



New South Wales

Legislative Assembly

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES (HANSARD)

**Fifty-Seventh Parliament
First Session**

Tuesday, 12 October 2021

Authorised by the Parliament of New South Wales

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Announcements	6469
COVID-19 Arrangements.....	6469
Vaccination of Members.....	6469
Motions	6469
Vaccination of Members.....	6469
Official Video Facility	6469
Remote Participation by Members	6470
Business of the House.....	6470
Sitting Day Program: Order of Business	6470
Days of Meeting	6471
Written Questions	6471
Announcements	6471
Remote Participation of Members	6471
Bills.....	6471
Electric Vehicles (Revenue Arrangements) Bill 2021	6471
Environmental Planning and Assessment Amendment (Infrastructure Contributions) Bill 2021	6471
NSW Generations Funds Amendment Bill 2021	6471
Second Reading Debate	6471
Announcements	6481
Members' Birthdays	6481
Hybrid Sitting of Parliament.....	6481
Members	6481
Ministry.....	6481
Representation of Ministers in the Legislative Council.....	6482
Committees	6482
Standing Orders and Procedure Committee	6482
Reports.....	6482
Bills.....	6483
Families, Communities and Disability Services Miscellaneous Amendment Bill 2021	6483
Mutual Recognition (New South Wales) Amendment Bill 2021	6483
Appropriation Bill 2021	6483
Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2021	6483
Electoral Legislation Amendment (Local Government Elections) Bill 2021	6483
Building Legislation Amendment Bill 2021	6483
Assent	6483
Ministerial Statements	6483
Tribute to Eddie Jaku.....	6483
Announcements	6484
Legislative Assembly Photographs.....	6484
Business of the House.....	6484

TABLE OF CONTENTS—*continuing*

Notice of Motion for Bills	6484
Restoration	6484
Notice of Motion for Bills	6484
Restoration	6484
Question Time	6485
COVID-19 and Health	6485
COVID-19 and Economic Recovery	6485
Western Sydney Public Hospitals	6486
COVID-19 and Regional New South Wales	6487
Western Sydney Hospital Emergency Departments	6488
COVID-19 and State Economy	6489
Western Sydney Hospital Emergency Departments	6490
COVID-19 and Health	6491
Lgbti+ Community	6492
COVID-19 and Western Sydney Economic Recovery	6493
Documents	6494
Office of the Children's Guardian	6494
Reports	6494
Information and Privacy Commission	6494
Reports	6494
NSW Child Death Review Team	6494
Reports	6494
Inspector of the Independent Commission Against Corruption	6495
Reports	6495
NSW Health	6495
Reports	6495
Liquor Act	6495
Reports	6495
Register of Disclosures	6495
Parliamentary Ethics Adviser	6495
Reports	6495
Auditor-General	6495
Reports	6495
Office of Transport Safety Investigations	6495
Reports	6495
Smoke-Free Environment Act	6496
Reports	6496
Committees	6496
Joint Select Committee on Coercive Control	6496
Reports	6496
Documents	6496
Independent Commission Against Corruption	6496

TABLE OF CONTENTS—*continuing*

Reports	6496
Committees	6496
Standing Committee on Parliamentary Privilege and Ethics	6496
Reports	6496
Joint Standing Committee on Road Safety	6496
Reports	6496
Documents	6497
Rural Fires Act	6497
Reports	6497
Inspector of the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission	6497
Reports	6497
Committees	6497
Legislative Assembly Committee on Law and Safety	6497
Reports	6497
Documents	6497
Disability Inclusion Act	6497
Reports	6497
Committees	6497
Committee on the Independent Commission Against Corruption	6497
Reports	6497
Legislative Assembly Committee on Environment and Planning	6497
Reports	6497
Committee on the Health Care Complaints Commission	6497
Reports	6497
Documents	6497
Resilience NSW	6497
Reports	6497
State Insurance and Care Governance Act	6498
Reports	6498
SafeWork NSW	6498
Reports	6498
Strata Schemes Animal Management Act	6498
Reports	6498
Gaming Machine Tax Act	6498
Reports	6498
Public Service Commission	6498
Reports	6498
Committees	6498
Joint Select Committee on the Anti-Discrimination Amendment (Religious Freedoms and Equality) Bill	
2020	6498
Government Response	6498
Legislation Review Committee	6498

TABLE OF CONTENTS—*continuing*

Reports	6498
Government Response	6498
Documents	6499
Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal	6499
Reports	6499
NSW Electoral Commission	6499
Reports	6499
Committees	6499
Legislative Assembly Committee on Investment, Industry and Regional Development	6499
Government Response	6499
Petitions	6499
Petitions Received	6499
Committees	6499
Legislative Assembly Committee on Transport and Infrastructure	6499
Membership	6499
Petitions	6499
Petitions Received	6499
Responses to Petitions	6502
Business of the House	6503
Business Lapsed	6503
Bills	6503
Electric Vehicles (Revenue Arrangements) Bill 2021	6503
Environmental Planning and Assessment Amendment (Infrastructure Contributions) Bill 2021	6503
NSW Generations Funds Amendment Bill 2021	6503
Second Reading Debate	6503
Public Interest Debate	6515
COVID-19 Pandemic Recovery	6515
Committees	6520
Legislation Review Committee	6520
Reports	6520
Bills	6520
Electric Vehicles (Revenue Arrangements) Bill 2021	6520
Environmental Planning and Assessment Amendment (Infrastructure Contributions) Bill 2021	6520
NSW Generations Funds Amendment Bill 2021	6520
Second Reading Debate	6520
Consideration in Detail	6525
Third Reading	6526
Private Members' Statements	6526
Tribute to the Hon. Max Frederick Willis, Former President of the Legislative Council	6526
Matraville Waste Incinerator	6527
Bathurst Electorate Sporting Projects	6528
Baulkham Hills Electorate COVID-19 Vaccination Rate	6529

TABLE OF CONTENTS—*continuing*

COVID-19 and Bankstown Electorate	6529
COVID-19 Vaccination Rate.....	6530
NSW Minister's and Secretary's Award for Excellence	6531
COVID-19 and Fairfield Electorate.....	6532
COVID-19 and Prospect Electorate Community Groups.....	6533
Mulwala Bridge	6534
Premier Dominic Perrottet.....	6534
COVID-19 and Myall Lakes Electorate	6535
Frenchs Forest Place Strategy.....	6536
Tempe Traffic Management and Bunnings Development.....	6536
COVID-19 and Northern Tablelands Electorate	6537
TransGrid Humelink Project.....	6538
COVID-19 and Maitland Electorate	6539
COVID-19 and Lake Macquarie Electorate	6540
Ku-ring-gai Electorate Olympians and Paralympians	6541
COVID-19 Vaccine Rollout	6542
Goulburn Electorate Waste-To-Energy Projects	6542
Central Coast Region Electorates	6543
COVID-19 and Frontline Workers and Volunteers.....	6544
COVID-19 and Newcastle Electorate.....	6545
Community Recognition Notices	6545
Richard Harris.....	6545
Fenwick's Marina.....	6546
Illawarra Light Railway Museum	6546
North Nowra-Cambewarra Cricket Club.....	6546
St Peters Anglican Church Shoalhaven Heads	6546
Jamberoo Uniting Church.....	6547
Brent Farr.....	6547
Cooper Halfpenny.....	6547
Glenmore Park Public School's Colour Explosion Fun Run	6547
Philip Nightingale.....	6547
Safe Waters Ulladulla	6547
Salt Ministries Nowra	6548
RFS Awards.....	6548
Stephen Della-Fiorentina OAM.....	6548
Stephen Spence OAM.....	6548
Tulip Time	6548
Bruce Angus	6549
Leslie Derwent.....	6549
Mark Pryor.....	6549
Michael Maingard.....	6549
Teachers of the Coogee Electorate	6550

TABLE OF CONTENTS—*continuing*

Surf Life Savers	6550
Zoe Tudor	6550
Tracey Lowrey	6550
Kal Glanznig	6550
Mosman Youth Award in Literature Winners	6551
Australia Remembers 79th Commemorative Service	6551
Jane Meredith	6551
Local Olympic Athletes	6551
Studio Shire	6551
Nursing and Midwifery Graduates Join South West Sydney Hospitals	6552
Hannah Darlington Makes Odi Debut	6552
Camden Historical Society	6552
Big Yellow Umbrella	6552
Dr Vinh Binh Lieu	6552
Bankstown Sports Club Vaccination Hub	6552
Lianne Ngo	6553
Empowering Women in South West Sydney to Vaccinate	6553
Local Takeaway Food Businesses	6553
Vale, Jonathan Coleman OAM	6553
Tribute to Bruce Chisnall	6554
Davidson Rowers at Tokyo 2020 Olympics	6554
Singer Natalie Aroyan	6554
Ms Patricia Baker, Principal, Cerdon College, Merrylands	6554
OzHarvest Granville Hub	6554
Parramatta Cumberland Family and Domestic Violence Prevention Committee	6555
Hindu Benevolent Fund	6555
Alan Carter	6555
David Durrheim	6555
Joan and Keven Harman	6555
Cliff Marsh OAM	6556
Senior Sergeant Les Nugent	6556
Thurgoona Cafe Panda's Kitchen - A Little Kindness is Positively Contagious	6556
Addison Road Community Centre	6556
Bill Crews Exodus Foundation Vaccination Clinics	6556
Vale Kenneth Adderley	6557
Marrickville Pyc	6557
Soapy Flat Road Reserve	6557
Rebecca Ferguson	6557
Marie Kennedy	6557
Trinity Catholic College, Goulburn Sheep Show Team	6558
Imogen Hart and Eloise Alsop	6558
Henry Chan OAM	6558

TABLE OF CONTENTS—*continuing*

Darrell Bullen	6558
Aunty Denise Emmerson	6558
Chris Camin	6559
Arthur Owen	6559
Jeanette Crew OAM	6559
Sikh Community	6559
Old Bar Tennis Club	6559
Healthcare Workers Myall Lakes	6560
Teachers in the Myall Lakes	6560
Luke Bailey	6560
Fairfield Police	6560
Fairfield Salvation Army	6560
Good360 Australia	6560
The Australian Man Cave Support Group	6561
South West Multicultural and Community Centre	6561
24-Hour Fight Against Cancer Macarthur	6561
Mental Health Matters	6561
Stacey Morgan	6562
Ethan Cornell	6562
Helen Gilbert & Judith Crick Retirement from Teaching	6562
Marine Rescue Port Macquarie Service Awards	6562
Mr Peter Mcquie	6562
Amelia White	6563
Tegan Sammut	6563
Western Region Academy of Sport	6563
Brandon Starc	6563
Metella Road Public School's Jennifer Cartwright	6564
Seven Hills Electorate Schools NAIDOC Celebrations	6564
Jack Veen	6564
Alana Kaye	6564
Caity James – Maitland 2021 Young Archie Finalist	6564
Darrel Sparke – Amputees NSW & Amputee Awareness Week	6565
Goodbye to Chinh's Cuisine	6565
Westpac Rescue Helicopter – 10,000 Flight Hours for the Aw139	6565
Burwood Public School 150th Anniversary	6565
Karena Wynn-Moylan	6565
Margaret Jill Gribble	6566
Recycle for Sight Program	6566
Replant Byron Alliance	6566
Ruth Kestermann and Holdsworth Community	6566
Epic-Nsw	6567
John Mant	6567

TABLE OF CONTENTS—*continuing*

Frontline Health Workers	6567
Maria Van Den Boogaard	6567
Brooklyn Gamma Pie Competition	6567
Hill's Men's Shed Markets	6568
Box Hill Riding for the Disabled	6568
Camilla Schippa and Wear the Change	6568
Bronte Marshall – World's Greatest Shave	6568
Free Coffee Day	6568
St Christopher's Holsworthy	6569
Roy Cowley – Retiring Armidale Barber	6569
Toby Osmond – Gallery Director	6569
CWA Woy Woy	6569
Dr Heather Burrow - University of New England	6569
Danny Kerr	6569
Foodbank NSW	6570
Michael Atteya – St Bishoy Coptic Orthodox College	6570
Deadly Connections	6570
Parramatta Professionals Forum	6570
Community Hubs – Prairievale Public School	6570
Community Hubs – Smithfield Public School	6571
Noopura Nrityanjali School of Dance	6571
Beats: Business Excellence Awards Tweed Shire	6571
Lismore Electorate Chambers of Commerce	6571
Lismore Business Awards	6572
Kyogle Business Awards	6572
The Glen	6573
Sean Clancy	6573
IRIS Foundation	6573
Central Coast Hockey	6573
Peter Kilmurray OAM	6573
Isabel Black Garcia	6574
John McLeod	6574
Justin Garlick	6574
Breakfast Radio	6574
Grenfell Debutante Ball	6574
Henry Lawson High School	6575
Brendan Jackson	6575
Mercia Buck – Freeman of Lake Macquarie	6575
Connor Wink	6575
Bryce Ham	6576
Darren Blanch Art	6576
Gemma Champion Rotary Rural Inspirational Woman of the Year	6576

TABLE OF CONTENTS—*continuing*

Izzy Kelly.....6576

Ausmumpreneur Awards.....6576

Clean4shore Program – Kincumber High School6577

Mark Hughes Foundation6577

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 12 October 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

COVID-19 ARRANGEMENTS

The SPEAKER (12:00): Before I give the House an overview of the recent meeting of the Standing Orders and Procedures Committee, I will briefly outline four principles I have been applying in trying to manage the difficult situation of COVID-19, which is evident across society but includes this Parliament. The first principle is to protect the health and safety of members and staff, whether they be staff in electorate offices or in this Parliament. The second is appropriate consultation and advice being sought from experts in the health field but also from colleagues across all parts of this Chamber, in particular through the Standing Orders and Procedures Committee and the Presiding Officers and Executive group. The third is a desire to see a continuation of democracy, which in part will be facilitated today through technology, with a hybrid sitting anticipated. The fourth is a flexibility of approach where we need to adapt to changing circumstances. In that context, I thank all members for their flexibility and cooperation in what have been undeniably difficult times.

VACCINATION OF MEMBERS

The SPEAKER (12:01): At its most recent meeting on 30 September 2021 the Standing Orders and Procedure Committee resolved that the Legislative Assembly should require any member who is not vaccinated against COVID-19, or who declines to disclose their status as vaccinated, to not enter or remain in the Chamber except in the course of walking through to vote in the Chamber. The committee considers that the Legislative Assembly applying such a requirement of its members would reflect its commitment to ensure that the Legislative Assembly observes the same standards on vaccines as apply to the wider community.

Motions

VACCINATION OF MEMBERS

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN: By leave: I move:

That:

- (1) Any member of the Legislative Assembly who is not vaccinated against COVID-19, or who declines to disclose their status as vaccinated, must not enter or remain in the Legislative Assembly Chamber except in the course of walking through to vote in the Chamber.
- (2) For the purpose of this resolution, "vaccinated" means:
 - (a) in October, having had at least a first dose of vaccine; and
 - (b) in November, having had a second dose of vaccine for at least two weeks.

Motion agreed to.

OFFICIAL VIDEO FACILITY

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN: By leave: I move:

That:

- (1) The Legislative Assembly authorises the use of an official video facility in order for a member not physically present in the Chamber to participate in such proceedings of the House as the House prescribes.
- (2) A member who participates through the official video facility will be identified in the record of members' attendance in the *Votes and Proceedings*.
- (3) To the extent possible, the contribution of a member who participates through the official video facility will be recorded, published and broadcast in accordance with the usual processes and rules, as if the contribution has been made by a member attending in the Legislative Assembly Chamber.

Motion agreed to.

REMOTE PARTICIPATION BY MEMBERS

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN: By leave: I move:

That, for the sitting weeks beginning 12 October 2021 and 19 October 2021:

- (1) Members not physically present in the Legislative Assembly Chamber may participate in proceedings in the Chamber, as provided by this resolution, only if they participate via the official video facility.
- (2) The standing and sessional orders of the Legislative Assembly apply except as affected by this resolution.
- (3) Members participating in proceedings remotely must use the official video facility and be present at either their electorate office or parliamentary office; or from another location following consultation with the Speaker.
- (4) Members present by the official video facility may move:
 - (a) any motion, within the rules provided in the standing and sessional orders; and
 - (b) amendments to a bill in consideration in detail.
- (5) Members present by the official video facility may not:
 - (a) vote;
 - (b) be counted for quorum;
 - (c) call for a division;
 - (d) call for a quorum to be counted;
 - (e) take or speak to a point of order, unless the point of order relates to a question they have asked or answered during Question Time, or the point of order relates to an item of business in their name on the *Business Paper*; and
 - (f) interject.
- (6) At the conclusion of a question made during Question Time through the official video facility, the questioner shall remain available to seek the call if that member wishes to raise a point of order during the answer.
- (7) Contributions to proceedings made by members present by the official video facility will be recorded in *Hansard*.
- (8) In order to assist members participating remotely, the Chair will use a formal call list to allocate the call for each debate where practical and members wishing to participate remotely need to be placed on the call list by informing the Whips, who, in consultation with the crossbench, will inform the Chair in advance of the item of business commencing in the House.
- (9) Notice is to be provided to the Chair 30 minutes prior to Question Time, by the Leader of the House, indicating whether any Minister will be present during Question Time by the official video facility and is therefore available to answer questions remotely.
- (10) When a division has been called for, the Speaker shall order the division bells to be rung for four minutes, and will allow a further six minutes for all members voting in the division to reach the Chamber. If after the 10 minutes allocated for members to proceed to the Chamber members are still arriving to vote, the duration of the time allocated for the division may be extended at the Speaker's discretion.
- (11) The Speaker may issue guidelines regarding the practical arrangements for remote participation.

Motion agreed to.

Business of the House

SITTING DAY PROGRAM: ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN: By leave: I move:

That the routine of business for the House for the sitting week commencing 12 October 2021 be amended as follows:

- (1) Members may only give general business notices of motions in writing; members may lodge general business notices of motions not exceeding 100 words in length by emailing the Legislative Assembly Table Office by 2.00 p.m. on Tuesday sitting days and 12.00 noon on other sitting days, for inclusion in the *Business Paper* for the next sitting day. Thirty general business notices of motions can be given each sitting day. The Whips, in consultation with the crossbench, shall advise the Clerk of the order the general business notices of motions are to be entered in the *Business Paper*.
- (2) Members may only submit community recognition statements in writing; members may submit up to four written community recognition statements per sitting day, with the procedure for the submission of written community recognition statements to be followed as provided in Sessional Order 108A, with four written community recognition statements able to be submitted on 12 October 2021 before 3.00 p.m.
- (3) The House to adjourn without motion moved at the conclusion of private members' statements.
- (4) The following items and any consequential actions required of the Speaker may not be orally reported to the House but will be recorded in the *Votes and Proceedings*:
 - (a) receipt of messages from Her Excellency the Governor and His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor;
 - (b) reports, including reports of the Auditor-General, received by the Speaker and Clerk out of session and tabled since the last sitting of the House;

- (c) tabling of Statutory Rules and Instruments and Government responses to petitions;
 - (d) committee reports and Government responses received since the last sitting of the House;
 - (e) receipt of petitions with less than 10,000 signatures; and
 - (f) lapsing of business.
- (5) To provide for the Leader of the Opposition to speak on the Appropriation Bill 2021 and the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2021 at 9.45 a.m. on 13 October 2021.

Motion agreed to.

DAYS OF MEETING

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN: By leave: I move:

That:

- (1) The House sit on the reserve week of 23, 24 and 25 November.
- (2) The resolution of the House of 12 November 2020 setting the days of meeting of the House for 2021 be amended by adding "November 12, 19, and 26" as sitting days.
- (3) The House determine the routine of business for November 12, 19, and 26 by resolution at a future date.

Motion agreed to.

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN: By leave: I move:

That notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the standing and sessional orders, for the remainder of the 2021 sitting year, the following arrangements regarding written questions shall apply:

- (1) Each member to lodge up to 16 written questions per sitting week.
- (2) The Leader of the Opposition to lodge up to 21 written questions per sitting week.
- (3) Whenever a scheduled sitting of the House is cancelled in accordance with Sessional Order 47A, members to be able to lodge written questions as if the House were sitting.

Motion agreed to.

Announcements

REMOTE PARTICIPATION OF MEMBERS

The SPEAKER: I welcome and acknowledge all the members who are participating in these hybrid proceedings of the New South Wales Parliament through electronic means. It is quite a historic occasion. I can see on the screen the members, with suitable backgrounds and smiling faces, all looking very professional. I recognise you as being part of this Chamber for this sitting of the Parliament. Thank you.

Bills

ELECTRIC VEHICLES (REVENUE ARRANGEMENTS) BILL 2021

ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND ASSESSMENT AMENDMENT (INFRASTRUCTURE CONTRIBUTIONS) BILL 2021

NSW GENERATIONS FUNDS AMENDMENT BILL 2021

Second Reading Debate

Debate resumed from 22 June 2021.

Ms JO HAYLEN (Summer Hill) (12:08): The Electric Vehicles (Revenue Arrangements) Bill 2021 seeks to legislate key aspects of the New South Wales Government's \$490 million Electric Vehicle Strategy. I am pleased to lead on this bill for the NSW Labor Opposition and to confirm that we will support the bill; however, we will move an amendment in the Legislative Council to bring forward the statutory review to a period of two years. I will provide further details on that later. The bill enables the introduction of a road user charge for electric vehicles in New South Wales, payable by owners of certain zero- or low-emission vehicles, based on each kilometre that the vehicle travels in a public place, whether inside or outside New South Wales.

The rate will be set by Transport for NSW each year, with battery and hydrogen fuel cell electric vehicles indexed at the full rate and plug-in hybrid vehicles indexed at 80 per cent of the full rate. Drivers will be required to report an odometer reading to Transport for NSW, or to provide an estimate in a way that Transport for NSW considers reasonable. Drivers will be able to pay before or after kilometres have been travelled. If paid before,

drivers must pay in 1,000-kilometre increments and it will be an offence to drive additional kilometres above what has been paid for. If the post-paid option is used, drivers must notify Transport for NSW that this option has been chosen. Furthermore, the bill sets out a series of penalties and offences for failing to properly report a road user charge.

The bill also exempts certain zero- and low-emission vehicles from the payment of stamp duty under the Duties Act 1997. While the bill is imperfect and does not represent the approach that Labor would pursue in government, we support the bill as an important measure to expand the infrastructure for and availability of electric vehicles in New South Wales. Labor supports the uptake of electric vehicles in this State. Australia currently has one of the lowest rates of electric car ownership in the world. In 2020 our global electric vehicle market share equalled only 0.78 per cent; amongst the lowest in the world. In comparison, recent data suggests that in August close to a quarter of cars sold in Europe were fully electric vehicles or plug-in hybrids, the first time ever that more electric vehicles [EVs] were sold than diesel cars.

Surveys consistently show that around 50 per cent of Australians would consider buying an electric vehicle; however, that interest is not translating into EV sales. It is worth considering why that is the case. The first issue is supply. The range of models available to consumers in Australia pales in comparison to other jurisdictions. The Electric Vehicle Council reports that there are 32 passenger electric vehicle models from 12 different car makers currently available for purchase in Australia, with sticker prices ranging from \$40,990 to almost \$850,000. An additional 27 models are due to come online before the end of 2022. So why are car makers skipping the Australian market when it comes to rolling out electric vehicle models? It is simply too expensive. In other markets, including Europe, governments are providing incentives in the form of carbon credits while at the same time penalising the sale of combustion-engine vehicles. One expert from The University of Queensland put the value of credits of each EV sold in the European Union at around \$26,000 per vehicle. In Australia they get nothing. Electric Vehicle Council CEO Behyad Jafari pointed out:

Eighty per cent of the new vehicle sales market around the world has ... CO2 standards, and Australia doesn't

He cites this as one of the reasons Australia does not get a broader variety of electric vehicles and is instead fast becoming a dumping ground for polluting vehicles that manufacturers cannot sell anywhere else. This brings us to our second problem—consumer choice. The lack of models means that those available in Australia tend to be more expensive—like Teslas—and are therefore out of reach of most families and households. Consumers like to be able to choose between car models and the relative lack of choice acts as a deterrent.

In Australia around 50 per cent of all new car sales are sports utility vehicles [SUVs] and 25 per cent are dual-cab utilities, but electric vehicle options in these makes are non-existent at this point. That is a shame because the purchasers of these kinds of vehicles might just be the drivers that could make the biggest dent in emissions if they were able to choose electric options. People who use their vehicle for work can have the biggest impact if we remove their use from the emissions equation. The benefit for tradies in particular is immense, given the potential to be able to power tools from their vehicle. It is clear that we need to address the lack of availability and variety of electric vehicles if we are to increase their uptake.

