart the hardest because only they know the extent of the support they have given to our community. Only they know the extent of the sizeable hole that they will be leaving. We all know it is going to be big. Only they know of the quiet support that they have provided to community and families over the many years.

I know how unusual it is for a member of Parliament to make a private member's statement about a shopping centre, but MarketPlace Raymond Terrace has not been an ordinary centre. It has been a beating heart of our town. It has connected and supported community. Fundamentally, under the caring leadership and management of Colleen and Stewart, we have been treated as part of a big family. That has meant so much to all of us. Colleen and Stewart will always be a part of the Raymond Terrace family. I know how deeply they will be missed, given there were tears when they announced it in the PBL meeting last week. All of the schools that are part of the PBL program will desperately miss them. We thank them for the years of service to community and we all wish the best for them in their next chapter.

The House adjourned pursuant to resolution at 19:11 until Wednesday 23 June 2021 at 9:30.