The third issue is range anxiety and that has also curtailed the uptake of EVs in Australia. Range anxiety is simply the fear that a driver will run out of battery power before reaching a destination that allows them to recharge. Part of the issue with range anxiety is that drivers do not necessarily understand how to use their vehicle. A recent study by Griffith University showed that despite many EV owners citing range anxiety before they purchased an EV, it dissipated once the vehicle was purchased. One of the reasons was that most weekend travel did not exceed 70 kilometres and up to half of owners travelled no more than 50 kilometres. The Electric Vehicle Council reports that newer EV models have a range upwards of 550 kilometres from a single charge, and that the average Australian drives around 38 kilometres per day, which means that an EV owner can go for an average of 10 days without having to charge their vehicle.

Another reason for range anxiety is the scarcity of charging infrastructure. In July 2021 there were 783 charging points in New South Wales, including 153 direct current [DC] chargers and 630 alternating current [AC] chargers, most located in Sydney. That equates to roughly 0.17 charging stations per EV. While the Electric Vehicle Council reports that 80 per cent of current EV owners charge their vehicle at home, it is clear we need a rapid and serious investment in public EV charging infrastructure if we are to overcome range anxiety and realise our potential for an EV future. What does an electric vehicle future look like and what are the risks of not acting now to realise it?

Electric vehicles are critical to meeting our future emissions targets. The Grattan Institute reports that nearly 20 per cent of Australia's total emissions come from the transport sector, with over 60 per cent attributable to light vehicles. It argues the best way to cut transport emissions is to supercharge the transition to electric cars. To reach net zero emissions by 2050, which is the New South Wales Government's target, ClimateWorks

modelling shows that between 50 per cent and 76 per cent of new car sales in Australia need to be electric by 2030. In fact, there is a real question as to whether the Government's strategy goes far enough. It claims to allow for 52 per cent of new car sales in 2030-31 to be electric; just barely inside the range suggested by ClimateWorks modelling. The Climate Council goes further, arguing we need 75 per cent of new car sales to be electric to achieve the more ambitious target of net zero emissions by 2035. No matter which way we cut it, and remembering that the current proportion of EV new car sales is less than 1 per cent, there is a lot of work to do.

Other countries are turning to bolder measures. The United Kingdom has banned combustion engine vehicles by 2030 and hybrid vehicles by 2035. The European Union will ban all new combustion engines by 2035 and Japan is considering doing the same. As these markets move to phase out combustion engines, particularly right-hand markets like the United Kingdom and Japan, it is likely that more polluting and comparatively expensive vehicles will end up in Australia. I say "expensive" because the overall cost of running an electric vehicle is far less than a traditional combustion vehicle.

It is estimated that an average Australian driving 15,000 kilometres a year spends \$2,160 on petrol per year, or 14c a kilometre; an electric vehicle owner travelling the same would spend roughly \$600 per year, or 4c a kilometre unless recharging off solar panels, in which case the cost would be zero. Maintenance costs are also far less than in a traditional internal combustion engine. Electric vehicles have far less complicated engineering and require less servicing. So, at a point when the cost of electric vehicles is comparable to—or lower than—the cost of an internal combustion engine, the overall total cost of ownership of an electric vehicle will be far less, particularly as the cost of petrol continues to rise.

At this stage, the benefits of owning a vehicle with lower running costs are available to only those who can afford to lay down the capital cost of an expensive vehicle. There is a real risk that if we do not act now to increase the number and range of electric vehicles in New South Wales, particularly at lower price points, working families will be lumped with polluting vehicles that cost a fortune to run. They may also miss out on the ability to actually earn money from their vehicles. Bidirectional power—whereby a car battery can be used to power a home, known as V2H; or give power back to the grid, known as V2G—saves owners paying peak electricity or indeed, earns them cash when they sell power back to the grid. Global Sustainable Energy Solutions notes that:

The average EV has a battery sized at 43kWh and the average commute is 16km each way. Taking into account that the Australian home uses 19kWh of electricity daily and the average fuel economy of EVs is 18kWh/100km, a fully charged EV that undergoes the average commute has the capacity to supply power to a home for *almost 2 days*.

Think of that. Electric vehicle owners may be able to cut their household energy bills but they will also be able to earn money from parking their vehicles. ABC's *Catalyst* recently profiled a fascinating story about Gary Hogben, who lives in the United Kingdom and earned more than \$1,000 in a year while his car sat in the driveway. Gary sells power from his EV battery to the grid during periods of peak demand and recharges during off-peak periods. Most EVs in Australia right now are not compatible with V2G bidirectional power, but that is all set to change by 2025 when all new electric vehicles will be V2G grid capable and, hopefully, the price of bidirectional chargers will be able to come down as the technology improves, making them more readily available.

The potential here is staggering. Researchers at Australian National University's Battery Storage and Grid Integration Program suggest that if the 19 million cars on Australian roads were electrified and fitted with V2G capacity, it would be the equivalent of more than 10,000 Tesla big batteries in storage. That has huge implications for Australia's National Energy Market, energy security, local manufacturing and local jobs. As EVs become more prevalent and popular, we must not lose the opportunity to create local jobs. PricewaterhouseCoopers found that Australia could see an additional 13,400 jobs in 2030 by building the infrastructure we need to support the three million EVs that will be on our roads by then. Those jobs will come in mining. We will source the lithium, nickel and cobalt, which are essential to batteries, and copper for wiring. If we get this right, we can create jobs in battery manufacturing and refurbishment here in New South Wales rather than offshoring these jobs as we currently do: We mine those minerals and we export them to China.

We can also be world-leaders in the manufacturing and maintenance of charging infrastructure. The Government plans to rapidly expand the charging network across the State and there is no reason why those charges should not be built here, installed and maintained by New South Wales workers. A key opportunity is harnessing the extraordinary potential and capacity of start-ups and our technology companies to be at the forefront of grid integration software and hardware development as electric vehicles evolve. We have to invest now in training our mechanics and automotive workers who will need to help maintain those electric vehicles, which are complex, evolve quickly and operate at a much higher voltage than other industrial equipment like electric golf carts or electric forklifts, for example, so ensuring that mechanics and workers are trained will be essential to keeping them up to date with the latest technology and, most importantly, safe.

New South Wales can be a world leader in manufacturing the EV supply chain, not just be an exporter of materials and importer of parts. I believe the opportunities are there but the Government's strategy is failing to realise them. We must see greater ambition. EVs offer a very bright future but realising a future whereby we harness the potential for battery storage, empower consumers and households to reduce their vehicle running costs and even earn money, support local jobs and cut emissions, requires urgent action now.

So, what does the bill offer in terms of that future, opportunities and the required action? The bill is central to the Government's Electric Vehicles Strategy. The Minister has outlined the key aspects of the strategy, but the planks include rebates of \$3,000 on the purchase of the first 25,000 electric vehicles sold for under \$68,750 from 1 September 2021. The strategy offers fleet incentives to assist councils, industries and businesses to purchase electric vehicles through reverse auctions and promises to transition the government vehicle fleet to all-electric models by 2030. It invests \$171 million over four years to build an electric vehicle charging network and to create EV tourist drives in regional New South Wales, including installing ultra-fast chargers every 100 kilometres on major New South Wales highways.

The Government has subsequently also released its electric vehicle charging masterplan, which outlines the Government's plan to create EV superhighways and commuter corridors across the State and coordinate investment by electric vehicle charging companies. Importantly, the strategy proposes the phasing out of stamp duty on the sale of electric vehicles under \$78,000 from 1 September 2021, and then from all electric vehicles and plug-in hybrids from 1 July 2027 or when electric vehicles make up 30 per cent of all car sales. From that point, the strategy proposes the introduction of a road user charge. The road user charge and stamp duty exemptions are the focus of the bill.

The Government has set the road user charge at 2.5c per kilometre, indexed to the consumer price index, applicable to eligible electric vehicles from 1 July 2027 or when electric vehicles make up 30 per cent of all new vehicle sales. Under the plan, plug-in hybrid electric vehicles will be charged a fixed 80 per cent proportion of the full road user charge. According to the Government's calculations, the average petrol and diesel vehicle owner pays approximately \$613 a year in fuel excise, whereas under New South Wales' new road user system, electric vehicle drivers will pay an average \$315 annually or roughly half that of owners of internal combustion vehicles.

The hard truth is that it costs money to build and maintain the roads and infrastructure we need to keep our State moving. In 2018 the CSIRO predicted that revenue from fuel excise will drop by almost half by 2050, leaving a significant hole in road funding. Properly funding our roads ensures that they are maintained to be safe for all road users, including transport workers and families, and that maintenance is essential. We need a mechanism to ensure that the funding is sustainable. But we must also balance that with an acknowledgement that EVs have far less environmental impact and ensure that a road user charge does not disincentivise the uptake of low-emission vehicles. Based on the calculations that the Government has provided, Labor is comfortable that the proposed user charge achieves that balance.

The decision to delay the road user charge until such a time as the market has matured has been welcomed by groups such as the Electric Vehicle Council, the NRMA and a long list of environmental groups that support the legislation. The Government's plan means drivers will be required to report an odometer reading to Transport for NSW, which will provide an estimate in a way that Transport for NSW considers reasonable. Drivers will be able to pay before or after kilometres have been travelled. If paid before, drivers must pay in 100-kilometre increments, and it will be an offence to drive additional kilometres above what has been paid for. If the postpaid option is used, drivers must notify Transport for NSW that this option has been chosen.

The bill allows Transport for NSW to approve devices to measure the number of kilometres travelled and to require persons to present information to calculate the charge. It also allows for Transport for NSW to work with other States and Territories to collect payments and for proceedings of an offence to be dealt with through the Local Court or by way of penalty notice. Labor has concerns about the current structure of the penalty regime associated with reporting odometer readings and questions whether the penalty regime is perhaps the best approach. That is why our amendment—the two-year review—is so critical. Labor has also flagged in conversation with the Government that amendments may come in the Legislative Council that provide a grace period or other measures that would mitigate any unintended consequences such as EV owners being penalised unfairly.

We also put on the record that this potentially lazy legislating fails to capture the capacity of electric vehicles. Let's be honest: Cars are already smartphones on wheels. It is bizarre that we would have to take a photograph of an odometer to register how much road user charge payment is required. We already have many technology devices and apps that are stand-ins for the old logbooks, so why would that technology option not be available? I ask the Minister to clarify whether all options have been explored to remove the onus of reporting mileage from owners. We also seek clarification on how Transport for NSW will monitor the provision of the road user charge to be payable on private roads. How will mileage on private roads be discerned separately from

mileage on public roads? As I signalled earlier, Labor will also move an amendment in the Legislative Council to bring forward a two-year review after the commencement of the Act. That is essential because it is clear that the uptake of electric vehicles will gather pace and we want to assess that rate and see whether it aligns with the Government's modelling and projections. We also need to assess the Government's settings to see whether they are in the best interests of the people of New South Wales.

The Government has said that its strategy is intended to increase EV sales by 52 per cent by 2030-31 and help New South Wales achieve net zero emissions by 2050. According to the modelling I detailed earlier, the Government's plan may not be enough to achieve the emissions reduction we need. Bringing forward the review ensures that the bill and the scheme will have the impact that they need to have. The bill has the support of the NRMA, the Electric Vehicle Council, the Nature Conservation Council of NSW and other environmental groups. They recognise the need to act urgently to support the uptake of EVs in New South Wales. They know that it is a race to increase the number of EVs on our roads because we are a long way behind. Labor supports the bill because we cannot waste another moment. We want to ensure that all the opportunities that electric vehicles present are available to the people of the State.

Labor has a proud record when it comes to supporting electric vehicles in this country. We took a bold, principled and considered policy to the 2019 election that would see half of all new cars electrified by 2030, but that policy was derided by the Liberals and The Nationals. In fact, Michaelia Cash slammed Labor and accused us of coming at tradies' utes. That set back progress on electric vehicle uptake for years. But the Liberals opposite know that that campaign was hogwash, and they support the bill before the House in part because we implemented a policy that would have seen an uptake in EV vehicles across the country. We cannot waste another minute. In fact, the climate deniers in Canberra are absurd and run counter to the bill that we are considering. It is not only Opposition members who are saying this; recently the former transport Minister had a crack at the Federal Liberals and Nationals in a speech to the Committee for Sydney—of course, after he abandoned the people of New South Wales and instead decided to join them in Canberra. On the issue of electric vehicles, New South Wales is at the precipice of taking up real opportunities when it comes to reducing emissions, local jobs and manufacturing. Members on this side of the House have been pragmatic, optimistic and, most of all, consistent on the issue. I commend the bills to the House.

Mr JAMES GRIFFIN (Manly) (12:34): I acknowledge the member for her contribution to the important debate and I share her enthusiasm for our NSW Electric Vehicle Strategy. I also acknowledge our colleagues who join us in the Chamber digitally. I contribute to debate on the Electric Vehicles (Revenue Arrangements) Bill 2021 and cognate bills. The milestone strategy, which supports the uptake of electric vehicles across New South Wales, was launched in June this year. It had a number of key components to it: to start the process of removing stamp duty from all zero- and low-emission vehicles in New South Wales; to help drivers buy an electric vehicle no matter where they are in the State; to build a world-class, ultra-fast electric vehicle charging network; to maximise public health opportunities associated with electric vehicles; to achieve our State objective of net zero emissions by 2050, of which we are incredibly proud; to make it easier to drive an electric vehicle right across New South Wales; to create new jobs and grow the economy; and, finally, to keep road funding fair and sustainable.

I will focus on a rather dry but incredibly important aspect of the bill, and that relates to motor vehicle tax reform. One may ask why tax reform is important. It is an incredibly important piece of the puzzle when we think of the NSW Electric Vehicle Strategy. The tax changes included in the bill will create a framework for a modern road funding model that will actively incentivise the purchase of electric vehicles while setting the foundations for a road funding system that is fairer, more efficient and more sustainable in the long term. Currently most New South Wales drivers pay stamp duty, registration costs and fuel excise at the pump, contributing to road-related revenue for the State and for the Commonwealth Government. Vehicle owners pay registration and weight tax each year; most car owners will be familiar with that. It costs between \$289 and \$547 each year for most privately owned cars, with heavier vehicles costing more. People also pay vehicle stamp duty when they register a vehicle to their name. That could be when they buy a new vehicle or when they buy a second-hand vehicle and transfer the registration over from a previous owner. That adds about 3 per cent to the price of cars that cost up to \$45,000, or 5 per cent for cars that cost more than that figure.

In 2019-20 the average duty on new light vehicles in New South Wales was around \$1,400, but it was more than double that for electric vehicles at \$3,500. The Commonwealth also charges fuel excise of 43.3c per litre of fuel. The average petrol and diesel passenger vehicle owner in New South Wales pays approximately \$622 a year in fuel excise. Electric vehicle owners pay no fuel excise. For a fiscally responsible government like ours, it is important to ensure that revenue for the long-term funding of roads remains adequate for the State to construct new road infrastructure and maintain the quality and safety of existing roads. Some of that is funded from New South Wales taxes, which includes road-related taxes, but from time to time the State also relies on Commonwealth funding. While the Commonwealth funding is not explicitly linked to fuel excise, there is a notional link between the money that the Commonwealth receives from taxing vehicles and the amount that the

Commonwealth provides to the State to spend on roads. So there is a challenge and an imbalance in the current tax and roads funding system.

Vehicle stamp duty raises over \$800 million a year but it is one of the most economically inefficient taxes. It inhibits transactions and can result in people driving older cars for longer rather than their investing in new technology and cars that better match their changing needs and preferences. This important point also links to the fact that older cars that have been on the roads for longer have poorer engine quality and contribute to emissions. The distortionary effects of vehicle stamp duty mean that each additional dollar of vehicle stamp duty results in one fewer dollar being spent elsewhere in the economy, which is reflected in lower productivity and lower household incomes. Stamp duty does not account for the distance the person drives or the cost that their travel imposes on the public through road wear, congestion or pollution.

Fuel excise is a more efficient tax than is vehicle stamp duty because charges are based on how much petrol people use. Petrol usage is a proxy for road usage. For light passenger vehicles with combustion engines, fuel excise is likely to be roughly related to how much they drive. However, fuel excise has its own particular issues. First, fuel usage can vary based on an individual's car's engine performance, which means that not all cars driven the same distance will be taxed equally. That is highlighted in the case of electric vehicles and hybrid vehicles which use little or no petrol. Second, while the State bears most responsibility for roads, the fuel excise is collected by the Commonwealth. This requires negotiation with the Commonwealth Government for distribution of that particular revenue. Third, as buyers transition to electric vehicles, fuel excise will disappear as a pricing signal for road use.

To summarise, taxes on vehicles and vehicle use are critical to ensure long-term funding sustainability for roads. Fuel excise and vehicle stamp duty are two such taxes but each of them has some significant problems. Why is this reform better than the current system? This bill amends the Duties Act 1997 to phase out vehicle stamp duty on electric vehicles. The legislation will apply retrospectively from 1 September 2021. The registration of battery and hydrogen fuel cell electric vehicles sold for a dutiable value of up to \$78,000 will be exempt from vehicle stamp duty, which would reduce the up-front cost of electric vehicles by up to \$3,000 and is expected to save New South Wales motorists around \$200 million over the next four years. The bill also establishes the framework for a road user charge on vehicles that receive a stamp duty exemption. This charge will not commence until the earlier of 1 July 2027 or when battery electric vehicles make up at least 30 per cent of new vehicle sales. This delayed commencement avoids charging the electric vehicle sector until it comprises a significant proportion of the market.

The stamp duty exemption for electric vehicles will expand to cover all zero- and low-emission vehicles, including hybrid electric vehicles, when the road user charge commences. By phasing out stamp duty on electric vehicles, the bill will reduce the up-front costs of purchasing an electric vehicle and support people who are seeking to replace their vehicles. It will also abolish an inefficient and inequitable tax. By introducing a road-user charge, the bill will ensure that vehicle owners are charged in line with their road usage. The contribution that people make towards the funding of roads will be based on how much they use those roads rather than the type of car they drive or how often they replace it. The road-user charge will provide a new own-source revenue base, which will give New South Wales greater autonomy in road expenditure in the future. The reform package will deliver long-run productivity benefits equivalent to an increase of at least \$160 in average annual household incomes. I note that the Government will move amendments to this bill. Those amendments will be fairly technical in nature and will seek to streamline this particular legislation. I commend the bills to the House.

Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland) (12:43): I speak in the second reading debate on the Electric Vehicles (Revenue Arrangements) Bill 2021 and cognate bills. At the outset I thank the member for Summer Hill and shadow Minister for Transport for her comments and her very articulate exposition of what the bills are all about. It is important to understand the impacts of these bills not only in the State's population centres but also in our regions. The Electric Vehicles (Revenue Arrangements) Bill is central to the Government's electric vehicles [EV] strategy but there are important points to be made in relation to regional, rural and remote communities. The driving range anxiety to which the shadow Minister referred is a big constraint for people who live in regional areas. For that reason, the New South Wales EV tourist drives, with chargers on major highways every 100 kilometres, as well as investment in an energy superhighway are important in addressing that anxiety. We need to look at ways to encourage communities across the State—not just in cities but also in the regions—to embrace this technology. The shadow Minister also referred to the vehicle-to-grid, or V2G, charging opportunities, which also is an important issue.

Further, we need to look at how this bill will impact on people on lower incomes in the regions. There is a lack of choice in lower priced cars as well as in work vehicles, such as utes and SUVs. If this legislation is to be beneficial in our regions, we must ensure that more options are available to regional communities. The Government should be supporting plans to incentivise greater options. As to the way in which the Government

deals with the road-user charge, according to the kilometres driven, the Government should also take into account how that will apply to private roads. For example, the Diesel and Alternative Fuel Grants Scheme acknowledged considerations such as off-public roads usage. The Government must make its intentions in that regard clear.

I take on board the shadow Minister's comments—and I like how she phrased it—of smart cars being smart phones on wheels. It seems that the penalty regime is very cumbersome. From the perspective of regional roads and heavy vehicle use, there has been a real failure on the part of the Government to adopt the technology that can collect data and input it directly into information systems such as at Transport for NSW. The Government should ramp up that data collection. It is silly to have a vehicle that can record information on trips, phone calls and everything else but that information is not sent directly to Transport for NSW. The Government should address that very important point.

I do not want to take up a lot of time of the House today because I know that all members are excited to be back at parliamentary sittings and I want to give every member an opportunity to contribute to the proceedings. I commend to the House the amendment proposed by Labor for a two-year review of this legislation. As previous speakers have stated, this is a new area of technology for our State. We have come from a position where the Government and its Federal colleagues have been very negative about electric vehicles. At the last Federal election, Michaelia Cash smashed any plans Australia had of moving to electric vehicles. We have to encourage people to make the change. While this legislation is not a plan that Labor would have adopted if we were in government—Labor would have had other measures—we must ensure a proper revision of this legislation every two years. I urge the Government to agree to the Opposition's amendment.

The rolling out and expansion of charger networks are important for our regional areas. Probably the most important outcome of this legislation is to provide opportunities for more jobs in the manufacturing of batteries and chargers and in the construction of facilities. It is also very important that the proprietors of all those little local service stations in regional areas, who work so hard to provide services for roadside travellers, are brought in early in the planning of the rollout of charging stations in order to give those businesses a chance to adapt and modify their business model. Service stations in regional areas provide much more than just fuel and we need to ensure that they will be able to provide the services that electric vehicle users need. I hope the Government will come up with more initiatives to improve the adoption of electric vehicle technology by people in the lower socio-economic areas. We know that fuel is a huge cost for people the further they live out from cities and we know that many of them are transport-poor. It is really important to give them the chance to reduce the cost of their commute, whether that is to western Sydney or to the regions. This bill does not go far enough towards achieving that, which is why we need the review to be put in place.

Mr GURMESH SINGH (Coffs Harbour) (12:49): The Electric Vehicles (Revenue Arrangements) Bill 2021 and cognate bills form part of the Government's broader electric vehicle strategy, which is projected to increase the share of electric vehicles over the proportion of total vehicle sales by 9 percentage points by 2029-30 and 15 percentage points by 2035-36. The Electric Vehicles (Revenue Arrangements) Bill amends the Duties Act 1997 to phase out vehicle stamp duty on electric vehicles. The bill also establishes the framework for a road user charge on vehicles that receive a stamp duty exemption. The stamp duty exemption for vehicles will expand to cover all zero- and low-emission vehicles, including hybrid electric vehicles, when the road user charge commences. Vehicle stamp duty is one of the most economically damaging taxes. It inhibits families buying new cars and can result in people driving older cars for longer rather than investing in new technology. That distortion flows through to lower productivity and lower incomes.

By contrast, the road user charge levies a charge based on how far a person drives, which will help align the contribution to the cost of road maintenance and construction. The bill establishes a modern road funding system by abolishing an economically inefficient tax and introducing a more efficient, fair and sustainable road funding model in a future where electric vehicles will dominate our roads. While the benefits of tax reform are clear, it is worth drawing attention to a few ways in which the bill goes about reform. Overall the bill seeks to balance competing needs. The Government is pursuing tax reform but needs to do so in a fiscally responsible way. Electric vehicles should contribute their fair share to road funding but imposing new charges while the sector is still in its infancy risks leaving New South Wales behind Europe and Asia, which are far more advanced in transitioning away from petrol and diesel vehicles. The bill needs to put in place a workable framework for a road user charge but also needs to be flexible enough to accommodate technological and market advancements in a rapidly evolving sector.

The bill will abolish stamp duty on electric vehicles gradually. The registration of battery and hydrogen fuel cell electric vehicles sold for a dutiable value of up to \$78,000 will be exempt from vehicle stamp duty. It will apply retrospectively from 1 September 2021. Once the road user charge commences, the tax exemption will expand to cover all zero- and low-emission vehicles, including hybrids. The reform prioritises fiscal support towards affordable vehicles while recognising that for now electric vehicles are usually more expensive than petrol

and diesel vehicles. The price cap of \$78,000 is high enough to exempt from duty vehicles within the reach of most households. Since the duty exemption will not be replaced by any revenue in the near term, it needs to be targeted to where it delivers the most benefits for the most households.

A road user charge is a far less economically damaging road funding system than stamp duty. It also provides New South Wales with more funding certainty and autonomy over its road expenditure, rather than relying on grants from the Commonwealth when it is uncertain to what extent the future decline in fuel excise will pass through to the States. The Government is conscious that it is important not to smother the electric vehicle sector while it is in its infancy in New South Wales. For that reason the road user charge will not commence until 1 July 2027 or when battery electric vehicle sales reach 30 per cent of the new vehicle market. A motorist can save up to \$3,000 in stamp duty when purchasing an electric vehicle and pay no road user charge or fuel excise for several years, which will further encourage the take-up of electric vehicles. Once battery electric vehicles make up around 30 per cent of the market, the transition to electric vehicles will be well and truly underway and a fair and efficient charge for road usage can commence. The road user charge will be set at a rate equivalent to 2.5c per kilometre in 2021-22, adjusted for inflation.

That will mean that the fuel excise payable on one litre of petrol will be more than the road user charge payable on 17 kilometres of driving. The average petrol and diesel passenger vehicle owner pays approximately \$622 a year in fuel excise. Under the new road user system, electric vehicles driving the same average distance will pay around \$315 annually. Electric vehicle drivers will also avoid stamp duty on the purchase of their vehicle. The bill creates a framework where a road user charge can be collected. The system set out in the bill allows a person to purchase a number of kilometres to travel and to top it up periodically as required. The technology will advance rapidly in this sector. The bill does not aim to predict what vehicles will be like when the road user charge commences or what technology will be the most appropriate for measuring the distance travelled; rather, it sets out a basic framework and allows for regulations to be created that will modify the administrative aspects of the system. It will include regulations that set out how the road user charge can be collected, what vehicles are exempt, what sort of travel is exempt and what penalties should apply for people who do not comply with their obligations.

That approach ensures that legislation will be in place to allow the road user charge to be collected. It will also allow for flexibility to respond to evolving technologies. The member for Summer Hill asked in her contribution why Australia has fewer electric vehicles than other jurisdictions do. A main reason is that most countries in the world drive on the other side of the road and most vehicle manufacturers deem it not worth their while to manufacture for right-hand steering markets. Markets like the USA are about a decade ahead of us and are releasing relatively cheap SUVs and utes. As the member for Summer Hill mentioned, those utes could power worksites or homes in a blackout. In my opinion electric vehicles will become much more efficient, much more affordable and the take-up will be quicker than predicted. I commend the bills to the House.

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER: I understand this will be the first virtual speech in the history of this Parliament. I now call the member for Blacktown. While IT is sorting out the audio for the member for Blacktown, I will call the member for Miranda.

Ms ELENi PETINOS (Miranda) (12:56): I speak to the Electric Vehicles (Revenue Arrangements) Bill 2021 and cognate bills. The Government's Electric Vehicle Strategy targets three of the top barriers impeding widespread uptake of electric vehicles [EVs]. These concerns relate to the high upfront cost of electric vehicles, anxiety over range and charging, and the availability of different electric vehicle models. The Electric Vehicle Strategy contains a range of measures that will address each of these concerns and lay the foundation for strong growth in the New South Wales electric vehicle sector. The Government is committed to fully electrifying its government fleet procurement by 2029-30, with an interim target of 50 per cent by 2025-26.

By international standards there are relatively few electric vehicles on the Australian market. As of mid-2020 there were only 11 battery electric vehicle models available in Australia. In order to bring more affordable models into New South Wales, importers need to have confidence in the local market. By electrifying the government fleet, the Government will use its bulk purchasing power to incentivise importers to increase the range of electric vehicle models that they sell in New South Wales. That will, in turn, develop the electric vehicle sector as the New South Wales government fleet vehicles are typically resold on the second-hand market after three to five years. That will translate to a higher number of second-hand light electric vehicles that will also be available to New South Wales drivers. Boosting supply of high-quality second-hand electric vehicles will create more choice for buyers. The New South Wales Government will also review its procurement processes to make it as easy as possible for government agencies to buy electric vehicles.

The uptake of electric vehicle use supported by the bills will help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and will be aided by technology that will revolutionise the use of our roads. The Electric Vehicle Strategy is consistent with the New South Wales Government's carbon emissions reduction objectives of net zero by 2050 and 35 per cent by 2030, compared with 2005 levels. It is important to achieve this goal while continuing to grow the

economy, create jobs and reduce the cost of living. The electrification of light vehicles is one key pathway to decarbonise the transport sector and support the State's net zero emissions objective. Given that light vehicles stay on the road for around 15 years on average, moving to net zero emissions for light vehicles will need the vast majority of new car sales to be battery or fuel cell electric vehicles by 2035. In addition, the Government has committed to transition the State's 8,000 buses to zero-emissions technology. Over 50 electric buses were rolled out across Sydney in early 2021 in the first phase of this work, helping to reduce air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions.

As previously committed, the New South Wales Government is also offering incentives to support medium- to large-sized fleets, such as those used by local councils, businesses, car-leasing companies and car-share companies, to purchase battery or hydrogen fuel cell electric vehicles. The New South Wales Government is also targeting an all-electric passenger fleet by 2030. Those Government initiatives seek to ensure that the sale of new vehicles is part of the solution for net zero emissions by 2050. They are also a critical element of the State's multi-faceted approach to revolutionising our road and transport network. The Electric Vehicle Strategy kickstarts that transition for New South Wales, making it easier for residents to purchase an electric car.

Just as vehicle technology improvements over past decades, like transitioning from leaded to unleaded fuels, has helped to reduce deadly air pollution, over the coming decades electric vehicle take-up will deliver key environmental and health benefits. Ultimately, in the global context, the bill will assist with Australia's commitment to keep global temperature rises to well below two degrees Celsius under the Paris Agreement. While all vehicles contribute to air pollution through road, brake and tyre wear, battery and fuel cell electric vehicles do not produce tailpipe emissions of particle and gaseous air pollutants, like petrol and diesel vehicles do. Road transport air emissions are released near the ground and frequently within communities, resulting in relatively high population exposure. Motor vehicles account for 62 per cent of Sydney's nitrogen oxide emissions, 24 per cent of volatile organic compound emissions and 14 per cent of particulate matter emissions. All of those have direct and indirect effects on the health of our communities.

Motor vehicles are also a significant contributor to fine particle and ozone pollution in the Sydney basin area. Moreover, about 70 premature deaths each year are associated with long-term exposure to vehicle pollution in the New South Wales greater metropolitan region, with vehicle exhaust emissions contributing 69 per cent of the fine particle exposures associated with those deaths. Reducing tailpipe emissions from vehicles can deliver significant health benefits for New South Wales, particularly for pregnant women and babies, people with chronic illnesses and the elderly. Vehicle air pollution disproportionately impacts the health of already vulnerable people. People living with, or more susceptible to, cardiovascular and respiratory health conditions like asthma will see significant health benefits.

Many people are concerned about the level of road traffic noise in their neighbourhood. Electric vehicles are also quieter to drive than are petrol and diesel vehicles, which helps improve amenity of public spaces and reduce concerns about traffic noise. That is why some electric vehicles use acoustic vehicle alerting systems, which make just enough noise for pedestrians to hear them approaching. Quieter roads help to improve the amenity of public spaces, allowing more people to enjoy outdoor areas and to live near busier roads with less noise disruption. The Electric Vehicle Strategy will deliver those health benefits and amenities for our community more affordably and quickly while fulfilling our environmental commitments.

In addition to the environmental arguments, there is an overwhelming need for tax reform. Vehicle stamp duty is one of the most economically damaging taxes. It inhibits transactions and can result in people driving old cars for longer rather than investing in new technology. This distortion flows through to lower productivity and lower incomes. In contrast, a road-user charge levies a charge based on how far a person drives. That helps to align the contribution to the cost of road maintenance and construction. The bill establishes a modern road funding system by abolishing an economically inefficient tax and introducing a more efficient, fair and sustainable road funding model in a future where electric vehicles dominate our roads.

While the benefits of tax reform are clear, there are a few things about the reforms in this bill that are worth drawing attention to. Overall, the bill seeks to balance competing needs. The New South Wales Government is pursuing tax reform but needs to do so in a fiscally responsible way. Electric vehicles should contribute their fair share to road funding but imposing new charges while the sector is still in its infancy risks leaving New South Wales behind Europe and Asia, which are far more advanced in transitioning away from petrol and diesel vehicles. The bill needs to put in place a workable framework for a road-user charge but it also needs to be flexible enough to accommodate technological and market advancements in a rapidly evolving sector.

The bill will gradually abolish stamp duty on electric vehicles. Applying retrospectively from 1 September 2021, the registration of battery and hydrogen fuel cell electric vehicles sold for a dutiable value of up to \$78,000 will be exempt from vehicle stamp duty. Once the road-user charge commences, the tax exemption will expand to cover all zero- and low-emission vehicles, including hybrids. That reform prioritises fiscal support

towards affordable vehicles while recognising that, for now, electric vehicles are more expensive than petrol and diesel vehicles. The \$78,000 price cap is high enough to exempt vehicles within the reach of most households from duty. Since the duty exemption will not be replaced by any revenue in the near term, it needs to be targeted to where it delivers benefits for the most households.

Before I conclude, I note the work of the former Minister for Transport and Roads on the use of electric vehicles. Having served very proudly as his Parliamentary Secretary of Transport and Roads, I acknowledge the immense contribution he has made to the New South Wales Parliament over his entire career but particularly in his role as the Minister for Transport and Roads. I wish the former transport Minister well in his future endeavours and acknowledge the ongoing contribution of his staff. I acknowledge Stuart Wallace, Ann Lewis, Mia Burns, Kaycie Bradford, Trent Hile, Michelle Harris, Angus McKenzie-Wills, Ellen Choulman, Asher Miners, Dan Rubenach, Charlotte Inwood, Melissa Ceccaldi, Amanda Curran and Anna Bartosiak. I thank them for everything they have done to support me in my role as their Parliamentary Secretary. I commend the bills to the House.

Mr STEPHEN BALI (Blacktown) (13:06): Via video link: It is a great pleasure to be the first member to speak in the oldest Parliament of Australia using the latest technology. Hopefully it works well this time around. I contribute to the debate on the Electric Vehicles (Revenue Arrangements) Bill 2021 and cognate bills. I acknowledge the work of Ms Jo Haylen, the shadow Minister for Transport and the member for Summer Hill, who leads on behalf of Labor and has confirmed that we will be supporting the bill.

The general purpose of the bills is to introduce road [audio malfunction] tax, and we know how effective the Liberal-Nationals Government is at extracting money from western Sydney motorists, with the billions of dollars from various tolls that will be extracted from us over the next 40 years. Cars using petrol and diesel currently pay tax on their fuel which goes towards road infrastructure and consolidated revenue. Electric cars, depending on the mix of fuel and battery usage, will pay substantially less tax, and potentially no tax, therefore creating a future budgetary hole in relation to road infrastructure. At the moment, electric cars are far more expensive to buy than the average fossil fuel car. Therefore, people from a lower socio-economic background face additional tax burdens in paying a fuel tax and, therefore, are subsidising those who are better off in the delivery of road infrastructure. It is unfair if costs are wholly based on the current fuel tax regime.

Like everything else, this Government has turned a simple idea into a chaotic situation. The bill raises a number of concerns. First, if a person elects to pay their upcoming annual usage fees up-front, they will need to state the number of kilometres that they intend to drive and pay the appropriate charge. It might seem like a simple solution but it gets complicated, as once the predetermined number of kilometres is reached the car will have to be parked. It cannot be driven and, because the number of kilometres has been predetermined, drivers will have to wait until the expiry of the registration period before driving it again. If unforeseen circumstances pop up, drivers will not be able to use their cars. If they do, they risk facing a penalty—which is ridiculous. In the modern era with technology—and I know the challenges I had earlier with technology—surely the Government could come up with a top-up scheme involving additional payments or making adjustments when the renewal is due. Heck, you can do this with a prepaid phone so why can you not do it with the user charges that are proposed in this legislation? After all, the Government has received an up-front payment and therefore early access to a person's money.

Secondly, there does not seem to be any consideration to allow a monthly payment scheme. For example, drivers could pay a predetermined, fixed amount per month or pay as they go based on the number of kilometres driven in that month. As with petrol tax, which helps people to pay as they go at the bowser, drivers can pay in smaller amounts. To have one large payment due either at the beginning of the annual registration period or at the end based on usage will make it difficult for people to balance their home budgets, especially those from a lower socio-economic background. This tax will adversely impact people's ability to adopt new electric car technology and place unnecessary, large annual cost burdens on them. It will also make it impossible for many people from western Sydney to participate in low emissions motor vehicle technology. Given the poor air quality across western Sydney, there needs to be more support for the adoption of low emissions technology, not more obstacles to access it placed before the people of the region.

Thirdly, I would like to see a flat fee structure to be charged to consumers and no additional user charges such as bank charges, processing fees or account-keeping fees. These fees should all be included in the kilometre charge that the Government will implement. All ancillary products ought to be wrapped up in one total kilometre charge. The Government should not seek to profit from those additional charges. Fourthly, there will be confusion regarding interstate usage charging. It will be difficult to have verifiable assessments of the number of kilometres travelled interstate, although I understand the State's challenges in administering this. I am confused by part 3 of the bill, which states that New South Wales will need to work with other States to implement the system. I assume that the easiest thing is for the State where a car is registered to get all the revenue. The challenge for this model is that many people may be encouraged to register their vehicles in a cheaper interstate jurisdiction.

Fifthly, the legislation sets aside funding for recharging distance incentives for motor vehicles. My concern is where those recharge hubs will be located. There needs to be a fair and equitable distribution of recharge hubs across the State based on either the tyranny of distance, especially for regional areas, or per head of population across the Greater Sydney region. This Government has short-changed western Sydney residents on so many occasions and it has done so again here, with the northern suburbs and the eastern suburbs getting the most recharge stations. I bring to the attention of the Minister, the Government and other members of the House that, as reported in *The Australian Financial Review* on 18 August 2017, Blacktown City Council was the first council in Australia to introduce smart poles to charge electric cars. As mayor at the time, I was very proud to achieve this—smashing the stereotypical image that Blacktown City would not adopt electric car technology.

Blacktown City Council acknowledges the health issues that arise from the urban heat effect across western Sydney, which results in an exceptional number of hot days during the summer as well as poor air quality. My fellow Labor councillors wanted to be the first to provide an opportunity for people who purchase an electric car to access council facilities and council car parks to recharge their vehicles. If the Government is going to fund and support councils and organisations to implement recharge stations, the Opposition hopes that western Sydney, based on its population, will get access to a reasonable number of them. Also, given that—

Debate interrupted.

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

Announcements

MEMBERS' BIRTHDAYS

The SPEAKER: I start by acknowledging the most important event of today; that is, the sixtieth birthday of the member for Heathcote. Happy Birthday to Lee Evans. I also acknowledge the recent birthdays of the member for Tamworth, the member for Manly, the member for Mount Druitt and the member for Macquarie Fields.

HYBRID SITTING OF PARLIAMENT

The SPEAKER (14:16): I congratulate our new Premier, Dominic Perrottet, our new Deputy Premier, Paul Toole, our new Deputy Liberal Leader, Stuart Ayres, and our new Treasurer, Matt Kean, on their elevation to their respective leadership positions in our State. Meanwhile, Opposition Leader Chris Minns has waited patiently for his much-anticipated budget-in-reply speech, for which I thank him. He will deliver his speech on Wednesday at 9.45 a.m.

The Legislative Assembly of the New South Wales Parliament is returning to sit for the first time since June. In a historic first, numerous members are participating online, in addition to those who are physically present in the Chamber. This arrangement is known as a hybrid sitting of Parliament. I spoke earlier today about the principles I have followed, together with others, to oversee the running of this Parliament during what have been very difficult circumstances. As New South Wales opens up, members of the community have been urged by our Premier to treat each other with kindness and respect. I am not sure whether that instruction was necessarily meant for this Chamber, but I would love to see that respect on show today.

Members

MINISTRY

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN: On behalf of Mr Dominic Perrottet: I inform the House that on 5 October 2021 the Hon. Gladys Berejiklian submitted her resignation as Premier to Her Excellency the Governor. Her Excellency then commissioned the Hon. Dominic Francis Perrottet to form a new ministry. On the same day Dominic Francis Perrottet was sworn as a member of the Executive Council and as Premier and three other members were appointed by Her Excellency the Governor as members of the Executive Council and to the offices indicated:

The Hon. Stuart Laurence Ayres, MP
Minister for Jobs, Investment, Tourism and Western Sydney, and Minister for Trade and Industry

The Hon. Matthew John Kean, MP
Treasurer, and Minister for Energy and Environment

The Hon. Bradley Ronald Hazzard, MP
Minister for Health and Medical Research.

On 6 October 2021, 17 other members were appointed by Her Excellency the Governor as members of the Executive Council and to the offices indicated:

The Hon. Paul Lawrence Toole, MP
Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional New South Wales, and Minister for Regional Transport and Roads

The Hon. Bronwyn Taylor, MLC
Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women

The Hon. Donald Thomas Harwin, MLC
Special Minister of State, Minister for the Public Service and Employee Relations, Aboriginal Affairs, and the Arts, and Vice-President of the Executive Council

The Hon. Mark Raymond Speakman, SC, MP
Attorney General, and Minister for Prevention of Domestic and Sexual Violence

The Hon. Damien Francis Tudehope, MLC
Minister for Finance and Small Business

The Hon. Robert Gordon Stokes, MP
Minister for Planning and Public Spaces, and Minister for Transport and Roads

The Hon. Victor Michael Dominello, MP
Minister for Customer Service, and Minister for Digital

The Hon. Sarah Mitchell, MLC
Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning

The Hon. David Andrew Elliott, MP
Minister for Police and Emergency Services

The Hon. Melinda Jane Pavey, MP
Minister for Water, Property and Housing

The Hon. Adam John Marshall, MP
Minister for Agriculture and Western New South Wales

The Hon. Anthony John Roberts, MP
Minister for Counter Terrorism and Corrections

The Hon. Shelley Elizabeth Hancock, MP
Minister for Local Government

The Hon. Kevin John Anderson, MP
Minister for Better Regulation and Innovation

The Hon. Dr Geoffrey Lee, MP
Minister for Skills and Tertiary Education

The Hon. Natalie Peta Ward, MLC
Minister for Sport, Multiculturalism, Seniors and Veterans

The Hon. Alister Andrew Henskens, SC, MP
Minister for Families, Communities and Disability Services.

REPRESENTATION OF MINISTERS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN: I inform the House of the representation of Legislative Council Ministers in the Legislative Assembly:

The Minister for Health and Medical Research representing the Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women.

The Premier representing the Special Minister of State, Minister for the Public Service and Employee Relations, Aboriginal Affairs, and the Arts, and Vice-President of the Executive Council.

The Treasurer, and Minister for Energy and Environment representing the Minister for Finance and Small Business.

The Minister for Skills and Tertiary Education representing the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning.

The Minister for Counter Terrorism and Corrections representing the Minister for Sport, Multiculturalism, Seniors and Veterans.

Committees

STANDING ORDERS AND PROCEDURE COMMITTEE

Reports

The SPEAKER: I table electronically the following reports of the Standing Orders and Procedure Committee:

- (1) Report entitled *Broadcasting Resolution for the Legislative Assembly*, Report 4/57, dated October 2021.
- (2) Report entitled *Citizen's Right of Reply - Mr Benjamin Geary*, Report 5/57, dated October 2021.
- (3) Report entitled *Modernisation and reform of practices and procedures: ePetitions Review – Interim Report*, Report 6/57, dated October 2021.

- (4) Report entitled *Modernisation and reform of practices and procedures: Updates to the Standing Orders – Interim Report*, Report 7/57, dated October 2021.

I order that the reports be printed.

Bills

**FAMILIES, COMMUNITIES AND DISABILITY SERVICES MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENT
BILL 2021**

MUTUAL RECOGNITION (NEW SOUTH WALES) AMENDMENT BILL 2021

APPROPRIATION BILL 2021

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL 2021

ELECTORAL LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS) BILL 2021

BUILDING LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2021

Assent

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

Ministerial Statements

TRIBUTE TO EDDIE JAKU

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET (Epping—Premier) (14:22): Today we receive the sad news of the passing of one of our State's most treasured citizens, Eddie Jaku. Many people in this House would have known and admired Eddie and many others would have read his book, *The Happiest Man Alive*. Everyone who came within his orbit would also know the joy that radiated from this incredible man. Eddie Jaku was a Holocaust survivor. He saw firsthand humanity at its cruellest and endured pain and suffering beyond what any one of us could imagine. He was interned at Auschwitz in his early 20s. He described almost freezing to death, often not knowing if he would survive the night. He lost everything precious to him that could be taken away.

Eddie's life is testament to the fact that there is one thing that even the most powerful can never take away from us, and that is hope. In his book Eddie wrote that he knew if he could survive one more minute, one more hour and through another night, that better days may come. In the darkness of the death camps, Eddie held fast to hope. He fanned the fragile flame into a life of happiness and service that has lit up the world. Eddie Jaku had a strength of character that could never be extinguished. When he chose Australia for his home after surviving the Holocaust, our nation gained a remarkable individual as one of its own.

Eddie became a successful businessman before writing his book and becoming an author at the age of 100. The love of his life was his wife, Flore, to whom he was married for 75 years, as he became a father, grandfather and great-grandfather. He gave himself the title of "the happiest man alive" because after emerging from the worst experience imaginable, he realised what was important in life: embracing what you have right now, rather than waiting for what is to come around the corner.

Eddie's greatest legacy is his work to pass on the lessons of the Holocaust, so that humanity never makes the same horrific mistakes again. He helped establish the Sydney Jewish Museum in 1992, and for almost 30 years he served as a guide of that museum. Even up until the most recent lockdowns this year, Eddie would faithfully and joyfully turn up on his Wednesday shift. Over that time Eddie imparted his wisdom and insights to hundreds of thousands of school children.

It is rare to meet someone who can truly be described as an inspiration. Earlier this year, I was honoured to meet Eddie. It was impossible not to be deeply moved by his zest for life. That meeting is something I will always remember, and Eddie's gift of inspiration will undoubtedly live on for generations to come. Eddie is survived by his wife, Flore, his two sons, Michael and Andre, and their families, with many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. To them, on behalf of the Government and the people of New South Wales, I extend our deepest condolences. In his passing, Eddie imparts a final gift to the people of Australia: a timely reminder that even in times of adversity there is always hope for a better future. I invite everyone in the House to join me in paying tribute to Eddie Jaku.

Mr CHRIS MINNS (Kogarah) (14:25): As the Leader of the Opposition, I pay tribute to the late Eddie Jaku, who passed away last night at the age of 101. My colleague the shadow police Minister, Walt Secord, also extends his sympathy as he had known Eddie for more than 33 years, whom he first met as a journalist at *The Australian Jewish News*. I note that Mr Jaku was a member of the Australian Association of Jewish Holocaust

Survivors and Descendants, but he was also an author, a guide until recently at the Sydney Jewish Museum and, most importantly, a wonderful human being. For the record, my close friend Dr George Foster, who is also the president of my local synagogue, is president of the Australian Association of Jewish Holocaust Survivors and Descendants.

Eddie Jaku was born in 1920 in Leipzig, Germany. He was deported to Buchenwald in 1938. He escaped, only to be jailed in camps in Belgium and France between 1939 and 1941. In 1943 he and his family were deported to Auschwitz. He never saw his parents again. After being liberated in 1945, he weighed just 28 kilograms. As the Premier said, eventually he and his wife, Flore, migrated to Sydney, Australia, in 1950. As the renowned Holocaust survivor and Nobel laureate Elie Wiesel said, "God made man because He loves stories." Following a long and successful career, Eddie began sharing his survival story publicly at the Sydney Jewish Museum. His autobiography, *The Happiest Man on Earth*, won last year's Biography Book of the Year at the Australian Book Industry Awards.

Eddie was an intelligent, gentle and warm human being, whose smile and manner put at ease everyone—from the highest leaders in the land to small schoolchildren—struggling to comprehend the horrors of the Shoah. Our thoughts are with his family at this time. He is survived by his wife of 75 years, his two children, his grandchildren and his great-grandchildren. May Eddie Jaku's memory be a blessing.

Announcements

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY PHOTOGRAPHS

The SPEAKER: I note for the benefit of members that approval has been given today to one video camera and one still camera to take photographs. Approval has also been given to an official parliamentary photographer, who is taking photographs from the side doors.

Business of the House

NOTICE OF MOTION FOR BILLS

Restoration

Mr PHILIP DONATO (Orange) (14:30): Via video link: By leave: I move:

That standing and sessional orders be suspended to provide for the lapsed general business order of the day (for bills) standing in my name relating to the Property Services Council Bill 2021 to be restored to its position on the *Business Paper* with a new lapsing date of 24 November 2021.

The SPEAKER: The member has five minutes. We will now hear him speak in favour of that motion and then the question will be put on the motion.

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla—Attorney General, and Minister for Prevention of Domestic and Sexual Violence) (14:32): I indicate that the Government does not oppose the motion.

The SPEAKER: On that basis, does the member wish to speak to the motion?

Mr PHILIP DONATO: No, that is fine. Thank you.

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

Motion agreed to.

NOTICE OF MOTION FOR BILLS

Restoration

Mr ROY BUTLER (Barwon) (14:33): By leave: I move:

That standing and sessional orders be suspended to provide for the lapsed general business order of the day (for bills) standing in my name relating to the Government Sector Finance Amendment (Government Grants) Bill 2021 to be restored to its position on the *Business Paper* with a new lapsing date of 24 November 2021.

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla—Attorney General, and Minister for Prevention of Domestic and Sexual Violence) (14:34): I indicate that the motion is unopposed by the Government.

The SPEAKER: Does the member wish to speak to the motion?

Mr ROY BUTLER: That is fine.

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

Motion agreed to.

*Question Time***COVID-19 AND HEALTH**

Mr CHRIS MINNS (Kogarah) (14:34): Before I ask the question, on a personal level at least, I wish the Premier the best of luck. It is a huge honour to be elected the forty-sixth Premier of New South Wales. My question is directed to the Premier. Hospitals in other countries have seen a huge rise in non-COVID-related presentations as people put off essential care during a pandemic. In the United Kingdom, hospitals are consistently at 100 per cent capacity, leading to thousands of people unable to access health care in their time of need. Will the Premier guarantee that the healthcare system of Sydney and regional New South Wales gets the resourcing that it needs?

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET (Epping—Premier) (14:35): I thank the Leader of the Opposition for his question and his well wishes. Whilst they might be made on a personal level, we will certainly be debating things on a political level. I note that he and I have reached out to each other and said that where there are areas we can find common ground, we will. Where we cannot, members on this side of the House will certainly be prosecuting the case in the interests of the people of New South Wales. In relation to the question, if members look at the current COVID situation, hospitalisations and ICU admissions are tracking below the Burnet Institute modelling. Hospitalisations peaked at around one-third of modelling predictions. The modelling predicted a peak of 3,434 hospitalisations and 947 ICU admissions and there is a surge capacity of 1,550 admissions.

As the Leader of the Opposition knows, last year—and particularly during the Delta outbreak—certain elective surgeries have had to be pushed back to enable our hospitals to care for those who contract the virus. However, as I said to the health Minister at the outset of the pandemic, I am assured that we will provide every single resource to our health system to ensure that the people of New South Wales have the best access to health care, not just when they contract COVID but also when they have elective surgery, now and into the future. That is going to be a challenge for every health system in this country. However, I believe whether it is in metropolitan Sydney or regional New South Wales, the State has the best health system in the country.

I have been speaking to Premiers over the weekend. There is a sense of collegiality about providing resources and assisting other States as challenges arise as we head down this path. New South Wales is leading the nation out of the pandemic. From time to time there will no doubt be pressures on every single health system in the country. However, whether it was the quadrupling of the ICU capacity that we put in place at the start of the pandemic or the record infrastructure investment in our hospitals, in not just metropolitan Sydney but also regional New South Wales, our health foundations in New South Wales are incredibly strong. That strong foundation enables us to make sure that if people contract COVID they have the health care they need and that we are able to bring forward elective surgery as quickly as possible. I thank the health Minister for his work. I thank all of the NSW Health team that is on the front line right now looking after those people who contract COVID.

I am pleased to say that today we sit in a very good position. However, the challenge lies ahead. There is a long way to go. Where we are able to move resources, we will do so. We have regular meetings with the Health team, on not just vaccination rates but also ICU presentations. As the Leader of the Opposition knows, we also have considerable discussions with Health around elective surgery and other operations occurring in our health system, and the capacity of our health system in every single hospital in this State. We want to make sure that every person across New South Wales has access to the best health care as we move through this period. As with the other States, as we move forward through the pandemic we will continue to discuss opportunities for further funding from the Commonwealth Government to help our health system in New South Wales, as every other Premier around the nation is doing.

There is no doubt that the health system in a post-pandemic world will look very different to the health system in the pre-pandemic world. But I am confident that with the foundations we have laid here in New South Wales and the ongoing work of the best health team in the country, those who contract COVID—or, more importantly and extensively, those who require elective surgery, wherever they live in New South Wales—will have the best care and support that they need and that we can provide in our State, which I believe is nation-leading.

COVID-19 AND ECONOMIC RECOVERY

Ms WENDY LINDSAY (East Hills) (14:40): Via video link: My question is addressed to the Premier. Will the Premier update the House—

The SPEAKER: I ask the member for East Hills to move just a little bit closer to her microphone.

Ms WENDY LINDSAY: Will the Premier update the House on how New South Wales is leading the nation out of the COVID-19 pandemic?

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET (Epping—Premier) (14:40): I thank the member for East Hills for her remote question. I look forward to having discussions around how we can bring members back into this place as quickly and as safely as possible. It is like playing footy without a crowd. If we can do so in a safe way, I think we should have those discussions as we head towards the 80 per cent double-dose rate. But here we are; it has been a long time out of Parliament. We have gone through a very difficult stage in New South Wales. The last week we sat in this Chamber was budget week. It was stated earlier that the Leader of the Opposition will give his budget in reply tomorrow, which should have occurred on the Thursday of that week back in June. On behalf of every member in this Chamber and every member tuning in remotely, we say a big thank you to the people of New South Wales. It is their sacrifices, their enormous efforts to go out there and get vaccinated that we have to thank. Yesterday we saw families and friends reunited, grandparents seeing their grandchildren after months, businesses opening their doors and young people going into work for the first time. Yesterday we saw great optimism and positivity as the people of New South Wales took back the life that we have missed for so long.

Last week, I think a couple of days before the opening, I was out with the member for Holsworthy in Casula, along with the jobs Minister. We visited Sahara Cafe and Grill and met Linda there. The optimism and hope that every small business across the State felt that day as we approached "freedom day" was incredible. Obviously there were concerns, and we know there are going to be challenges as we move forward through this difficult period. However, there was a lot of hope and optimism that the issues that may have arisen in relation to the vaccine passport had been met by every single business across the State. Today I gave Linda a call at her cafe to check in. She was pumped up. She had a great day yesterday. She said the feeling in Casula was very positive. She said she was treated like a rock star and everybody who visited the cafe yesterday treated everyone with respect. That is the story of New South Wales. I thank Linda for all her work. The fact that she is able to bring her workers back on is a great thing for our State.

We have spoken about this a lot, and the health Minister will continue to speak about it, that the journey is not over. Vaccination is the key to our freedom. The virus has not gone away and will not go away. As I said in my previous answer during question time, there are still 766 people in hospital. Tragically, 444 people have lost their lives in the latest outbreak since 16 June this year. The virus is still a threat and it will take a terrible toll on our people. But with vaccination we have the protection to keep families and communities safe right across the State. I am pleased to see those vaccination numbers are well on the way to not just 80 per cent but 90 per cent—and we are going to go further than that. We have already seen 90 per cent of people 16 years and over get their first jab. Today around 75 per cent of people have had two doses. That is more than 11 million doses delivered by NSW Health, the GP network and other providers, a phenomenal effort by our people. It is not just nation-leading but world-leading, and the people of our State deserve every single accolade for their efforts.

It is our people who have ensured that we were able to open up yesterday as quickly and safely as possible. It is the people of New South Wales who will lead our nation through this pandemic. But that is only half the job. Along with the health Minister, I have had the great opportunity to visit many of our health workers who put themselves on the front line every day. Thousands of nurses, doctors and allied health staff in clinics across the State are supported by administrators taking the bookings and cleaners keeping us safe, particularly those in our hospitals. *[Extension of time]*

We have had an army of NSW Health professionals continue testing. The tracking and tracing team continues. Staff in our hospitals have worked around the clock to provide world-class care and support to those who need it. All members express their deepest gratitude to everybody in our health system for their phenomenal work in this difficult period. Despite the enormous pressure, our health system has stood strong and continues to stand firm as we move through this period. There will be more challenges; there is no mistake about that. We will continue to invest so that the people of New South Wales have the best health care in the country, if not the world. It is not just a health crisis; it is an economic crisis. It is a crisis felt around family dining tables across the State.

Yesterday many businesses reopened after a long time, getting people back to work. Last year close to 300,000 jobs were lost. Every one of them was recovered because we put people and families before the budget. I know the new Treasurer will take the same approach to his work and we will bounce back stronger, just like we did last year. There will be difficulties on the way but to every worker and every business across New South Wales, we will continue to invest for impact and stimulate the economy to provide opportunity and prosperity for everyone as we move through the next challenging chapter of this pandemic.

WESTERN SYDNEY PUBLIC HOSPITALS

Ms PRUE CAR (Londonderry) (14:47): My question is directed to the Premier. At Blacktown Hospital wait times for critical emergencies, like heart attacks, almost tripled in one year, before the Delta lockdown. At Westmead Hospital wait times have doubled. The people of western Sydney have to wait longer for critical emergencies like heart attacks and strokes. Will the Premier ensure this divide in our two Sydneys will be fixed under his leadership?

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET (Epping—Premier) (14:48): There is no divide. We are one people, one great city. We will not discriminate. The Liberal-Nationals will never engage in class warfare, unlike those opposite. We will always represent every person across the State. We have done that since we came to office and we will continue to do that as we move through this next period. When it comes to the health system, we have never invested more. In the 2021-22 budget there was a \$30.2 billion increase. This is a 3.2 per cent increase from last year and an 84.4 per cent increase on Labor's last budget of \$16.4 billion in health. We have committed to more than 170 health capital projects, and there are 110 underway. Wherever one goes in New South Wales, whether in eastern or western Sydney, to the north or the south or to regional New South Wales, there is construction underway. Hospitals are being built to ensure we have the best health care for every person in the State. We have a \$10.8 billion health infrastructure program over four years. As the member for Londonderry knows, this includes the heart and soul of the Nepean Hospital. As Treasurer I do not know how many hospitals I have been to with the Health Minister, constructing, constructing, constructing the health system for the twenty-first century.

The old days of saying it is too hard have gone. Our strong fiscal foundations in the State have allowed us to build a brighter future. Whether it is health care, education, public transport or roads, this Government will be at the forefront to continue to ensure that New South Wales, western Sydney, is the best place to live, work, run a business and raise a family. Health care is front and centre, and essential to that. We are not only building the hospitals, but also investing in the staff to ensure we have the care and support for every person in the State. We invested \$2.8 billion to recruit 8,300 frontline health staff over four years from 2019-20, with half of those in Greater Sydney and half in regional New South Wales. That is 5,000 nurses and midwives; 1,060 medical staff, doctors, psychiatrists and specialists; 880 allied health staff, including pharmacists, social workers, physiotherapists and occupational therapists; and \$8.6 million to employ 86 new staff across 50 hospitals.

The member asked about elective surgery and surgery in western Sydney hospitals. We invested \$76 million over four years from 2020 to boost elective surgery capacity; \$45 million to deliver 8,000 paediatric operations; and \$31 million to deliver an additional 10,000 cataract surgeries. Right across the board there is record investment. I am proud to lead a government of Liberal-Nationals who will deliver for every person across the State. We will continue to deliver health care. We have taken investment in health care and education in western Sydney to a whole new level. That is what the Government has been focused on. It is a great government that has turned around the fate of the State, its finances and the infrastructure backlog, whether that is in public transport or education, but particularly in health care.

The State under Labor had ground to a halt. We have come in, turned around the State's finances and begun to build to transform service delivery in the State. Health care has been front and centre of that. That will be demonstrated as we go through this difficult period. The investments that we have made in the health system will ensure that it stands strong and firm during what will be one of the most difficult times in 100 years of health care for the people of the State. That is due to one thing. The way that a government handles itself in good times sets it up for difficult times. The record investments that we have made since coming to office in 2011 have laid the best health foundations of any State in the nation. We will continue to provide the best health care wherever people live in the State: east, west, north or south. The Liberal-Nationals will continue to deliver.

COVID-19 AND REGIONAL NEW SOUTH WALES

Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra) (14:53): Via video link: My question is addressed to the Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional Transport and Roads, and Minister for Regional New South Wales. Will the Deputy Premier update the House on the reopening of regional New South Wales now that the 70 per cent double vaccination target has been reached?

Mr PAUL TOOLE (Bathurst—Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional Transport and Roads, and Minister for Regional New South Wales) (14:53): I thank the member for Cootamundra for her question. I thank everyone who has come forward to get vaccinated over the past few months and all of our frontline workers and NSW Health staff for putting jabs into arms. They have worked countless hours around the clock. Their commitment and contribution have been second to none. I also thank Gladys Berejiklian and John Barilaro, who have worked tirelessly to steer us through some very difficult times. We are in the position today of hope and optimism because of the foundations and the work that they have done here for the people of New South Wales. We have reached the important milestone of 70 per cent vaccination. Yesterday we celebrated that and sent a strong message that New South Wales is open for business. That means business owners can go back to work and open their doors. Workers can go back to work. It means that in regional communities we can hear the cash registers ringing once again. The streets in our regional communities have been isolated with very few people walking up and down but we are now starting to see people out and about once again.

Yesterday was about stimulating the economy. It was an opportunity to actually see people with a smile on their face while catching up with families or friends—people who they have not seen for many months. It was

an opportunity for them to go to a pub and have a beer or a glass of wine with their mates or to go to the club and have a meal with their friends and family. It was also an opportunity for many of us to see our family and friends and give them a big hug. I am waiting to do that with my mum very shortly. But the job is not done and there is still a way to go. We know there will be challenges along the way but it is critical to roll up our sleeves and continue to target not only 70 per cent but also 80 per cent, 90 per cent or close to 100 per cent vaccination in our communities because that will be the best way to protect people in this State. We all have a part to play, whether it is getting the jab ourselves or encouraging friends and family to do the same.

As the Deputy Premier and Minister for Regional New South Wales, I highlight the incredible job that people living in regional, rural and remote New South Wales—from Ballina to Bourke—have done on the path to reopening. Hubs and outreach clinics have been established in regional and rural New South Wales. We got pop-up clinics, walk-up clinics and drive-through clinics. We saw members of the Australian Defence Force on the ground working tirelessly in some of our communities. Some communities took it upon themselves to drive an initiative to letterbox their community to encourage them to come forward and get vaccinated. They wanted to ensure that those who live in local areas were protected. I thank everyone for being involved, especially those in the Far West for achieving these important milestones.

In my own electorate, 90 per cent of people in Bathurst are first-dose vaccinated and nearly at 75 per cent are second-dose vaccinated. The Murray River local government area has achieved 87.3 per cent double vaccination rate. Connamble is at 84.4 per cent, Gilgandra at 83.7 per cent and Bourke at 77.1 per cent. That is a phenomenal effort from those in regional New South Wales, especially in some of our most remote and vulnerable communities. I am also pleased to report that regional New South Wales is well and truly on the path to ensure that it reopens. I look forward to welcoming people from Greater Sydney into the regions to visit their families and friends and support local businesses that rely on tourists. [*Extension of time*]

I also look forward to travelling. I know the Premier is very keen to pack his bags. He has already told me that he wants to do a regional trip with me to see the regions. He wants to see the investment that this Government has put out into the regions. I want to talk to regional communities to see what needs to be done. We know there is a big job to be done. It is great to have a Premier who will enable the Liberals and The Nationals to deliver for all people in New South Wales. That is our commitment. I have already started to put a playlist together. I hope he does not mind Bon Jovi because that will be some of the music we will listen to on our trip. I say to the people of this State that if they have not been vaccinated, please do it. Do it for yourself, do it for your family. Do it for your friends and do it for your community. I look forward to continuing to update the House on the good news that is happening in New South Wales as we are on our pathway to reopening.

WESTERN SYDNEY HOSPITAL EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS

Mr RYAN PARK (Keira) (15:00): I direct my question to the Premier. Emergency patients who arrive by ambulance in western Sydney hospitals have to wait almost twice as long as those in northern Sydney before they even get out of that ambulance. Even before the Delta lockdown, 30 per cent of emergency patients in western Sydney were still waiting in an ambulance for over an hour. Will the Premier guarantee to fix the chronic overcrowding of western Sydney emergency departments?

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET (Epping—Premier) (15:00): The best way to answer that question is to look at our investment in health in western Sydney. You do not build hospitals overnight. When this Government came to office in 2011 it turbocharged infrastructure investment to make sure that the families of western Sydney have the best health care possible. Let us go through our record. Health care currently underway or commencing in western Sydney and south-western Sydney includes our commitment—never built by Labor—the Bankstown-Lidcombe Hospital. We allocated \$1.3 billion to that hospital, which was advocated for—

Ms Tania Mihailuk: It's nowhere.

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: —not by the member for Bankstown—never heard from her.

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

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: It was advocated for by the member for East Hills—straight in, advocating.

Ms Tania Mihailuk: Where is she?

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: She is on the stream. Don't make her angry. I loved your article, Tania, by the way, about the social media and the tweeting. It was good. We are focused on the pandemic. \$1.3 billion was committed to Bankstown-Lidcombe Hospital in this budget. The allocation for the Liverpool Health and Academic Precinct and hospital car park in the budget was \$790 million, which the Minister for Health and

Medical Research and I announced a couple of budgets ago for the Liverpool precinct. The Campbelltown redevelopment, stage 2, got \$632 million and Nepean Hospital got \$1 billion.

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

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: They were delivered since 2011, although there was a lot of catch-up work to go as there had been no health investment for some time. For context, the health capital budget in 2021-2022 is \$3.1 billion, up \$233.7 million, which is 8.2 per cent from last year and it is up 237.2 per cent from Labor's last budget.

Mr Ryan Park: That is a long time ago.

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: I accept that that was a long time ago, and hopefully it will never happen again. But that was \$917.8 million and you can see why: because of substantial investment across the board. As the current member for Londonderry knows, the Nepean Hospital stages 3 and 3A upgrades were delivered in 2014 with an investment of \$139 million. In Campbelltown, the Campbelltown Hospital stage 1 upgrade was delivered in 2016 with an investment of \$134 million. And that is right across the board, including across western Sydney. We could even go south to St George where, as the member for Kogarah would know, there was an investment of \$277 million for a birthing unit and theatre refurbishment worth \$11.5 million. To the south-west in Bowral, Wollondilly, there has been substantial investment. For the stages 1 and 2 upgrades at the Blacktown Mount Druitt Hospital the Government made a \$651 million investment. Those are major numbers, and behind those numbers are people who ensure that we give the people of western Sydney the best health care possible.

I am proud to be part of a government that, from day one when we got in, did not sit on its hands. We fixed the finances. Labor opposed every single one of those moves to fix the budget, including the asset recycling so that we could turbocharge infrastructure investment such as building hospitals right across the board, including in western Sydney. Labor opposed the financing of them and every opportunity that we had to deliver them, and that is why the hospitals were never built under Labor. That is why, under the Liberals and The Nationals, you have seen not only record delivery but also record allocation of health funding by the Treasurer, and that will continue under the new Treasurer going forward. That will continue to be the major focus of the Government—building health care, building hospitals, building schools, building road and rail—to make New South Wales the best place in the country, and western Sydney is its heart and soul.

Not only have we delivered record amounts over the past 10 years, but we have also set ourselves up for success for the next 10 years. I thank the health Minister for his constant advocacy when I was Treasurer. I apologise to the current Treasurer for the health Minister, who will be in there every single day advocating not only for the people of western Sydney but also for every single person, wherever they live across our great State, in order to ensure we have the best health system not only in the country but also in the world.

COVID-19 AND STATE ECONOMY

Ms ELENi PETINOS (Miranda) (15:06): Via video link: I address my question to the Treasurer, and Minister for Energy and Environment. Will the Treasurer please update the House on how the Perrottet-Toole Coalition Government is delivering policies to ensure that our State's economy and businesses bounce back after the lockdown?

Mr MATT KEAN (Hornsby—Treasurer, and Minister for Energy and Environment) (15:06): I thank the great member for Miranda for that great question. Like everyone on this side of the House, she is focused on ensuring that we bounce back better after the pandemic. This is a Government that is going to get business back in business, that is going to get people back in work and that is going to turbocharge our economy. Unlike the policy-free zone on the other side of the House, we actually have concrete plans to make that happen. Premier Perrottet has only been in the job for a few days and he has already delivered more policies than the Leader of the Opposition and the Labor Party in 11 years in opposition. He is not the Premier; he is the Dominator.

Those plans to turbocharge our economy include lifting restrictions for those who are double vaccinated so that we can start getting our economy happening again. Those plans include ensuring that we guarantee the stock for businesses that are looking to reopen. We will stand behind the inventory so they can open their doors and invest for the future with confidence. The Government is about giving confidence to the community and to business so that we can turbocharge our economy. And it does not stop there. In the few days that Premier Perrottet the Dominator has been in the chair, we have also seen support for businesses to get rebates on their government charges and fees, including on tolls, in order to support our tradies and make it easier for them to drive around the city—because that is what Coalition governments do. Only the Coalition Government believes New South Wales is the engine room of the national economy, and that business is the engine room of the New South Wales economy.

In addition to that, not only are we getting the State out of this better than when we came in but we also supported the economy through the worst pandemic that we have seen in the State's history. That is why the Premier, as Treasurer, was the architect of the JobSaver scheme: to safeguard businesses and save jobs. In fact, on current projections, the Dominator himself saw the saving of over 100,000 jobs because of that big, bold policy to safeguard our economy and protect jobs—because that is what Coalition governments do. This policy powerhouse stands in stark contrast to the policy-free zone over there. The Opposition has had 11 years to come up with some positive plans but the only thing we have heard from the member for Kogarah is that he will take on and stand up to the unions—and we all know how well that is going! When it comes to policy, he is Missing Minns.

While we have been keeping people safe and keeping the economy going, what has Chris Minns been talking about? His mullet! I note his magnificent haircut after lockdown and I would be lying if I said I was not envious, but the people of New South Wales do not need people talking about their mullets—they need people who are focused on growing our economy and making sure we bounce back better, and that is exactly what a Perrottet-Toole Government will do. We need more than updates about mullets; we need strong and stable government focused on growing our economy and making sure that we build a more prosperous and better future for every single person in the State. It is all politics and no policy from the member for Kogarah—all politics and no policy. In fact, even his politics is working for the Government—he is killing us with compliments! We saw the bouquets he used to throw the former Premier all the time, and then in his only question during question time he wrote a love letter to the new Premier.

It is a very interesting tactic, and I quite like it from the member for Kogarah. It must be nice to be unburdened by belief like the Leader of the Opposition. It must be nice not to be weighed down by convictions and beliefs. Here is a man who, when he was chief of staff and then when he worked for Carl Scully, saw no road that he did not want tolled. [*Extension of time*]

When he worked for Carl Scully, he saw no road in New South Wales that he did not want tolled. When he worked for John Robertson, he was the architect of the privatisation of prisons. In his maiden speech to the Parliament, he said that he would take on the unions—and we all know how that worked out. They put him in the job; he will never take on the unions and he will always act in the interest of vested interests, not the community interest. That is who Labor is: always acting for vested interests, not the community interest. Those opposite are all politics and no policy—that is who the Labor Party is. Chris Minns presides over the same party that tells us it would remove the toll on the M4, but what did it do? Nothing! Chris Minns presides over the same crooked party that said it would build the North West Rail Link over and over again, and nothing happened.

The reality is that Labor has no positive policies, plans or ideas for the people of this State. Members on this side of the House have an ambitious agenda to improve the lives of every single citizen in the State, to make sure that we bounce back better, and to build a more prosperous and better future for every single citizen in New South Wales. Whether you live in the city, whether you live in the bush or whether you live in western Sydney, we want to make sure that the Government is there to serve you—not the other way around, as it used to be under a Labor administration. Chris Minns is no different from anyone else who has led the Labor Party. They are all politics and no policy; all spin and no substance; all hairstyle and no substance. That is what a Labor government is and that is why you cannot risk a vote on a Minns-led Opposition.

WESTERN SYDNEY HOSPITAL EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS

Ms JO HAYLEN (Summer Hill) (15:13): I direct my question to the Premier. The Premier just called the New South Wales health system not just the best health system in Australia but in the world. Yet as he heard today, 30 per cent of emergency patients in western Sydney are still waiting in an ambulance after 30 minutes and that another 10 per cent are still waiting for an hour—in his two Sydneys. Will the Premier take personal responsibility for this shocking inequity?

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET (Epping—Premier) (15:14): I take personal responsibility for the successful health system that this Government presides over in our State. The Opposition has run out of western Sydney members to ask questions, so they are going to the member for Summer Hill. It is obviously part of the Opposition's new western Sydney strategy. Members on this side of the House, everywhere we go across the State—whether it is western Sydney or anywhere else—will not play class warfare. We will look after every single person in New South Wales. It does not matter where people live.

It does not matter at all to us whether people live in regional New South Wales, western Sydney, on the Central Coast or in Wollongong. It makes no difference to us at all. We will deliver the best healthcare system, as we have been doing for the last 10 years. Take for example the hospitals in the Tweed electorate, which were opposed by Labor. The Treasurer mentioned the policy-free zone on the other side of the House. Labor has been policy free for 10 years. The Opposition did not build anything during its last tenure in government. The Coalition

came into government and turbocharged health infrastructure delivery in this State. I am proud to say that the investments we have made and the foundations we have laid ensure that New South Wales has the best health system.

In response to the question asked by the member for Summer Hill, yes, there will be challenges. We are in a pandemic and there will be health challenges, no doubt, as we move through this period. But I am confident, particularly based on discussions I had as the former Treasurer with Treasurers around the country, that the financial investment the New South Wales Government has made in the State's health system has laid a strong foundation for us to get through this difficult time. It will not be without its challenges, but the billions of dollars of investment in health care that the Minister for Health and Medical Research asked for at the beginning of this pandemic have paid off. As I said to the Minister for Health and Medical Research at the time, "It is an open book. Whatever you need to keep our people safe to get through this difficult time, you will have."

Any health system, whether it is in Australia or anywhere in the world, is not without its challenges, and that is also the case in New South Wales. But this Government will not play class warfare. This Government will not pit one community against another community. We will not play those games. We will not play the game of Labor politics. The Liberals and The Nationals on this side of the House will always look after every single person. Our investments in health demonstrate that not only have we cleaned up the mess that Labor left behind but we have built the promised hospitals that were never built by them, we have turbocharged health infrastructure delivery, and we have continued significant investment in recurrent expenditure to ensure we have record numbers of nurses and doctors at every single hospital across the State, no matter where people live.

COVID-19 AND HEALTH

Mr JAMES GRIFFIN (Manly) (15:17): Via video link: My question is addressed to the Minister for Health and Medical Research. Will the Minister update the House on [inaudible]?

The SPEAKER: I will repeat the question because many words were lost. Will the Minister update the House on how the New South Wales Government and NSW Health can work together to get communities through the pandemic and back to doing the things they love?

Mr BRAD HAZZARD (Wakehurst—Minister for Health and Medical Research) (15:17): I thank the member for Manly, and now the Parliamentary Secretary for Health and Veterans, for his question. Throughout the pandemic period I have worked very closely with him to ensure that the Government responded in a range of ways to the most challenging health episode in our lifetime and indeed in the past 100 years. I also thank the member for Cootamundra, who has been appointed the Parliamentary Secretary for Regional Health. Similarly, she has ensured that the messages from across New South Wales in relation to the challenges that COVID has presented to us all have come back to the Government.

In essence, the question is how the Government has realised the achievements we have in this most challenging of times. It is largely due to a number of factors. First, the Government was able to reach out to a community that was willing to listen to and work with us. I thank the entire community of New South Wales because they listened to the messages that were delivered day after day by members of the crisis Cabinet team. The team included the current Premier, former Premier Gladys Berejiklian, the current Deputy Premier Paul Toole, and former Deputy Premier John Barilaro. The Government has listened to the health advice and to the incredible people who work in our public health system.

When I was listening to the first few questions today, I was not surprised by Labor's line of questioning but I was disappointed because the honest truth is that the Opposition knows that more money has been spent over the past 11 years by this Government than Labor would have dreamed of in its 16 years in government. Labor members know that hospitals are being built in this State where Labor was unable to do it because Labor was unable to manage the financial needs of this State in its 16 years in government.

Mr Michael Daley: You know that is not true.

The SPEAKER: The member for Maroubra will cease interjecting. The Minister will not take the bait. The Minister has the call.

Mr BRAD HAZZARD: Before I move to other factors I want to raise, I add that the health system in this State is the envy of every other Liberal and Labor health Minister in the country. I talk to them weekly and they are envious of what we have achieved in this State, which is as a result of the money that has been put into the health system not only for infrastructure but also for staffing. That takes me to the issue of staff. I start by thanking the incredible public health team across the State. One of the measures this Government implemented early on, which set us up extremely well, was to ensure a public health unit in every part of the State. There are 12 public

health units and each one has expert epidemiologists, virologists and a range of other medical experts who know their local area and understand their local community.

At the Ministry of Health, the amazing Dr Kerry Chant leads a team of doctors, including Dr Marianne Gale, Dr Jeremy McAnulty, Dr Christine Selby and Dr Vicky Sheppard, and a range of people who bring their expertise to the table. It does not matter what issue arises, they analyse it and work with their public health units across the State to address it. I thank our broad health system staff: our nurses, our doctors, our cleaners, the people who have been at the front line. I thank everyone in the entire system, who listened to the messages and ensured that the messages of leadership offered by our public health physicians were heard. I thank NSW Health Pathology and the private pathology providers who have partnered with NSW Health in this most challenging of times. Today the State recorded 360 new locally acquired cases. One month and one day ago the figure was 1,599 cases. *[Extension of time]*

In one month and one day we have come down from 1,599 to 360 newly acquired cases. We are learning to live with a virus, which is not going to go away. It will become endemic; it will become something that we have to live with. But we also need to understand the absolutely essential need to be vaccinated. Our community has come out in droves to be vaccinated. We reached the 70 per cent double dose vaccination rate last week and that led to a reduction in restrictions and the movement back towards the lives that we all want. We are now getting very close to an 80 per cent double dose vaccination rate. I thank the broad community. There are more than 28 local government areas across New South Wales that currently have a 95 per cent first dose vaccination rate. We are leading the country. The New South Wales community is leading Australia out of the pandemic.

I stress that it could only happen through a true partnership that has occurred between Government and the community. I also thank the Aboriginal medical services, the local health districts, the Australian Defence Force, the GPs, the pharmacists and everybody who has come together in this battle against the unseen enemy. Notwithstanding the political rhetoric, the disappointment and the attack about infrastructure that I heard earlier—which is simply not true—I thank the members of this place regardless of whether they are Liberal, National, Labor or independent. The truth is that away from this political place, all of the members have worked together very well with their communities and Health to achieve what we are achieving and together we will achieve much more.

LGBTI+ COMMUNITY

Mr ALEX GREENWICH (Sydney) (15:25): I congratulate the new Premier and the new Deputy Premier on their appointments. I thank the former Premier and Deputy Premier for their commitment to our State during a very difficult time. I direct my question to the Premier. Will the Premier work with me to ensure that the LGBTI+ community is supported by the Government and not discriminated against in New South Wales law?

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET (Epping—Premier) (15:25): I thank the member for Sydney for his question. I recognise the work that he has conducted during this term of Government with the Executive. He has not just advocated for the LGBTI community but more importantly for the people of Sydney and his community, which has been hit incredibly hard during the pandemic. That is what every member in this Parliament should be doing and should continue to do as we go through this period.

Mr Brad Hazzard: And with dignity and courtesy as well.

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: With dignity and courtesy, as we saw from his question. We have to recognise the diverse needs of the people who elect us and make sure that everyone has a voice and is represented. When I became Premier, I said that I would serve every single person across New South Wales. That is what I have always tried to do as a member of this Government; as Premier that is what I will continue to do. For many years the member for Sydney and I have had a strong, constructive working relationship. We do not always agree on every issue and we do not always agree on how to resolve every issue. I believe that our constructive relationship shows how progress can be made in a Parliament where we are all elected to represent a huge diversity of people. I assure the member for Sydney that I will continue to work with him constructively to ensure that the LGBTI members of our community do feel supported and do not face injustice in New South Wales.

I am a Liberal and a fundamental aspect of being a Liberal is understanding that governments should, as much as possible, stay out of people's lives. We believe that a strong society is not the product of a government or programs but a product of flourishing families, individuals, communities and businesses across our State. Human flourishing is possible only when the inherent dignity of everyone in our society is recognised and affirmed. That is central to what I stand for as a Liberal Premier. We do not believe in quantifying someone's worth based on their sexuality or any other attribute, be it the colour of their skin, their religion, their gender, their age or their politics. We believe in equality before the law and those beliefs will inform everything that our Government does when it comes to addressing the needs and concerns of every one of our citizens. I acknowledge

that in our State's history, this has not always been the case. LGBTI members of our community have suffered grave injustices that were not acceptable in the past and they are not acceptable now. Where there is still work to be done to address these injustices, we will do it.

I also acknowledge that in any society a wide array of individuals and groups lay claim to competing rights and responsibilities. We must always work together in a spirit of diversity and inclusion to advance the rights for all. Let us also recognise that LGBTI citizens do not form some homogenous group in our society. They do not speak with just one voice and one mind. They span geographical, cultural, ideological and political divides. Within Government we are proud that our Cabinet is made up of talented and driven people from a range of diverse backgrounds, with different talents, drives and beliefs. We understand that for many LGBTI citizens in New South Wales, the fact of their sexuality is not what defines them. They are simply citizens of the great State of New South Wales, each contributing in their own unique way to build a better future for our State.

Across New South Wales, members of the LGBTI community are members of our families, workplaces and communities. Like everyone they want great schools, great hospitals, great roads, great public transport and sound economic management, and we will continue to deliver on all of these. Above all, they want opportunity and a fair go: not special treatment but equal treatment. The Government I lead will continue to listen and understand where LGBTI members of the community continue to face injustice. We will continue to provide the necessary support to overcome those injustices and affirm the dignity of every single member of the LGBTI community. I hope that we will be able to do that as constructively as we have in the engagement we have had with the member for Sydney over the course of our time in government. I continue to look forward to working with the member for Sydney on these issues as we move forward.

COVID-19 AND WESTERN SYDNEY ECONOMIC RECOVERY

Mr PETER SIDGREAVES (Camden) (15:30): Via video link: My question is addressed to the Minister for Jobs, Investment, Tourism and Western Sydney, and Minister for Industry and Trade. Will the Minister update the House on what the New South Wales Government is doing to support the economic recovery of western Sydney?

Mr STUART AYRES (Penrith—Minister for Jobs, Investment, Tourism and Western Sydney, and Minister for Industry and Trade) (15:30): I think the Panthers win did help the economy of western Sydney. I thank the member for Camden for his question. I know that the member for Camden is a passionate advocate for his community, which has been leading the way in the fight against this insidious coronavirus. In the local government area of Camden, the first dose vaccination rate for the community is now over 95 per cent and the second dose rate is over 80 per cent. The South Western Sydney Local Health District is led ably by Chief Executive Amanda Larkin. I say a very big thank you to all of the doctors, nurses and medical support staff who have been on the front line, whether in a hospital, a testing clinic or talking to people in their homes about getting vaccinated.

I will touch on a couple of themes that I have heard today. I have been involved with the COVID response over the past 20 or so months. I have been part of the crisis policy Cabinet and I am part of the new COVID and economic recovery subcommittee of Cabinet. Working through the pandemic has placed in front of leaders of the community some of the most challenging and serious decisions that they have ever had to make. I say to every single person across New South Wales, not just in western Sydney, that we have not made one decision to discriminate based on geography. We have always made our decisions to discriminate against where the virus is located. That is what we have done. Last year we made the very difficult decision to shut down the northern beaches and lock it away from the other parts of our community because that was the right health decision to make. We made a decision that impacted that local economy in the same way we made decisions to create local government areas of concern.

I hated and detested those decisions because I knew their impact on those communities. I only have to look south of the border to Victoria and the rate of infection and death to understand the difference between the two models and the vastly different position that New South Wales is in today. The numbers that the health Minister said just a few moments ago—from over 1,500 to less than 400 in a little over a month—are a reflection of strong leadership and the community listening clearly to the health advice, getting vaccinated and following the rules that we put in place even though they knew that they were doing themselves a significant disadvantage, particularly from a financial perspective. It takes a huge effort from the community, whether they are in Fairfield or Canterbury or Liverpool or Camden or Penrith or Blacktown, to say, "I am going to sacrifice my own financial position to put the betterment of the rest of my citizens before me." That is a remarkable thing for our citizenship to do over the past 20 months. I have never been prouder to be the member for Penrith and the Minister for western Sydney because I have seen what that community has done over the past 20 months. To be able to get rid of those local government areas of concern yesterday and banish them for good is a recognition of the hard work that people right across western Sydney have done.

Now it is time for us to supercharge our economy. The single best form of business support that exists is a customer. It does not matter what amount of support the Government can give, it will never ever spend more money than the customers in our community do. The only way that those customers get back into our businesses, our florists in Leppington, our coffee shops in Casula, our pubs in Penrith and the small bars in Blacktown is by continuing to reduce the spread of virus in our community and increasing our vaccination rates. That is what the community has done and that has allowed us to make the decision to reduce restrictions and allow customers to go back into shops. That has meant more businesses are back open and more people are being employed. That is what we are doing to recover from COVID. The Government is going to spend a lot of money as well. We are going to prime pump the economy. We have seen that today with the announcement of our small business support packages. Small businesses can now use up to \$2,000 to offset a number of fees and charges, to make sure they can get back on the road and get to one extra job a day. [*Extension of time*]

Small businesses can now use up to \$2,000 to reduce their costs, to make sure they get back on the road, to get to one extra job and to employ one extra person because that is how we are going to recover the economy. We did it last year when we lost over 300,000 jobs and we recovered every single one of them plus some, and we will absolutely do it again. On top of that, not once did the Government slow down its infrastructure agenda. All the way through the pandemic we have kept our main infrastructure program going. I have heard from those opposite the concept of division and the propagating of a tale of two cities. I have not seen that once in the past 20 months. I have seen citizens sacrificing themselves to make sure the whole community can move forward together.

If the Opposition wants to be the side of division, the Government will be the side of unity. If they want to be the side of fear, we will be the side of hope because that is what we stand for in our community. Those opposite want to talk about hospital waiting times. I will tell them about Nepean Hospital and an emergency department that was built for 40,000 people and was supposed to last for 25 years but it did not get past 10 years. To fix that, the Government is spending \$1 billion, allocated by the Premier when he was Treasurer, and that facility is being built in that community right now. A \$1 billion hospital and a new emergency department coming.

Those opposite, who had the opportunity to treat western Sydney with a modicum of respect, completely underinvested in western Sydney and left it to us to fix up their mess. We have not walked away. Whether it is Nepean Hospital, Westmead Hospital, Blacktown Hospital or Liverpool Hospital, the Government is making sure that those communities have the services they need. When the State was faced with a rainy day, the most fearsome pandemic we have faced in a century in the State, it was the Government's economic management that allowed us to attack it with ferocity, backed up by a community that has supported us every step of the way.

Documents

OFFICE OF THE CHILDREN'S GUARDIAN

Reports

The SPEAKER: In accordance with section 99 of the Electoral Act 2017, I announce receipt of the report of the Children's Guardian investigation into child protection declaration made by the member for Upper Hunter, received 16 July 2021. I order that the report be printed.

INFORMATION AND PRIVACY COMMISSION

Reports

The SPEAKER: In accordance with section 39 of the Government Information (Information Commissioner) Act 2009, I announce receipt of the report of the Information and Privacy Commissioner entitled *Report on the Operation of the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009, 2019-2020*, received 26 July 2021. I order that the report be printed.

NSW CHILD DEATH REVIEW TEAM

Reports

The SPEAKER: In accordance with section 43 of the Community Services (Complaints, Reviews and Monitoring) Act 1993, I announce receipt of the following documents:

- (1) Report of the NSW Child Death Review Team entitled *Biennial report of the deaths of children in New South Wales: 2018 and 2019*, incorporating reviewable deaths of children, dated 24 August 2021.
- (2) Erratum to the Report of the NSW Child Death Review Team entitled *Biennial report of the deaths of children in New South Wales: 2018 and 2019*, incorporating reviewable deaths of children, dated 24 August 2021.

I order that the documents be printed.

INSPECTOR OF THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION**Reports**

The SPEAKER: In accordance with section 78 of the Independent Commission Against Corruption Act 1988, I announce receipt of the report of the Inspector of the Independent Commission Against Corruption entitled *Report concerning circumstances surrounding the Independent Commission Against Corruption's use of certain telephone intercept material during Operation Keppel (Special Report 2021/03)*, dated 27 August 2021. I order that the report be printed.

NSW HEALTH**Reports**

The SPEAKER: In accordance with section 16 of the Abortion Law Reform Act 2019, I announce receipt of the report of NSW Health entitled *Report of the review of termination of pregnancy for the purpose of sex selection in NSW*, dated December 2020, received 6 September 2021. I order that the report be printed.

LIQUOR ACT**Reports**

The SPEAKER: In accordance with section 163 of the Liquor Act 2007, I table the progress report on parliamentary priorities required under section 163 of the Liquor Act 2007, dated June 2021. I order that the report be printed.

REGISTER OF DISCLOSURES

The SPEAKER: In accordance with clause 21 of the Constitution (Disclosures by Members) Regulation 1983, I table the Register of Disclosures by Members of the Legislative Assembly as at 30 June 2021, volumes one and two. I order that the document be printed.

PARLIAMENTARY ETHICS ADVISER**Reports**

The SPEAKER: I table the report of the Parliamentary Ethics Adviser for the year ended 30 June 2021. I order that the report be printed.

AUDITOR-GENERAL**Reports**

The CLERK: In accordance with section 63 of the Public Finance and Audit Act 1983, I announce receipt of the Performance Audit Report of the Auditor-General entitled *Grants administration for disaster relief*, dated 24 June 2021, received out of session on 24 June 2021 and authorised to be printed.

In accordance with section 63C of the Government Sector Audit Act 1983, I announce receipt of the following reports:

- (1) Performance Audit Report of the Auditor-General entitled *Managing cyber risk*, dated 13 July 2021, received out of session on 13 July 2021 and authorised to be printed.
- (2) Performance Audit Report of the Auditor-General entitled *Fast-tracked assessments program*, dated 27 July 2021, received out of session on 27 July 2021 and authorised to be printed.
- (3) Performance Audit Report of the Auditor-General entitled *Managing climate risks to assets and services*, dated 7 September 2021, received out of session on 7 September 2021 and authorised to be printed.
- (4) Performance Audit Report of the Auditor-General entitled *Access to health services in custody*, dated 23 September 2021, received out of session on 23 September 2021 and authorised to be printed.

OFFICE OF TRANSPORT SAFETY INVESTIGATIONS**Reports**

The CLERK: In accordance with section 46D of the Passenger Transport Act 1990, I announce receipt of the following reports:

- (1) Report of the Office of Transport Safety Investigations entitled *Ferry Safety Investigation Report - Ferry Pemulwuy Loss of Control Sydney Harbour, NSW, 2 July and 2 November 2020*, received out of session on 28 June 2021 and authorised to be printed.
- (2) Report of the Office of Transport Safety Investigations entitled *Bus Safety Investigation Report - Engine Bay Fire, Tongarra, NSW, 3 September 2018*, received out of session on 2 August 2021 and authorised to be printed.

- (3) Report of the Office of Transport Safety Investigations entitled *Bus Safety Investigation Report - Engine Bay Fire, Surry Hills, NSW 27 November 2017*, received out of session on 2 August 2021 and authorised to be printed.
- (4) Report of the Office of Transport Safety Investigations entitled *Bus Safety Investigation Report - Engine Bay Fire, Heatherbrae, 19 September 2019*, received out of session on 2 August 2021 and authorised to be printed.
- (5) Report of the Office of Transport Safety Investigations entitled *Rail Safety Investigation Report - Incorrect Placement of Worksite Protection Zig Zag, NSW, 15 September 2020*, dated September 2020, received out of session on 1 September 2021 and authorised to be printed.

SMOKE-FREE ENVIRONMENT ACT

Reports

The CLERK: I announce receipt of the report on the 2021 Review of the Exemption for Private Gaming Rooms under the Smoke-free Environment Act 2000, received out of session on 30 June 2021 and authorised to be printed.

Committees

JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON COERCIVE CONTROL

Reports

The CLERK: I announce receipt of the following documents:

- (1) Report of the Joint Select Committee on Coercive Control entitled *Coercive control in domestic relationships*, Report 1/57, dated June 2021, received out of session on 30 June 2021 and authorised to be printed.
- (2) Erratum to the Report No. 1/57 of the Joint Select Committee on Coercive Control entitled *Coercive control in domestic relationships*, dated June 2021, received out of session on 1 July 2021 and authorised to be printed.

Documents

INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION

Reports

The CLERK: In accordance with section 35 of the Law Enforcement and National Security (Assumed Identities) Act 2010, I announce receipt of the following reports:

- (1) Report pursuant to section 35 of the Law Enforcement and National Security (Assumed Identities) Act 2010 of the Independent Commission Against Corruption for the year ended 30 June 2018, together with a statement of reasons for lateness, received out of session on 9 July 2021 and authorised to be printed.
- (2) Report pursuant to section 35 of the Law Enforcement and National Security (Assumed Identities) Act 2010 of the Independent Commission Against Corruption for the year ended 30 June 2019, together with a statement of reasons for lateness, received out of session on 9 July 2021 and authorised to be printed.
- (3) Report pursuant to section 35 of the Law Enforcement and National Security (Assumed Identities) Act 2010 of the Independent Commission Against Corruption for the year ended 30 June 2020, together with a statement of reasons for lateness, received out of session on 9 July 2021 and authorised to be printed.
- (4) Report pursuant to section 35 of the Law Enforcement and National Security (Assumed Identities) Act 2010 of the Independent Commission Against Corruption for the year ended 30 June 2021, received out of session on 9 July 2021 and authorised to be printed.

Committees

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PARLIAMENTARY PRIVILEGE AND ETHICS

Reports

The CLERK: I announce receipt of the report of the Standing Committee on Parliamentary Privilege and Ethics entitled *Review of the proposed resolution for the establishment of a Parliamentary Compliance Officer*, Report 1/57, dated July 2021, received out of session on 16 July 2021 and authorised to be printed.

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON ROAD SAFETY

Reports

The CLERK: I announce receipt of report No. 1/57 of the Joint Standing Committee on Road Safety entitled *Reducing trauma on local roads in NSW*, dated July 2021, received out of session on 16 July 2021 and authorised to be printed.

*Documents***RURAL FIRES ACT****Reports**

The CLERK: I announce receipt of the report on the review of the Bushfires Legislation Amendment Bill 2020, dated June 2021, received out of session on 27 July 2021 and authorised to be printed.

INSPECTOR OF THE LAW ENFORCEMENT CONDUCT COMMISSION**Reports**

The CLERK: In accordance with section 242 of the Law Enforcement (Powers and Responsibilities) Act 2002, I announce receipt of the report pursuant to section 242A of the Law Enforcement (Powers and Responsibilities) Act 2002 by the Inspector of the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission on Covert Search Warrants for the period ended 28 May 2021, dated July 2021, received out of session on 4 August 2021 and authorised to be printed.

*Committees***LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON LAW AND SAFETY****Reports**

The CLERK: I announce receipt of report 2/57 of the Legislative Assembly Committee on Law and Safety entitled *Physical Health of Police and Emergency Services Workers in NSW*, dated August 2021, received out of session on 6 August 2021 and authorised to be printed.

*Documents***DISABILITY INCLUSION ACT****Reports**

The CLERK: I announce receipt of the report entitled *Disability Inclusion Action Plans – Progress Reports - NSW Local Councils 2019-2020*, received out of session on 6 August 2021 and authorised to be printed.

*Committees***COMMITTEE ON THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION****Reports**

The CLERK: In accordance with section 68A of the Independent Commission Against Corruption Act 1988, I announce receipt of report No. 3/57 of the Committee on the Independent Commission Against Corruption entitled *Review of the 2019-2020 annual reports of the ICAC and the Inspector of the ICAC*, dated August 2021, received out of session on 11 August 2021 and authorised to be printed.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING**Reports**

The CLERK: I announce receipt of report 2/57 of the Legislative Assembly Committee on Environment and Planning entitled *Sustainability of energy supply and resources in New South Wales*, dated August 2021, received out of session on 13 August 2021 and authorised to be printed.

COMMITTEE ON THE HEALTH CARE COMPLAINTS COMMISSION**Reports**

The CLERK: In accordance with section 70A of the Health Care Complaints Act 1993, I announce receipt of report No. 2/57 of the Committee on the Health Care Complaints Commission entitled *Review of the Health Care Complaints Commission 2019-20 Annual Report*, dated August 2021, received out of session on 13 August 2021 and authorised to be printed.

*Documents***RESILIENCE NSW****Reports**

The CLERK: In accordance with section 140 of the Rural Fires Act 1997, I announce receipt of the report of Resilience NSW entitled *NSW Bushfire Inquiry 2020 Progress Report Implementation of the*

NSW Government's response to the NSW Bushfire Inquiry. Reporting Period April to June 2021, received out of session on 18 August 2021 and authorised to be printed.

STATE INSURANCE AND CARE GOVERNANCE ACT

Reports

The CLERK: I announce receipt of the report on the Statutory Review of the State Insurance and Care Governance Act 2015, received out of session on 19 August 2021 and authorised to be printed.

SAFEWORK NSW

Reports

The CLERK: I announce receipt of the report of SafeWork NSW entitled *NSW Dust Disease Register Annual Report 2020-21*, dated July 2021, received out of session on 20 August 2021 and authorised to be printed.

STRATA SCHEMES ANIMAL MANAGEMENT ACT

Reports

The CLERK: I announce receipt of the report pursuant to section 276A of the Strata Schemes Management Act 2015 entitled *Review of the keeping of animals in strata schemes in NSW*, dated August 2021, received out of session on 20 August 2021 and authorised to be printed.

GAMING MACHINE TAX ACT

Reports

The CLERK: I announce receipt of the notice pursuant to section 16 of the Gaming Machine Tax Act 2001 regarding amendments to *ClubGRANTS Guidelines*, dated 22 August 2021, received out of session on 23 August 2021 and authorised to be printed.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Reports

The CLERK: I announce receipt of the report of the Public Service Commission entitled *Report on the Independent Review of the NSW Government Sector Employment Act 2013*, dated 30 November 2020, together with the Government response to the independent review, received out of session on 24 August 2021 and authorised to be printed.

Committees

JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE ANTI-DISCRIMINATION AMENDMENT (RELIGIOUS FREEDOMS AND EQUALITY) BILL 2020

Government Response

The CLERK: I announce receipt of the Government response to report 1/57 of the Joint Select Committee on the Anti-Discrimination Amendment (Religious Freedoms and Equality) Bill 2020 entitled *Inquiry into the Anti-Discrimination Amendment (Religious Freedoms and Equality) Bill 2020*, received out of session on 6 September 2021 and authorised to be printed.

LEGISLATION REVIEW COMMITTEE

Reports

The CLERK: In accordance with section 10 of the Legislation Review Act 1987, I announce receipt of the report of the Legislation Review Committee entitled *Legislation Review Digest No. 33/57*, dated 7 September 2021, received out of session on 7 September 2021 and authorised to be printed.

Government Response

The CLERK: I announce receipt of the Government response to report 1/56 of the Legislation Review Committee entitled *Inquiry into the Operation of the Legislation Review Act 1987*, received out of session on 14 September 2021 and authorised to be printed.

*Documents***INDEPENDENT PRICING AND REGULATORY TRIBUNAL****Reports**

The CLERK: I announce receipt of the report of the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal entitled *NSW Energy Savings Scheme - Compliance and Operation in 2020, Report to the Minister*, dated July 2021, received out of session on 8 September 2021 and authorised to be printed.

I announce receipt of the following reports of the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal, dated September 2021, received out of session on 5 October 2021 and authorised to be printed:

- (1) *Review of prices for the Water Administration Ministerial Corporation from 1 October 2021 to 30 June 2025 - Final Report.*
- (2) *Water Administration Ministerial Corporation - Maximum prices for water management services from 1 October 2021 - Final Determination.*
- (3) *Review of Water NSW's rural bulk water prices from 1 October 2021 to 30 June 2025 - Final Report.*
- (4) *Water NSW - Prices for Bulk Water Services from 1 October 2021 - Final Determination.*

NSW ELECTORAL COMMISSION**Reports**

The CLERK: I announce receipt of the report of the NSW Electoral Commission entitled *Report on the conduct of the Upper Hunter State by-election 22 May 2021*, received out of session on 13 September 2021 and authorised to be printed.

*Committees***LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON INVESTMENT, INDUSTRY AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT****Government Response**

The CLERK: I announce receipt of the Government response to report 2/57 of the Legislative Assembly Committee on Investment, Industry and Regional Development entitled *Final report on support for drought affected communities in NSW*, received out of session on 24 September 2021 and authorised to be printed.

*Petitions***PETITIONS RECEIVED**

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

Railway Level Crossings

Petition requesting the Legislative Assembly make warning lights mandatory at all level crossings, decrease speed limits on highways as approaching level crossings and make trains more visible with reflective material and lights, received from **Ms Steph Cooke**.

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

*Committees***LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE****Membership**

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN: I move:

That Joanna Elizabeth Haylen be appointed to serve on the Legislative Assembly Committee on Transport and Infrastructure in place of Christopher John Minns, discharged.

Motion agreed to.

*Petitions***PETITIONS RECEIVED**

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

Chief Secretary's Office

Petition requesting the Government abandon its plans to destroy the Chief Secretary's Office and instead re-use it for other purposes that do not change or damage the exterior or unique interior of the building, received from **Mr David Mehan**.

Tweed Coast Police

Petition requesting the Legislative Assembly increase the budget and resources for the Tweed Coast Police to improve police effectiveness in the area, received from **Mr Geoff Provest**.

Drinking Water Catchments

Petition requesting the Legislative Assembly direct the Government to introduce mandatory protection and governance arrangements to protect mapped drinking water catchments, including the prohibition of intensive enterprise including livestock development that is detrimental to the supply and quality of water for human consumption, received from **Mr Jamie Parker**.

Rental Property Pet Ownership

Petition requesting the Legislative Assembly change the law so property owners cannot refuse pets in a rental property in New South Wales, received from **Mr Alex Greenwich**.

COVID-19 Small Business Hardship Grants

Petition requesting the Government to extend the COVID-19 Small Business Hardship Grants to the Liverpool Local Government Area, received from **Mr Paul Lynch**.

Single-Use Styrofoam

Petition requesting the Legislative Assembly ban all single-use styrofoam and incentivise the uptake of environmentally friendly options, received from **Mr James Griffin**.

Illawarra Sports Stadium Redevelopment

Petition requesting the Legislative Assembly fund the Illawarra Sports Stadium's proposal for a \$21 million stadium redevelopment project, received from **Mr Paul Scully**.

COVID-19 Areas of Concern and Military

Petition requesting the Legislative Assembly discontinue military involvement in COVID-19 local government areas of concern, received from **Ms Melanie Gibbons**.

Leppington Public High School

Petition requesting the Legislative Assembly build a new public high school at Leppington, received from **Mr Paul Lynch**.

Barrington Forest Road

Petition requesting the Legislative Assembly provide immediate financial and/or other assistance to the Forest Corporation to urgently fix Barrington Forest Road, received from **Mr Dave Layzell**.

Royal Commission Into Corrective Services

Petition requesting the Legislative Assembly establish a royal commission into corrective services to investigate the sector and provide solutions to resolve and end mass incarceration, received from **Ms Jenny Aitchison**.

Parramatta Light Rail Stage 2

Petition requesting the Legislative Assembly extend the Parramatta Light Rail Stage 2 to Strathfield Railway Station and guarantee that the T7 Olympic Park Line to Lidcombe railway station will not be replaced by future light rail, received from **Ms Lynda Voltz**.

Fern Bay Traffic Lights

Petition requesting the Legislative Assembly install traffic lights at the Nelson Bay Road and Vardon Road intersection in Fern Bay, received from **Mr Tim Crakanthorp**.

Port Macquarie Hastings Water Fluoridation

Petition requesting the Legislative Assembly restore water fluoridation to the Port Macquarie Hastings Local Government Area, received from **Mrs Leslie Williams**.

Write-Off Resale Conditions

Petition requesting the Legislative Assembly allow vehicles that have been declared a statutory write-off due to economic cost of repair only to be re-registered for use in New South Wales subject to conditions, received from **Mrs Tanya Davies**.

401 Bus Route

Petition requesting the Legislative Assembly extend the 401 bus route to increase public transport services between the suburbs of Wentworth Point, Newington and Lidcombe, received from **Ms Lynda Voltz**.

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

Kurri Kurri Hospital

Petition requesting the Government and the Minister for Health and Medical Research to continue providing essential services at Kurri Kurri Hospital, received from **Mr Clayton Barr**.

1080 Poison and Aerial Culling

Petition requesting the Legislative Assembly to ban 1080 poison and the aerial culling of animals in New South Wales, received from **Mr Alex Greenwich**.

Clarence Way

Petition requesting the Legislative Assembly support the application by Kyogle Council for funding to repair and upgrade Clarence Way from the Bruxner Highway to Urbenville under the Fixing Country Roads Program, received from **Ms Janelle Saffin**.

Daylight Saving

Petition requesting the Legislative Assembly reduce the length of the daylight saving period from six months to four months, received from **Mrs Helen Dalton**.

Small Business COVID-19 Support Grant

Petition requesting the Legislative Assembly lower the threshold for the small business COVID-19 support grant and any future COVID-19 hardship grants for small businesses and sole traders, received from **Mr Alex Greenwich**.

Riverwood Commuter Car Park Compulsory Acquisition

Petition requesting the Legislative Assembly stop the process of compulsory acquisition of three family homes in Riverwood for a commuter car park, received from **Mr Jihad Dib**.

Local Government Election Candidate Eligibility

Petition requesting the Legislative Assembly disallow non-resident candidates from running in local government elections and change the eligibility requirements of candidates, received from **Mr Greg Warren**.

Glenlee, Lugarno Farm

Petition requesting the Legislative Assembly save the historic Glenlee, Lugarno Farm, dedicate the property as a public reserve and create a community centre, received from **Mr Mark Coure**.

Tahmoor South Coal Project

Petition requesting the Legislative Assembly oppose the Tahmoor South Coal Project, received from **Mr Jamie Parker**.

Ausgrid Vegetation Management

Petition requesting the Legislative Assembly call on the Minister for Energy and Environment to direct Ausgrid to undertake an urgent review of its vegetation management policies and pruning practices, investigate the installation of aerial bundled cables in the tree-lined streets of Newcastle, review how often trees are pruned with a view to increasing the frequency so that harsh pruning is not required, and engage and consult with the Newcastle community, received from **Mr Tim Crakanthorp**.

COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution

Petition requesting the Government to equitably distribute COVID-19 vaccines across the entirety of New South Wales, including the communities of regional New South Wales, received from **Mr Philip Donato**.

Dogs on Sydney Ferries

Petition requesting the Legislative Assembly allow dogs on lead be permitted on Sydney ferries, received from **Ms Felicity Wilson**.

COVID-19 Safe Weddings

Petition requesting the Legislative Assembly approve COVID-19 safe weddings with a minimum of five attendees, received from **Ms Jo Haylen**.

Herbert Street Precinct Development

Petition requesting the Legislative Assembly cease the proposed Herbert Street Precinct development, preserve the Royal North Shore Hospital [RNSH] land for future hospital growth, ensure any future development of RNSH land is used for patient related health care by the hospital, and expand the RNSH campus to meet the healthcare needs of future generations, received from **Ms Gladys Berejiklian**.

Workers Compensation Legislation

Petition requesting the Legislative Assembly amend the Workers Compensation Act to include NSW Mines Rescue, subsequently Coal Services since 2001, so mines rescue firefighters diagnosed with cancer can claim compensation, received from **Mr Ryan Park**.

Nepean Hospital Palliative Care Unit

Petition requesting the Legislative Assembly establish a dedicated palliative care unit at Nepean Hospital, received from **Mrs Tanya Davies**.

COVID-19 Areas of Concern

Petition requesting the Legislative Assembly change the COVID-19 areas of concern to hot spot suburbs rather than entire local government areas, received from **Ms Jodi McKay**.

Ring-Shaped Items and Wildlife Endangerment

Petition requesting the Legislative Assembly to reduce the use and disposal of ring-shaped items and encourage the use of alternatives in order to protect native wildlife from the risk of entanglement and death, received from **Mr Mark Coure**.

RESPONSES TO PETITIONS

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

The Hon. John Barilaro—Clarence Valley Mining—lodged 9 June 2021 (Ms Janelle Saffin)

The Hon. Brad Hazzard—Culcairn Multipurpose Service—lodged 9 June 2021 (Mr Justin Clancy)

The Hon. Brad Hazzard—Goulburn Base Hospital MRI—lodged 22 June 2021 (Mrs Wendy Tuckerman)

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

The Hon. Andrew Constance—Picton Bypass—lodged 8 June 2021 (Mr Nathaniel Smith)

The Hon. Andrew Constance—Jannali Commuter Car Park Compulsory Acquisition—lodged 8 June 2021 (Mr Chris Minns)

The Hon. Andrew Constance—Region 7 Bus Network—lodged 8 June 2021 (Mr Chris Minns)

The Hon. Rob Stokes—Wallacia Cemetery Development—lodged 10 June 2021 (Mr Peter Sidgreaves)

The Hon. David Elliott—Ingleburn Community Policing Centre—lodged 8 June 2021 (Mr Anoulack Chanthivong)

The Hon. Sarah Mitchell—Consent Sex Education—lodged 8 June 2021 (Ms Jenny Leong)

The Hon. Sarah Mitchell—Education Legislation Amendment—lodged 8 June 2021 (Ms Jenny Leong)

The Hon. Sarah Mitchell—Sydney Olympic Park High School Catchment—lodged 22 June 2021 (Ms Lynda Voltz)

The Hon. Kevin Anderson—Tweed Greyhound Track Development—lodged 8 June 2021 (Ms Tamara Smith)

The Hon. Matt Kean—Cooks River Pipeline Route—lodged 8 June 2021 (Ms Sophie Cotsis)

The Hon. Matt Kean—Mt Warning Summit Track—lodged 22 June 2021 (Mr Geoff Provest)

The Hon. Melinda Pavey—South Ballina Beach Four-Wheel Drive Access—lodged 22 June 2021 (Mr Philip Donato)

Business of the House

BUSINESS LAPSED

The SPEAKER: I advise the House that in accordance with Standing Order 105, general business notices of motions (for bills) No. 1 [Crimes Amendment (Enthusiastic Consent) Bill 2021] and No. 2 [Water NSW Amendment (Flood Mitigation) Bill 2021], general business orders of the day (for bills) No. 1 [Government Information (Public Access) Amendment (Recklessly Destroying Government Records) Bill 2021], No. 4 [NSW Jobs First Bill 2021], No. 5, [Canterbury Park Racecourse (Sale and Redevelopment Moratorium) Bill 2021] and No. 6 [Residential Tenancies Amendment (Reasons for Termination) Bill 2021], and general business notices of motions (general notices) Nos 2196 to 2200 and 2202 to 2594 have lapsed.

Bills

ELECTRIC VEHICLES (REVENUE ARRANGEMENTS) BILL 2021

ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND ASSESSMENT AMENDMENT (INFRASTRUCTURE CONTRIBUTIONS) BILL 2021

NSW GENERATIONS FUNDS AMENDMENT BILL 2021

Second Reading Debate

Debate resumed from an earlier hour.

Mr STEPHEN BALI (Blacktown) (15:40): Via video link: I resume my contribution to the Electric Vehicles (Revenue Arrangements) Bill 2021 and cognate bills. Prior to the interruption of debate, I raised key issues of concern. One key issue relates to a driver who elects to prepay their anticipated kilometres for the year, for example, 8,000 kilometres. If that distance is reached after 10 months, their car could be stuck parked for two months. If the vehicle is driven during this period, the driver will be fined. It is ridiculous, given there is no ability to pay for an adjustment at the time of registration renewal. There is also no provision in the Electric Vehicles (Revenue Arrangements) Bill for monthly payments of the user tax in order to make it more affordable for people on tight budgets.

Earlier I spoke proudly about Blacktown City Council being the first council in Australia to provide free, publicly available recharging stations. Blacktown residents love their international home of motor racing at Eastern Creek, which hosts Top Fuel dragsters, the Supercars series, motocross bikes and karting, and will soon host speedway racing. The people of Blacktown City have also demonstrated their love of electric vehicles. Given that Blacktown City Council was the first council to adopt electric vehicle recharging technology, plus the fact that one in every 21 people in New South Wales lives in Blacktown City, we do not want the Government starving the area of vital funds for the installation of additional recharging stations. There needs to be transparency to allow for recharging stations to be built on a fair and equitable basis in the regions and across the greater Sydney area. I am also concerned that there will be different charges for electric trucks compared with electric bikes, buses and motorbikes. It would obviously be unfair for electric-powered bikes, cars, buses and trucks to be charged at the same rate. [*Extension of time*]

That is another first: the first virtual extension. Under mayor Tony Bleasdale's leadership, Blacktown council has also kept the focus on renewable energy and the adoption of non-fossil fuel vehicles. The research undertaken by Jon Bannister, the Blacktown council manager for plant and energy, has examined trucks using electricity as well as hydrogen power. Today electric trucks, for example, generally only have a range of about 80 kilometres, compared to a range of 400 kilometres for hydrogen fuel trucks. Hydrogen fuel is currently limited in availability and is an expensive source, but in the next few years this will change as technology improves.

Will this Government include all sources of fuel for all types of vehicles? This Liberal-Nationals Government is asleep at the wheel. If you use an electric pump then they will come to this Parliament with some half-baked legislation. All fuels and all sources ought to be considered now. I also acknowledge the trailblazing [inaudible] by Bill Shorten in the lead-up to the last Federal election to promote the goal of 50 per cent of Australian car sales involving electric vehicles by 2030. There was [inaudible] attack by the Federal Liberals and

Nationals, who claimed it was an unworkable policy. This was despite that in 2019 [inaudible] policy initiative [inaudible] in Norway, they have already achieved [inaudible] per cent of new car sales being electric vehicles and with more than a dozen nations across [inaudible] phasing out sales for internal combustion engines vehicles.

The New South Wales State Liberals' and Nationals' silence on this issue in 2019 was deafening. Today, 2½ years after the last Federal election, we are being introduced to a road usage tax on electric vehicles. Why? Because the Liberal Government acknowledges that over the next few years the sale of electric cars will increase dramatically, leaving a massive hole in the State budget. Whilst this legislation is a step in the right direction, this Government has again proved [inaudible] details and is penalising the people of western Sydney and regional areas.

I call on my colleague and friend from Mount Druitt. He has not moved for some time. We might need to give him a call to see if he is okay or if that is a scene from *Weekend at Bernie's*. I hope he is alright. Once again, I thank the Parliament for allowing me—from Blacktown—to lead on electric vehicles and to be the first person to speak on a Government bill virtually. I look forward to further deliberations and seeing members in Parliament soon.

Mr GEOFF PROVEST (Tweed) (15:46): It is a pleasure to be back in the Chamber; it is something we have missed and it is an important part of our roles on both sides of the House. I make a contribution to debate on the Electric Vehicles (Revenue Arrangements) Bill 2021. The objects of the bill are to:

- (a) impose a distance-related road user charge on registered operators of certain zero and low emissions vehicles, and
- (b) exempt certain zero and low emissions vehicles from the payment of duty under the *Duties Act 1997*, Chapter 9.

The Government's Electric Vehicle Strategy targets three of the top barriers impeding the widespread uptake of electric vehicles [EVs]. Those barriers relate to the high up-front cost of EVs, anxiety over range and charging, and the availability of different EV models. The Electric Vehicle Strategy contains a range of measures that will help address each of these concerns and lay the foundation for strong growth in the New South Wales electric vehicle sector.

Members on both sides of the House would agree that this is an important step as we face climate change challenges now and into the future and develop alternative sources of energy and transport. One of the issues with EVs—perhaps not so much here in the city environment, but in the country environment—is that drivers can easily cover two or three times the current range of electric vehicles. They have the convenience of quickly filling up with petrol or diesel and continuing on. I know technology has been advancing in the area of battery storage, life and charging, but even in my electorate of Tweed, where there are some 80,000 people and around 60,000 vehicles, the uptake of EVs is pretty minimal at this stage. There are power stations around, but I could probably count them on all my fingers and toes. There has not been a massive uptake.

The Government has committed to fully electrifying the New South Wales Government fleet procurement by 2029-30, with an interim target of 50 per cent by 2025-26. Similar initiatives are in place overseas. I note the Biden administration has announced plans to spend \$174 billion to upgrade its 640,000 government fleet vehicles to electric vehicles, and New Zealand plans to invest \$300 million to make its government fleet emission-free by 2025-26. By international standards, there are relatively few electric vehicles on the Australian market. As of mid-2020 there were only 11 battery-powered EV models available in Australia. In order to bring more affordable models into New South Wales, importers need to have confidence in the local market.

By electrifying the government fleet, the New South Wales Government will use its bulk purchasing power to incentivise importers to increase the range of EV models sold in New South Wales. This will help develop the EV sector, as New South Wales government fleet vehicles are typically resold on the second-hand market after three to five years. This will translate to a higher number of second-hand, light EVs that will be available to New South Wales drivers. Boosting the supply of high-quality second-hand electric vehicles will create more choice for buyers. The New South Wales Government will also review its procurement processes to make it as easy as possible for government agencies to buy EVs. This will create jobs and grow the economy.

The New South Wales Government is committed to maximising the employment and economic benefits of increasing the uptake of EVs in the State. New South Wales has a highly skilled workforce and a diverse range of businesses that can be leveraged to unlock new economic opportunities for the State to grow. Increasing the uptake of EVs in New South Wales presents an opportunity to create new jobs in the EV industry. These jobs could occur across many parts of the EV market, from manufacturing EV components to installing, managing and maintaining EV infrastructure, like chargers. There is also potential for the creation of new jobs in the electricity industry to generate the electricity needed to power EVs. This is an important step forward. We know our Federal colleagues are about to release their climate strategy policies and do it.

Coming from a regional area, a lot of these technology advancements, particularly in terms of batteries and longevity, require certain rare-earth elements. Therefore, it is important to maintain a focus on the mining industry. Occasionally I see an element in our community that would shut down mining altogether and paint it in a very poor light. For example, there is a mining lease on the North Coast looking at some rare minerals—cobalt is one and lithium is another one. Those are key ingredients in the new generation of batteries. If we do not dig up the minerals and make them available to the industry, we will not get the efficiencies and generate the market. There is a balance. It is a bit like the COVID challenges we are facing at the moment. There is a balance between the health of the people and the economy, and it is a pretty fine balance.

We should also put into the debate the ability to mine some of those special minerals that are required to make technology to charge those batteries. We cannot have one without the other, particularly in the regions where there is a fair way to drive between distances. I know some of my colleagues out west regularly clock up 100,000 kilometres a year in their vehicles as they travel hundreds of kilometres, which makes it fairly impractical to have EVs. Increasing the uptake of EVs in New South Wales presents an opportunity to create new jobs in the EV industry. Those jobs can occur across the market. The continued growth of regional tourism in New South Wales will rely on the ability of small regional businesses to cater for the increasing number of EV drivers.

This Government will support regional destinations across the State by providing \$20 million in grants to small regional businesses such as motels, wineries and restaurants to install charging points for their guests. This Government will also roll out EV Tourist Drives across the State, promoting scenic regional driving routes and charging infrastructure needed to support an EV road trip. This initiative will encourage EV drivers to take a holiday in regional New South Wales, growing those local economies and supporting more regional jobs in the tourism industry. This Government will work to identify skills needed and opportunities for New South Wales workers to take up the EV jobs of the future. As part of that process, the Government has announced specialised training to support the introduction of electric buses in New South Wales in partnership with TAFE NSW and Volvo Bus Australia. [*Extension of time*]

That will involve short courses to help mechanics upgrade EV technologies, such as working safely with high-voltage systems. That is another example of the Government's strategy to involve many other agencies in the future and to involve our TAFE colleges that train lots of people. I know in my area enrolments at TAFE in Kingscliff are through the roof and we have a 30 per cent increase in apprentices, which is another great plus. The reform package has been developed in close consultation with industry and other stakeholders. It reduces barriers to purchasing and using an electric vehicle while ensuring that the State will have a sustainable and fair road funding system in the future. Overall, the Government is investing almost half a billion dollars to support electric vehicles over the next four years, making New South Wales the easiest and most affordable place to buy and use an electric vehicle in Australia. The Government should be applauded for its ongoing commitment to use renewable energy and electric vehicles, and the good people of New South Wales, both now and in the future. I commend the bill to the House.

Ms LIESL TESCH (Gosford) (15:57): Via video link: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Welcome back to the Parliament of New South Wales, all the way from the beautiful Central Coast on Darkinjung country. It is a pleasure and an honour to be here. When the energy Minister, now the Treasurer, tabled the Electric Vehicles (Revenue Arrangements) Bill 2021, he said, "It is a new thing." I say to the Parliament that this is very old innovation on a world scale. New South Wales, it is 2021. I was living in Paris in 2006. I would be sitting at a cafe and someone would jump out of their smart vehicle in their work clothes, plug it in, go upstairs, do whatever, and 15 minutes later they would be back in their gym clothes and in their vehicle again. In New Zealand in 2010 in the tiny village where I grew up, which has 250-odd people, there were three recharging stations on the side of the road.

This legislation is nothing like the New Zealand legislation that will see the government fleet of vehicles in the whole country be completely electric by 2026. We have a long, long way to go. I thank our shadow Minister for Transport for expressing her concerns, especially around range anxiety. I am sure a few of us in this Parliament, as leaders in our community, would [inaudible] electric vehicle some time ago. When charging stations first became available on the Central Coast, I googled it, and we have one place in my electorate—not even, it is in the Terrigal electorate. I thank Bells at Killcare in my electorate, which is not even available to the public, NRMA Ocean Beach Holiday Resort and also Gosford Showground. In the Gosford electorate in 2021 there are three places to recharge vehicles in the public arena. Where is the leadership in this place as we introduce this legislation? I also thank Toyota. We do not have many choices in Australia, but Toyota introduced an affordable electric vehicle in its Corolla. It can even fit a wheelchair in the back.

During the bushfires, there was a clear lack of Federal and State leadership on the environment. I got my electric vehicle and I commend it to anyone who is thinking about taking that step. It is good that the Government is finally giving some incentives to support and improve the uptake of electric vehicles in this embarrassing

country, which is coming last in the world at this point in time, and actually move somewhere into the future. We are going to be the dumping ground for petrol vehicles. I feel sad for the people who are more socio-economically disadvantaged, who are will be further behind when we bring this legislation to the floor. They will be paying more as they continue to pay fuel tax than people driving electric vehicles, who will be paying less to use the roads. It is definitely not a Labor environment bill by a long shot.

The uptake of vehicles in Australia is 0.78 per cent compared to 25 per cent in Europe last year. It is really embarrassing on a global scale. We are also quite interested in the way the Government is looking after its rich mates who can afford EVs such as Teslas, like my friend Jason, who was with the energy Minister on that day in September when they introduced some of these measures. I asked if he would be getting back credits for the luxury of driving an electric vehicle. Jay, good on you, mate. It is good for the environment. I know he has not driven it very far because he has been in lockdown. I know he will get out with his family and enjoy some long-range trips and give some feedback about the success of using charging stations around New South Wales.

Under the leadership of the Liberal-Nationals Coalition governments, our country and State are lagging dangerously behind. Last year EVs made up only 0.78 per cent of new car sales in Australia, which is the lowest rate in the OECD. We know how important it is for the future of young Australians to hit the target of net zero emissions by 2050. Transitioning motorists to electric vehicles, which are far more environmentally friendly, could and should be an important part of the process when taking the much-needed action on climate change. I know by now that [inaudible] is never going to be convinced of the merits and ideas based on environmental [inaudible]. That has been made abundantly clear with its decade-long track record of placing profit above people and the [inaudible] and the public good. It seems to me that the allure of innovation and profit-making is not enough to entice the Liberal Government to quit its determination to live in its environmental past.

For a party that always [inaudible] business and enterprise, the State and Federal Liberal governments have done almost nothing to support the present car industry in Australia or its future. Let us look at the facts. Since 2018, 50 per cent of Australians have indicated their interest in acquiring electric vehicles, yet the number of EVs sold is still at less than 1 per cent of new car sales. Perhaps that is because while the United Kingdom has 30 per cent of EV models that are considered to be affordable in its market, Australia allegedly has only four. I am sure I do not need to explain to those opposite what happens in a market that has high demand and low supply. In our case, the cost of EVs remains stubbornly high, meaning that being environmentally friendly is a luxury that only the wealthiest drivers can afford. That is not proper legislation that should be pitched in this country in 2021. It should not be the case that your income determines your ability to look after the environment that your children are inhabiting.

Australia cannot afford to waste any time in addressing climate change. This Liberal-Nationals Government needs to enter the twenty-first century and step up to the plate on so many more environmental issues. It can start by introducing to New South Wales, and Australia as a whole, a competitive and innovative market for electric vehicles. Not only do we need to invest in refuelling locations, but we also need to celebrate our Aussie innovation. We need to invest in many elements of the EV supply chain, not just electric vehicles. So it is not just about EV legislation and profits going to offshore manufacturers; it is about millions of jobs that could be created across Australia now and in the future.

I came into this Parliament because I am passionate about people and decreasing our national carbon emissions. This is only part of the work we must do. In the absence of Federal leadership, it is good to see the New South Wales Government starting to make a change, but there are so many more ways we could improve this legislation. The concept of me having to take a photo and send it in every time I want to drive some kilometres and then having to stop driving—there are so many ways we could improve this legislation. It seems ridiculous that we cannot get it right. Today I also want to acknowledge the person who chalks the bike path where I walk my dog. Every day I go out there and someone has made the determined effort to actually let me know that it is a climate emergency and that we are custodians of this planet. I appreciate that, but I hope that person is also chalking the pavement of my Federal Liberal counterpart, Lucy Wicks, because the guts of environmental leadership in carbon pollution reduction are diabolical. The removal Julia Gillard's carbon tax was an absolute shame on Australia before the whole world.

We are in a climate emergency. Australia must have so much more than this electric vehicle legislation before the House. I believe both State and Federal Liberal governments are far too slow to act. If the School Strike 4 Climate kids were in this place—or the Girls Takeover Parliament crew that was in Parliament yesterday—I am sure we would have easily been running this Parliament virtually a long time before now, and definitely this change would have occurred a long time ago. I am 52 years old. We are legislating for the future—for the kids of the future. If this is the first real piece of good legislation we see in this Parliament regarding the future of our environment, it is a dire edict from this Government. Labor took a bold policy to the last election, yet the Liberals

derided it. We will move an amendment to the bill to review this legislation after two years. This is a tiny start. We could, and should, be doing so much better.

Mr MARK TAYLOR (Seven Hills) (16:07): It is a pleasure to speak in debate on the Electric Vehicles (Revenue Arrangements) Bill 2021 and cognate bills on this day, which a number of members have already indicated is a historic and important day in the New South Wales Parliament. It is also a very positive and hopeful time. On that note, I put on the record my acknowledgement and congratulations to all those who have been elected to the Government leadership team, particularly the Premier, Deputy Premier, the Treasurer and my colleagues in The Nationals who have done likewise. The objective of the Electric Vehicles (Revenue Arrangements) Bill is to impose a distance-related road user charge on registered operators of certain zero- and low-emission vehicles and exempt certain zero- and low-emission vehicles from the payment of duty under the Duties Act 1997, particularly those found in chapter 9 of that Act.

The NSW Electric Vehicle Strategy is a key part of the Net Zero Plan and offers an exciting new opportunity for growing local businesses and employment, such as the supply, installation and maintenance of charging infrastructure, along with the associated production and manufacturing of electric vehicle [EV] components and systems, and battery recycling. On 21 June this year New South Wales' nation-leading Electric Vehicle Strategy was released. It includes \$490 million in new funding over the next four years and a total of \$2.6 billion over 10 years across New South Wales agencies to support the uptake of electric vehicles. The strategy is our plan to make New South Wales the easiest and most affordable place to buy and use an EV in Australia.

Actions under the strategy include removing stamp duty from EVs under \$78,000 and 25,000 rebates of \$3,000 for EVs sold under \$68,750. It also includes a \$171 million investment in charging infrastructure to build ultra-fast charging stations every 100 kilometres along major New South Wales highways, every five kilometres along metropolitan commuter corridors, in areas with limited off-street parking, at commuter car parks and at regional tourism destinations. Moving the New South Wales transport sector to electric vehicles saves us money and reduces our reliance on fuels and the importing of oil. It improves air quality with resulting health benefits and, of course, will make our streets quieter.

The world is moving towards EVs, with countries such as Norway, Germany, Singapore and the United Kingdom setting target dates to ban sales of petrol and diesel vehicles. Major vehicle manufacturers have also made commitments to increase electric vehicles within their fleets. Increasing the number of EVs on our roads and powering them with renewable energy will help reduce emissions across the transport sector, contributing to the State's objective to achieve net zero emissions by 2050 and towards halving our emissions by 2030.

The emerging markets for electric vehicles are a big opportunity for New South Wales. The latent demand for electric vehicles in Australia is huge, with over 50 per cent of people now consistently saying they would consider purchasing an electric car as their next vehicle. New South Wales will boost battery electric vehicle numbers by injecting \$131 million to expand the public fast charging network to help stimulate more electric vehicle sales. Electric vehicles benefit individuals and the community. They produce no tailpipe emissions, have lower running costs than petrol and diesel vehicles, and provide health benefits through lower air pollution.

EVs are expected to change patterns of electricity consumption, the impact of which is already being considered and addressed. The New South Wales Government has prepared a charging master plan to identify optimal zones for the construction of fast and ultra-fast charging stations across the State. Over the next four years, the master plan will help to plan future New South Wales public fast charging stations. The master plan will also support industry and planners in finding ideal locations for public fast charging stations. Sites within and around the optimal zones indicated on the master plan will be prioritised for public EV charging.

Future locations for fast charging infrastructure and the number of chargers in them have been identified using robust methodology. That includes analysing a range of technical, social and economic considerations. Each optimal zone has been chosen based on a number of factors, including the projected electric vehicle adoption in the area, traffic movements, tourism data, vehicle ownership, local points of interest, the location of major cabling across New South Wales and available substation capacity. A prospectus and expression of interest will be available shortly for those sites for those interested in hosting stations. Funding rounds will open after the passage of legislation.

There will also be fleet incentives to support private and local council fleets to purchase battery electric vehicles, as previously committed to under the *NSW Net Zero Plan Stage 1: 2020-2030*. Smart technologies will let EV owners charge their cars when power is cheap and plentiful—and direct from onsite solar PV systems—rather than relying on the grid at times of peak electricity demand. The New South Wales Peak Demand Reduction Scheme will also provide incentives to adopt smart charging. In the near future EV batteries will also be able to export power to the grid when it is needed, such as during times of peak demand or supply shortages, and people will get paid to do this.

The Australian Energy Market Operator reviews EV uptake and the impact on the grid as part of its annual forecasting and system planning process. The National Electricity Market bodies have also initiated technical and regulatory changes to integrate EVs with the grid and minimise supply and other price impacts. All these actions combined are designed to increase the sales of EVs to over 50 per cent of new car sales by 2030-31, with the vast majority of new car sales by 2035 being electric vehicles.

The Government is also deferring the introduction of a fair and sustainable per-kilometre road user charge for EVs to July 2027 or when EVs make up at least 30 per cent of new car sales. This new road user charge for EVs will replace stamp duty on them and help to replace declining revenue from fuel excise, ensuring that we have the sustainable funding required to undertake critical roadwork over the coming decades. New South Wales is investing in incentives to drive an electric revolution in this State. The Electric Vehicle Strategy includes \$490 million in new funding over the next four years to support the uptake of electric vehicles and a combined total of \$2.6 billion over 10 years across New South Wales agencies. The time is ripe to invest, and via the Electric Vehicle Strategy the New South Wales Government is committed to increasing the uptake of EVs, allowing more people to benefit from their cheaper running costs and creating a cleaner, quieter and more sustainable transport method right across the network.

Mr JAMIE PARKER (Balmain) (16:15): On behalf of The Greens I speak in debate on the Electric Vehicles (Revenue Arrangements) Bill 2021 and cognate bills. I acknowledge all of those Ministers who have received their new portfolios and, of course, our new Premier. I also acknowledge the work of our former Premier, Gladys Berejiklian. There is a lot in the Electric Vehicle Strategy that is positive and to be welcomed. However, what members are specifically discussing today is the revenue arrangements. The Greens are concerned about those arrangements. In particular, the abolition of stamp duty on the purchase of a new electric vehicle is good. It is positive, and we welcome it. However, imposing a distance-related road user charge [RUC] on registered operators of electric vehicles and creating four new offences is problematic, and we do not support those proposals. In fact, we will suggest amendments to try to improve the bill.

As members know, a critical issue is the way the user charge is applied. Our concern is that looking at the application of the road user charge—also known as "Transurban's travel tax"—the proposal in the bill is that stamp duty be scrapped from 1 September on new or used electric vehicles below \$78,000 and on all EVs, new and used, after the RUC start date. Based on the average of 12,800 kilometres driven by passenger vehicles in New South Wales and the initial 2.5 kilometres charge, the RUC will be around \$320. People who live in electorates like mine do not travel a high number of kilometres in their vehicles. High kilometres are travelled in rural and regional New South Wales. We know that the implementation of the RUC will specifically impact people in rural and regional New South Wales, who tend to have lower incomes and travel longer distances to get to work and to access other essential services. It will be applied as a flat tax; it will apply to everyone regardless of their relative income or wealth.

The RUC provides for at least four offences with a penalty of \$2,200 for individuals and more possible offences to be prescribed by regulations. This can attract further financial penalties and end up being dealt with by the courts. We are concerned about the imposition of those significant penalties and we oppose them. In order to correct many of the inequalities, privacy will be invaded. There will need to be exceptions but they will only be applied if people agree to GPS trackers being installed in their cars. The Greens are concerned that the RUC will form a large part of the State's eventual revenue base. That means it may well be in the Government's interests to keep people driving as much and as far as possible and not to move people off the roads and onto public transport.

With the cost of driving increasing, the cost of public transport can increase also while still maintaining the relative cost differential between the modes of transport. This will not provide extra incentive for people to use public transport. Incentivising people to use public transport is absolutely critical. It also does not encourage energy efficiency. Unlike the fuel excise levy, which charges an amount based on how much fuel is purchased and not on what is done with the fuel, the RUC will charge drivers regardless of how efficiently they drive, how energy efficient their model of car is, or whether or not they source their energy from their own solar panels or from the dirtiest energy available at the time. We are very concerned about it because it does not encourage energy efficiency.

Another issue is that the fuel excise levy is a Federal tax imposed at the point of sale of fuel. The RUC is a State tax calculated after the event depending on how far the vehicle has travelled. It is not really a logical replacement for the fuel excise levy, and it is not logically connected to paying for the cost of State roads. Heavy vehicles, which cause the most damage to our roads, are exempted from the scheme. The tax is not scaled depending on the actual impact of the vehicle, how light or heavy it is. If EV drivers are supposed to pay for the impact on roads then why are internal combustion engine drivers not required to pay for the impact on our air quality? There are a lot of questions here, and we believe that the bill requires significant improvement.

As we have heard before, a key issue is the penalties under the scheme potentially being greater than the stamp duty savings. Unlike the fuel excise levy, which is paid up-front and based on how much fuel is bought, the RUC amount is not known in advance. It can be paid either up-front in lumps of 1,000 kilometres via the prepayment model, or after the event via the postpayment model. If prepayment is chosen in lots of 1,000 kilometres and the prepaid amount is exceeded, there is a fine of \$2,200. Whether prepaid or postpaid if sufficient evidence is not provided to prove how much is travelled, there is a fine of \$2,200. That is a significant impact and a very high fine.

The Greens note that, even under the Government's own estimates, EV sales are forecasted to be at least 50 per cent of the car market by 2030. Given that other countries are banning internal combustion engine vehicles after a period and car manufacturers are phasing them out, it will not be long until the RUC applies to all vehicles. Rural and regional New South Wales will be particularly impacted. With this legislation the Government implements a measure that in 2027, 2030 and beyond will have rural and regional people in uproar. I suspect people will look back at this debate in 2021 and recognise that this impact is something that members who represent rural and regional areas will have difficulty grappling with. Because of that, we think there are better ways to deal with this issue and resolve these tensions.

As the member for Gosford outlined, we like to think of ourselves as world leading. In fact, we are generally laggards in most areas. We have the dirtiest fuel quality amongst our comparative neighbours in the OECD and the poorest air quality standards. They are amongst the worst in the world and even lower than the World Health Organization standard, particularly when it comes to things like sulphur emissions from low-sulphur vehicles, and our lack of ability to get an exemption to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, known as MARPOL. Whether it is the national broadband network, euthanasia or electric vehicles, one of the problems we have is that we are late to the party. We should have learnt the lessons from other jurisdictions and the way that they have struggled with these issues.

On that basis, it is important that the bill be more progressive. We believe there should be higher prescribed road user charges for luxury vehicles and there should be some kind of progressiveness in the way that the charges are applied. For example, the same charge applies to an MG ZS, at a cost of about \$43,000, and a Tesla Model S, at about \$155,000. We say there should be a variation in those charges. In the same way there is a luxury vehicle tax, there should be a tax on those people who are paying hundreds of thousands of dollars for their vehicles. It is important that the Minister provides an update.

The 2027 limit has been introduced because that is the estimated time when the Government perceives there will be a 30 per cent uptake in EV. If that is not the case, do we need to adjust that? An amendment to the bill could deal with that. I will not go through all the amendments because we are moving them in the other place, but it is clear that the bill can be improved quite significantly. While we know all of the environmental, health and community benefits from electric vehicles, one challenge that the Government will have, especially around the EV strategy, is implementation of charging. My communities in Ultimo, Balmain, Rozelle more generally have a small pattern of development. I live on about 130 square metres, which is a significant housing lot in my area; it is not a small block. On a 130-square metre lot no-one has a garage. In order to charge, we need on-street charging. That is a real challenge.

At the moment the Government's commitment is one charger every five kilometres. That is a big distance for people who live in a built-up community like mine. Some shopping centres have charging facilities but having charging stations locally will be critical. It will be a big challenge to manage. My street, for example, like most streets, has car-share parking spaces and car parking space is rationed really strongly. At the moment people can have only one car parking permit. As members know, throughout the City of Sydney and in other places zero parking permits are provided. In some places where people are wealthy enough to have a garage, no parking permits are able to be provided at all.

Providing charging facilities on the streets is very important. My community has mustered a petition with signatures from almost 2,000 people saying they want to have more opportunities for on-street charging. I welcome the opportunity for this tender process that I know the Government will deliver. I have been speaking with the Minister's office to make sure that we can support local community charging. I thank members for allowing me the opportunity to address these cognate bills. While The Greens do not oppose many elements in them, we want to work with the Government to try to be constructive about electric vehicles.

Ms YASMIN CATLEY (Swansea) (16:26): First, I make very clear my support for the Electric Vehicles (Revenue Arrangement) Bill 2021 and cognate bills, but I must raise concerns about the Government's approach to reform in this space. During my time in this House I have been a passionate supporter of the wider adoption of electric vehicles, along with promoting the infrastructure investment required to support the transition. As the former shadow spokesperson for Better Regulation and Innovation, I had the great opportunity to help shape Labor's electric vehicle policy taken to the previous State election. It is thus pleasing to see that the Government

has realised that policy, and what it has brought to the table is in line with bringing us up to speed and up to date. The Government's policy has been overhauled with some very positive outlooks. I note that the Minister is in the Chamber. He too has a passion for electric vehicles and has introduced this legislation into the House. It is pleasing to see that, and I thank the Minister very much.

Labor has long held the view that to help drive the expansion of the electric vehicle market, the New South Wales Government must begin transitioning its own fleet to electric vehicles. That is why Labor made that commitment in 2019. Previously, the Government had committed to only transition 10 per cent of all State vehicles to electric vehicles, which would have seen New South Wales lag behind other States. The bipartisan commitment to transition the Government vehicle fleet to electric vehicles will most definitely provide certainty for the electric vehicle industry, which is a great step forward. Of course, it will also provide a second-hand electric vehicle car market, which is also advantageous and will make electric vehicles much more affordable.

The Government's proposed investment in electric vehicle charging infrastructure across the State is also very welcome and a great initiative. For the electric vehicle market to grow, consumers need certainty that recharge points will be accessible across the transport network, particularly in regional areas like those that I represent. It is the responsibility of government to take the lead in developing the electric vehicle charging infrastructure to support the expansion of the market. It has been a handbrake—pardon the pun—on electric vehicles thus far, so these initiatives are very welcome.

The growth of the electric vehicle market will not only help New South Wales to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions but also provide a fantastic opportunity to create local manufacturing jobs. In 2019 a PricewaterhouseCoopers report estimated that a new electric vehicle market could create 13,400 jobs nationally. New South Wales wants to grab a great big chunk of that. New South Wales should lead the way in electric vehicle adoption to capitalise on this opportunity to create thousands of local jobs. We cannot afford to miss this chance, and this bill is a great first step in achieving that.

Whilst there are several positive aspects of the Electric Vehicles (Revenue Arrangement) Bill, I have several concerns over proposed rebates, along with missed opportunities to go further in supporting new infrastructure and related workers' issues. Firstly, as part of the Electric Vehicle Strategy the Government announced \$3,000 rebates on electric vehicle purchases. The rebate will be available on the first 25,000 electric vehicles sold for under \$68,750 from 1 September 2021. The rebate is very Sydney-centric and will do nothing to help promote the uptake of electric vehicles in regional New South Wales, where infrastructure is the biggest impediment. As such, this is a missed opportunity for the Government to have proposed more ambitious planning reforms to advance the development of the electric vehicle infrastructure network.

In 2019 Labor proposed these very reforms, arguing for planning laws to be amended to introduce requirements for new developments such as apartment buildings to install charging outlets. That would rapidly speed up the development of the electric vehicle infrastructure charging network, particularly in regional areas. I note that the member for Balmain raised planning issues in the CBD as well. I think that his concerns, and the issues he raised, are very relevant. These are things that we should be looking at holistically to ensure that electric vehicle uptake is successful. The industry has made it clear that a lack of charging infrastructure is holding the industry back. Simply adopting rebates to reduce the cost of electric vehicles is an unimaginative solution to speeding up the uptake of electric vehicles statewide.

I note the Government has promised \$20 million for destination chargers to assist regional tourism, and \$20 million for charging infrastructure at public transport hubs on land owned by Transport for NSW. But it will take more than just money to give the regions parity with Sydney when it comes to charging infrastructure; it will take policy innovation. The regions are already so far behind. Until parity is reached, the regions will be left behind in the electric vehicle revolution. The rebate scheme also threatens to leave regional communities behind in the electric vehicle transition while Sydneysiders will have access to better charging infrastructure benefits from subsidised vehicle purchases. As regional families look to purchase a new vehicle, an electric vehicle will simply not be an option due to infrastructure constraints.

A survey in November 2020 found the average cost of a new car in New South Wales was \$38,665, while the average four-wheel drive cost \$60,376 and a ute cost around \$50,000. This will only further entrench the disparity between the costs of vehicles in regional areas versus the city. We already know the cost of registration is higher in the regions due to governments being forced to introduce the Toll Relief Scheme to compensate for the absurd cost of tolls under the Government. Governments have a responsibility to ensure they are achieving the best value for money when spending taxpayers' money, and I really have to question if this rebate scheme achieves that. I hold concerns that the scheme will be open to abuse and simply become a new form of middle-class welfare. I urge the Government to take steps to ensure that the rebate scheme is not abused and that it is instead used to attract new buyers who would otherwise be unable to afford an electric vehicle.

The proposed rebate will be particularly jarring for many regional workers such as tradies who have to fork out over \$50,000 for essential work vehicles without any government support, particularly as electric vehicles will also be exempt from stamp duty. I must say it is disappointing that, while the Government found the money to hand out \$3,000 rebates, it could not find one cent to invest in support to help workers retrain to work on electric vehicles. Surely this would have been a better use of taxpayer funds that would have had flow-on effects for the economy through our motor mechanic industry. As I stated before, the electric vehicle revolution is a jobs growth opportunity for our State, but it will require a government willing to invest in these jobs. Sadly, that is not what the workers of New South Wales are getting with this bill.

Why has the Government chosen not to invest in supporting mechanics to retrain so that they can work on electric vehicles? The Government has a responsibility to help those workers retrain as the market transitions to electric vehicles, and we certainly do not want to leave them behind. Not only has the Government failed to invest a single cent to support mechanics transitioning to electric vehicles, but also it has failed to provide funding to capitalise on the opportunity for the engineering industry. The growth of the electric vehicle market will provide job opportunities in mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, and electronic and communication engineering. We will be left behind if we do not invest in those job opportunities, and we risk worsening the skills shortage. I also implore the Government to invest in an education program to promote the uptake of electric vehicles. Labor made such a commitment back in 2019 and I hope the Government will adopt an education program to promote such an important sector.

Labor will seek to amend the legislation such that, after two years, the Act is to be reviewed to ensure that it is achieving its aims. The review will be conducted by a committee of the Legislative Council, with the terms of reference to be established by resolution. I reiterate my support for the bill and welcome the bipartisan support for the growth of the electric vehicle industry. It is pleasing to see that the Government has adopted many aspects of the electric vehicles policy that Labor took to the 2019 State election. I call on the Government to take on board the concerns that many regional members have raised in today's debate and to ensure that the regions are not left behind in the electric vehicle revolution. I would also like to see the Government commit to providing funding to support the job opportunities in this growing industry and to ensure that New South Wales is not left behind.

Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore) (16:36): I contribute to debate on the Electric Vehicles (Revenue Arrangements) Bill 2021 and cognate bills. I am very happy to be back in this place with my colleagues today, particularly so that we can pass legislation like this and make a difference to people's lives now and into the future, as well as for future generations. One of the cornerstones of the 2021-22 budget is the legislation that we are considering today: the introduction of Australia's most generous electric vehicle [EV] package. The Government is committed to driving the uptake of electric vehicles because they are the way of the future. The legislation reduces the barriers and creates the right market conditions to ensure that New South Wales is not left behind. This nation-leading reform is the brainchild of a couple of members of our team: our new Treasurer, and the Minister for Energy and Environment, Matt Kean; our new Premier and former Treasurer, Dominic Perrottet; and our outgoing Minister for Transport and Roads, Andrew Constance. I thank them for the work they have done to put together this package of legislation.

Unlike other jurisdictions, New South Wales has made the decision not to impose an EV road tax immediately. Instead it will be delayed until EVs are well established in the market in New South Wales. It is the most generous EV support mechanism of any State. The \$490 million package includes \$3,000 rebates, a stamp duty exemption and funding for a comprehensive EV charging network. The bill amends the Duties Act 1997 to phase out vehicle stamp duty on electric vehicles. That will be applied retrospectively from 1 September 2021. The registration of battery and hydrogen fuel cell electric vehicles sold for a dutiable value of up to \$78,000 will be exempt from vehicle stamp duty, and I have flagged that we will move some amendments to ensure that it is up to and including \$78,000. That will reduce the up-front cost of vehicles by up to \$3,000 and is expected to save motorists around \$200 million over the next four years.

The bill also establishes the framework for a road user charge on electric vehicles that receive a stamp duty exemption. As I mentioned earlier, the charge will not commence until the earlier of 1 July 2027 or when the battery electric vehicle market makes up at least 30 per cent of all new vehicle sales. That delayed commencement is key to the policy because it defers taxing the electric vehicle sector until it comprises a significant proportion of the market. In contributions to debate today, members have talked about the different proportions that EVs make up in global markets but New South Wales must reach that 30 per cent mark in order to really see development of the new market. The stamp duty exemption for electric vehicles will also expand to cover all zero- and low-emission vehicles, including hybrid electric vehicles, when the road user charge commences.

The world is moving towards electric vehicles and our international policy commitments are transforming global vehicle markets. Global demand for electric vehicles increased by 43 per cent in 2020 compared with 2019, with three million new electric vehicles registered in 2020. France, Japan and the United Kingdom plan to end the

sale of petrol and diesel vehicles in the next 10 to 20 years, and Norway plans to end sales as early as 2025. Many car makers are responding by committing to electrifying their fleets and by retooling their production lines towards electric vehicles. For instance, Volvo will be a fully electric car company by 2030, General Motors will phase out internal combustion engines in light duty vehicles by 2035 and Hyundai will phase out internal combustion engines by 2040. However, electric vehicles currently constitute less than 1 per cent of new vehicle sales in New South Wales. Compare that with the market leader, Norway, where battery electric vehicles made up 55 per cent of new vehicle sales in 2020. In the United Kingdom, battery electric vehicles made up 7 per cent of new vehicle sales in 2020.

New South Wales must act decisively to capture the electric vehicle opportunity. Increasing the share of electric vehicles on New South Wales roads and powering them with renewable energy will be important in achieving the Government's commitment to net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. In 2019 transport was responsible for 28 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions, making up 20 per cent of New South Wales' emissions. Almost 50 per cent of those emissions came from passenger vehicles. That is why I acknowledge the significant work of Andrew Constance, in particular, as Minister for Transport and Roads for the role that he has played in transforming our broad transport network and system in order to reduce emissions into the environment. The work he has done with the electrification of buses and the removal of diesel buses will transform the way in which we go about travel and transport in New South Wales. It will also have a huge impact on air quality.

We talk a lot about air quality in relation to roads. I have heavy, main arterial roads in my community of North Shore because we are downstream of everybody else who is trying to get to the city. So by electrifying our vehicles we will have cleaner air for all to breathe. Electric vehicles do not produce tailpipe emissions of particle and gaseous air pollutants. Statistics show that motor vehicles account for 62 per cent of Sydney's nitrogen oxide [NOx] emissions, 24 per cent of volatile organic compound emissions and 14 per cent of particulate matter emissions. All of those pollutants have direct and indirect effects on the health of our communities. Reducing tailpipe emissions from vehicles can deliver significant health benefits across New South Wales and, as someone who has had two babies in the not-too-distant past, that is particularly important for pregnant women and babies, as well as people with chronic illnesses and the elderly. Electric vehicles are also quieter to drive than petrol and diesel vehicles, which helps to improve the amenity of public spaces and reduces concerns about traffic noise.

Electric vehicles can save households money in the long run and they can support new industries, but they are also cheaper to run and maintain. An average New South Wales driver would likely save around \$1,000 in running costs per year by switching to an electric vehicle. Increasing the uptake of electric vehicles in New South Wales presents an opportunity to create new jobs in the electric vehicle industry. Those jobs could occur in the manufacturing of components for, or in the installation and maintenance of, infrastructure such as chargers. Australia relies heavily on imports for liquid fuels—I know, as I spent many years working for an oil company here in New South Wales. Increasing the uptake of electric vehicles in New South Wales will reduce the State's reliance on imported fuels now that we are seeing the closure of domestic refineries across Australia—we have always relied on imported crude—and instead improve fuel security by using domestic energy generation.

Electric vehicles provide benefits for individuals and the community. As I have discussed, electric vehicles produce no tailpipe emissions, have lower running costs than petrol and diesel vehicles, and provide health benefits through lower air pollution. Through the strategy, the New South Wales Government is targeting key areas of action to make New South Wales the easiest place to buy and use an electric vehicle in Australia. The strategy includes rebates, the phased removal of stamp duty for electric vehicles, targets for our own New South Wales Government fleet, incentives for council and private fleets, and major investment to ensure widespread, world-class electric vehicle coverage. The revenue changes included in the bill form part of the Government's broader NSW Electric Vehicle Strategy. The Government's Electric Vehicle Strategy is projected to increase the share of electric vehicles as a proportion of total vehicle sales by 9 percentage points by 2029-30 and 15 percentage points by 2035-36. Under the strategy, electric vehicles are expected to constitute more than half of all new car sales by 2030-31. The Government will provide rebates of \$3,000 for the first 25,000 new battery and fuel cell electric vehicles sold for less than \$68,750. This rebate will apply retrospectively for vehicles registered for the first time on or after 1 September 2021.

Electric vehicle uptake will be accelerated by a further \$171 million investment in charging infrastructure across the State. Like the electorate of the member for Balmain, in my own quite densely populated community there is a real opportunity here for us to incentivise uptake in metropolitan areas by ensuring that we have charging facilities available, particularly in areas where there are a lot of apartments. Approximately half of my community live in apartments and there may not be the capacity to put charging infrastructure into individual homes. My community has a lot of renters as well. My community has some charging stations in council car parks and shopping centres, but the provision of charging infrastructure will accelerate and supercharge the investment that the Government foresees in communities like mine.

While the Government has committed to installing charging facilities every five kilometres along Sydney's major commuter corridors and, on average, every 100 kilometres along major highways, areas where there is limited off-street parking will be taken into account in making decisions about the location of charging infrastructure. Grants will also be provided to small tourism businesses to boost investment in EV infrastructure at regional tourism destinations. [*Extension of time*]

The Government will roll out EV tourist drives across New South Wales, which will also encourage our regional communities to look forward to sharing the benefits of this legislation. We are all so excited now to get out and about across New South Wales and imagine the opportunity of being able to share that benefit across regional New South Wales by ensuring that people in those communities also have access to electric vehicles. The Government is also co-investing in rolling out ultra-fast chargers at 100-kilometre intervals across all major highways in New South Wales to make it easier for city-based and regional electric vehicle drivers to travel into our regional areas. While the New South Wales Government is also providing the grants to regional businesses to install charging points for guests and to attract electric vehicle drivers to explore our State, it is setting a target for electric vehicles to constitute 50 per cent of new government passenger fleet vehicle purchases by 2025-26, increasing to all feasible vehicles by 2029-30.

This reform package has been developed in close consultation with industry and other stakeholders. It reduces barriers to purchasing and using electric vehicles while ensuring that the State will have a sustainable and fair road funding system into the future. We know that the former Minister for Energy and Environment, who is now the Treasurer, and Minister for Energy, is a major fan of Tesla, but it is not just Tesla that will make a difference in New South Wales—it is the Nissan Leafs, the MGs and the entire range of more affordable vehicles. When we have more supply and we are tapping into the manufacturing sectors that produce more affordable EVs we will see a huge uptake through this incentivisation program. Overall, the Government is investing almost half a billion dollars to support electric vehicles over the next four years. The Government is making New South Wales the easiest and most affordable place in which to buy and use an electric vehicle in Australia. That is why I am very proud to support this legislation.

Mr JIHAD DIB (Lakemba) (16:48): It is nice to be back. I join other members to participate in debate on the Electric Vehicles (Revenue Arrangements) Bill 2021 and cognate bills. At the outset, I thank the Treasurer, and Minister for Energy for introducing the bill. I also thank and acknowledge my parliamentary colleague and shadow Minister for Transport, Jo Haylen. As members would have heard from a number of members, the bill has a lot of key legislative aspects but basically it deals with the Electric Vehicle Strategy. The bill will enable the introduction of a road user charge for electric vehicles in New South Wales, payable by owners of certain low- or zero-emissions vehicles based on each kilometre that the vehicle travels on a public road, whether that is in New South Wales or outside New South Wales.

As we know, the rate will be set by Transport for NSW each year, with battery and hydrogen fuel cell electric vehicles indexed at the full rate and plug-in hybrid vehicles indexed at 80 per cent of the full rate. Drivers will be required to report an odometer reading to Transport for NSW or to provide an estimate "in a way Transport for NSW considers reasonable". While the bill may not represent the approach that Labor would pursue in government, the bill has some benefits and we must look at measures to expand infrastructure for, and the availability of, electric vehicles in New South Wales. At a State and a Federal level, Labor supports the uptake of electric vehicles, which was evidenced by Labor's policy at the 2019 State election. But we know that Australia has one of the world's lowest rates of electric car ownership—currently at 1 per cent—yet close to a quarter of the cars sold in Europe in August were fully electric vehicles or plug-in hybrid vehicles.

We know that many Australians would consider buying an electric vehicle; however, that interest is not translating into sales. I think there are a few reasons for that. The first issue is obviously supply. The range of models available to consumers in Australia pales in comparison to other places. There are only 32 passenger electric vehicle models available for purchase in Australia and the prices range from \$40,000-odd up to about \$850,000. I know which one I would like to have, but I know which one I am more likely to have within my budget. However, I understand that more models will be available before the end of 2022. But the question must be asked: Why are car makers skipping Australia? It is simply because Australia is too expensive. In other markets, including Europe, governments provide incentives in the form of carbon credits. Another consideration is the fact that electric vehicles tend to be more expensive. For example, Teslas are commonly known but they are a bit expensive and are out of reach of most families and households.

Consumers would like to be able to choose between car models but sometimes the lack of choice and the price act as a deterrent. I cite a personal example. Approximately a year ago we were in the market for a new family car. It was our first ever brand-new family car. We had never bought one before that was brand new off the lot. We wanted to buy an electric vehicle or a hybrid vehicle. That was what we really wanted because that is what we felt was really important but given the size of our family we needed a sports utility vehicle [SUV] or a

family type of car. Unfortunately, as much as we wanted to buy a hybrid or electric vehicle, we just could not afford it. I make that interesting point because our combined income is pretty good but the car we wanted was still out of our price range. As an alternative, we tried to find the biggest car with the smallest engine so that we could at least meet ourselves a little bit halfway. I imagine that if purchasing an electric vehicle is a struggle for us on our income, what happens to people who have a much lower income? We cannot make people feel guilty simply because they do not have the money. People want to purchase an electric vehicle but they may not necessarily be able to afford one.

Another issue that I can speak about from personal experience is that among the anxieties being felt in our communities, certainly in the past 15 weeks, is particular anxiety about the range of electric vehicles. People have range anxiety and fear about driving along a freeway and suddenly the car cannot go any further because the battery is flat. People want to be able to find a plug-in station. I recognise that under the Government's plan there will be more charging stations but being immobilised is an issue that concerns people. Some of the newer and better models are delivering a range of up to 500 kilometres but, realistically, Australia is big. While most members of this House do little trips around Sydney of fewer than 100 kilometres, New South Wales is big and families love to take car trips on the open road. Indeed, I cannot wait to do my trip to Menindee as soon as I am allowed to before the temperature reaches approximately 47 degrees Celsius in the shade. If I had an electric vehicle, I would not be sure how I could recharge it.

The way to address this issue is through having much better charging infrastructure, especially the fast-charging options. There is a big opportunity for governments to take the lead by allaying fears and hesitation when it comes to buying electric vehicles. We know that time is critical and our actions in achieving zero emissions targets cannot be pushed into the too-hard basket. Members on both sides of this Chamber believe we cannot push zero emissions targets into the too-hard basket, but we must do more than say we need to do it. We must look at the roles and changes needed to ensure that the widespread acceptance of electric vehicles can be facilitated. How can we, as governments, make this possible? As I said earlier, people would like to do it. It is up to governments to make it feasible. If we are to reach net zero emissions by 2050, we know that by 2030 between 50 per cent and 70.5 per cent of new cars must be electric. We are a long way behind. Regardless of what group we listen to, the most important thing to recognise is that at the moment we are at 1 per cent—which is well short of where we need to be.

At this stage, the benefits of owning a vehicle with lower running costs are available only to those who can afford to buy an expensive vehicle. As I mentioned earlier, more people would like to own an electric vehicle but the cost is a major inhibitor. This idea and policy present a very big opportunity for New South Wales in general. As EVs become more prevalent and popular, we must not throw away the opportunity to create local jobs. I acknowledge that many members who have participated in this debate already, particularly Opposition members, have spoken about jobs creation.

Areas for job creation include manufacturing, mining, technical support, battery storage and car parts. We mine lithium, nickel and cobalt, which are all essential for batteries, and we have copper for wiring. If we get this right then we can create a battery manufacturing industry within Australia. At the moment we basically dig things up out of the ground, send them overseas to be manufactured, and then we import them as a finished product. I hope members do not take this the wrong way, but we are the missing link. We have an opportunity to create a manufacturing industry to fill the gap. We must not forget that an important element is training. A number of mechanics or auto electricians who are currently working in the car industry will need to be either retrained or upskilled to specialise in as many ways as possible to ensure that they still have jobs. It is hard to tell a mechanic who is an expert on combustion engine cars that they will not have a job but it is good for the environment. We need to make sure that there are work opportunities for everyone.

The bill talks about rebates of \$3,000 on the first 25,000 electric vehicles purchased, and that is a good thing. There are incentives for fleets, which is also a good thing. There is investment for an electric vehicle charging network and potentially an EV tourist drive, and that is a good thing too. But we do not want to wait for one or two hours to charge the car. The way to go is to have as many fast chargers as possible. We must remember that having one EV charging station every 100 kilometres is not enough. If we are talking about thousands of electric vehicles, we do not want a line of 200 cars waiting to recharge. We have to ensure that we put facilities in a little more often than every 100 kilometres.

I mentioned earlier that the bill phases out stamp duty on electric vehicles and that there will be a road user charge implemented of 2.5c per kilometre indexed to the consumer price index. Under the plan, plug-in hybrid EVs will be charged at 80 per cent. According to the Government, there will be a cost saving in reduced fuel costs. With the road user tax there may be scenarios in regional areas where more kilometres are travelled simply due to distances between services. There are also questions that will need to be answered as variations of electric vehicles such as bikes and scooters start to use the roads. We need to fund our roads properly, but we also need

to balance that with fairness to ensure the load is not carried by one group of people over another. We must make sure that everybody is part of that journey and nobody is left behind.

I will balance my thoughts and look for the overall purpose in this bill. It is to ensure that we find ways to better address the issue of climate action through an increase in the uptake of electric vehicles. There are concerns with this bill, and many of my colleagues have foreshadowed amendments. As with all bills, implementation is the key. If we can find a way to assist and pave the way for people who want to head down the electric vehicle path, let us do it. We have been limited, but we can do it. [*Extension of time*]

It would be remiss of us to assume that \$3,000 will be enough incentive for people. As I said earlier, it may not be enough but it is a step in the right direction. The real changes will occur with increased manufacturing of EVs so the cost is minimised through a production line, and EVs are not seen as a luxury but rather as another option to a combustion engine. I believe if we level the cost factors, address the issue of charging infrastructure and provide more choice then people will choose an EV simply because they have a social desire to make those changes. We are starting from a long way back, and this is the first step forward. I thank the Minister for bringing the cognate bills to the House. I commend the bills and thank everyone who has made a contribution to the debate.

Debate interrupted.

Public Interest Debate

COVID-19 PANDEMIC RECOVERY

Mr MARK COURE (Oatley) (16:59): I move:

That this House:

- (1) Acknowledges the significant efforts of citizens across New South Wales in working together to manage COVID and get vaccinated in high numbers.
- (2) Acknowledges the importance of the Government's road map to reopening as we begin to get back to normal.

It is fantastic to be back here in Parliament advocating for the people of this State, and it is all thanks to our strong vaccination rates right across New South Wales. Cash registers are ringing once again. Pubs and clubs are pouring beers. Hairdressers—I have not been to mine yet—are finally open. New South Wales is the envy of other States and Territories in Australia. Our Government has worked alongside NSW Health to put the call out for local residents to come forward and get vaccinated, and our community has heard this appeal loud and clear. As it stands, more than 90 per cent of people aged over 16 right across New South Wales have come forward and received their first dose. With almost 75 per cent now fully vaccinated, I think we will get to 80 per cent by the weekend.

Our schools will be back next week, which is great news for parents—including me. Businesses are reopening and we are already seeing many employees return to work. New South Wales is the engine room of our national economy, and our strong economic plan for stimulus and recovery will set our State and our community up for a bright future: onwards and upwards. I note the Treasurer is present in the Chamber to hear this wonderful debate. New South Wales is the envy of many countries around the world, including Germany and the United States. This State's vaccination rate is higher than the rates across the national population there. Under the leadership of former Premier Gladys Berejiklian and Premier Dominic Perrottet this Government has continued to protect the health, wellbeing and economic needs of our State.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic our leadership, our compassion and our advocacy has played a pivotal role in safeguarding the health and wellbeing of local residents and their families. Examples include business grants that provide businesses with cash flow support if they have experienced reduced demand; payroll tax deferrals and reductions with industry repayment plans for businesses experiencing a decline in turnover; land tax relief to cover lost income experienced by commercial, retail and residential landlords; test and isolate payments to help meet the cost of lost wages for those self-isolating and awaiting their COVID-19 test results; and eviction notices moratorium to protect tenants during this period of uncertainty. No matter who you are or where you are from, the New South Wales Government has and will continue to provide appropriate support during this difficult period.

Yesterday was a great day for the people of this State. Many people took the opportunity to reconnect with family and friends, get a haircut or visit their favourite cafe. As vaccination rates increase, so too will our ability to unite with loved ones. With the 80 per cent double dose vaccination target only one week away, we are just around the corner from getting back to community sport, regional travel and receiving greater access to the many events and entertainment precincts that make New South Wales the best place to live, work and run a business. Without the leadership and commitment of this Government, that would not be the case. Our State provides a beacon of hope for the nation as we demonstrate our ability to open up safely, while some States remain in

lockdown. The New South Wales Government's ability to innovate and lead by example is second to none, as is demonstrated by the exceptional intake level of returned travellers and the pilot of home quarantine. Our work is far from over.

Just today the Government announced the expansion of the small business fees and charges rebate to supercharge the economy, and last week it established a new hardship review panel to add to its ongoing support for small businesses across New South Wales. Through the support of small businesses we are investing in jobs, safeguarding employment opportunities and stimulating our economy both now and into the future. After the first COVID-19 outbreak in 2020 we lost close to 300,000 jobs across New South Wales. We have not only recovered every single one of those jobs but also added a further 30,000. Our track record of economic success speaks for itself, and we have the fiscal and monetary plans in place to deliver sustained economic growth while protecting the health and wellbeing of our community. This is our plan and it is exactly what we will work towards. New South Wales will continue to be the leader in navigating the health and economic challenges of COVID-19, and this Government will prepare us for the issues we face both now and into the future.

Mr GUY ZANGARI (Fairfield) (17:04): For the first time since June, I speak in this Chamber as the member for Fairfield. My thoughts and feelings go out to the people of not only Fairfield but also the people of south-west and western Sydney, who have gone through the most difficult period in the history of the region and the State ever. I admire the member for Oatley. I know he is a good member—I really do—and I know he comes into this place championing the cause for the people of Oatley. That is fine; it is great to do that. His speech was positive, upbeat and straight from the script, because there is one thing about fighting COVID and the road map to reopening. When you have got the map in your hands, you need to know exactly where you have been. The road that we have come from has been ugly. There have been bumps, twists and, at some point, significant crashes. I can say that hand on heart as someone who lives in, works in, worships in and represents south-western Sydney.

Today in the House, the member for Penrith, a Minister and the new deputy leader of the Liberals in New South Wales, said that he had not seen the tale of two Sydneys. What planet is he on when he says there was no tale of two Sydneys? There was, and every constituent in south-western Sydney that those of us on this side of the House—and those on that side—represent will tell you that. Ask the member for Auburn, the member for Prospect, the member for Bankstown, the member for Lakemba or the member for Canterbury about the difficulties their constituents faced when they would see images coming out of people in the eastern suburbs.

We are not begrudging our brothers and sisters and family members in the eastern suburbs, but when the images would surface of people going about their daily lives, going to the beach, sunbaking and strolling along the sand without masks, that certainly triggered many people in western Sydney. They triggered the thousands of students disadvantaged for the HSC and the kindergarteners and year 1 students who have not seen full years of schooling, as well as the year 11 and year 12 students. They triggered the vulnerable members of the community who could not go out and who do not have access to technologies and are apprehensive about going to places without vaccination passports and things not being ready and having to wait 14 days after the so-called opening up yesterday.

There is a long road ahead. We have to think about the thousands of families who have had to rely upon non-government agencies to put food on the table. I thank those agencies. Over the next few weeks I will acknowledge many of those agencies, not just in Fairfield but beyond and not just in western Sydney but further than that—north, south, east and west of this great land. I thank the member for Oatley for bringing this important public interest debate to the House but fighting COVID and the road map to reopening does not put smiles on our faces because it is tough. There are very hard roads ahead. We will get there, but the Government needs to come to the party. It needs to ensure that it takes people on the journey, including the families who have lost income, the students who have stressed, and the people in my community who suffered anxiety and PTSD after all those choppers were flying around. I thank the member for bringing the public interest debate forward and I look forward to the contributions from other members.

Mrs WENDY TUCKERMAN (Goulburn) (17:10): Via video link: I thank the member for Fairfield for his contribution and acknowledge how difficult the road has been for everyone. In the Goulburn electorate we have faced [inaudible] significant challenges as a rural electorate during the past 100 days of this lockdown. Whether it was adjusting to the stay-at-home orders, managing patients in hospital wards or reaching out to the elderly people and those at home in a time of upheaval and great personal challenge, the people of my electorate once again demonstrated their resilience to face a once-in-a-lifetime pandemic with a generous community spirit and a sense of compassion for others. That sense of compassion is demonstrated particularly by the vaccination rate in the Goulburn electorate, which is currently standing at a very reassuring rate of 94.3 per cent for the first dose in people over the age of 15, and 72.5 per cent for double vaccinations in people over the age of 15. Sadly there has been one death in the electorate and I express my sincere condolences to the family who have lost their loved one.

It has been such a hope-filled time to see so many people working in health giving so selflessly to their vocation. I thank each and every paramedic; nurse; doctor; all hospital staff, whether they be administration staff, cleaners or security staff; pathology collectors; and those who have worked at our GP practices, including the administration staff, who have faced a lot of frustrating clients about access to vaccinations. The way each and every one of them have dedicated their service in the face of this pandemic is to be commended. I make particular mention of our local health districts, of which there are three in my electorate, and their staff who have kept us informed and worked with us to better serve our community. I commend the New South Wales police and emergency service workers, who have dutifully served their State during a time of tremendous social upheaval and protected the lives of so many in the community by ensuring that the people of the electorate adhere to the public health order. Particularly, I commend the police district situated around the ACT border, which has worked hand-in-hand with its counterpart in the ACT to manage the cross-border requirements.

But it is the businesses of the State and my electorate that I commend. We have seen so much endeavour in many of the local businesses that have managed to pivot their retail strategy exceptionally well during this lockdown. I commend the New South Wales Government and the Federal Government for the support measures provided to support businesses to ensure that they could maintain their staff and be ready when the vaccination targets were met. The New South Wales Government under the extraordinary direction of the former Treasurer now Premier, Dominic Perrottet, provided microbusinesses of my electorate a microbusiness grant. Across the State over \$390 million has already been paid out to support those businesses.

Small business support in my rural communities has been welcome and provides a lot of hope for the wellbeing of our community. Without the business support, we may not have seen so many returning to open to their loyal customers this week. The Government has also introduced tax deferrals weighted to provide cash flow to businesses. We have also seen increasing payroll tax thresholds and a reduction in payroll tax rates, all of which assist our businesses. We have seen a total Government response to COVID and recovery commitments announced since March 2020 of, sadly, \$39 billion. These measures enabled an appropriate health response and timely support for communities and the local economy. I commend our local business chambers, which have also provided great support by advocating on behalf of their businesses. They welcome the certainty of the road map, which will provide the certainty of getting businesses open. I also thank our wonderful educators, who have delivered intensive learning support for students. We are on a long journey and I thank everyone in the community who has taken the time to get vaccinated to get our road map underway.

Ms LYNDIA VOLTZ (Auburn) (17:15): I thank everyone who put so much into keeping people safe during the COVID outbreak, particularly those in areas of concern such as community organisation staff, workers at all levels of government, public servants, other workers and business owners, as well as everyone who showed kindness and patience. To say the recent lockdown was anything but horrifically challenging would be an understatement. My electorate of Auburn, which sits at the bulkhead of western Sydney, was in trouble before the latest outbreak, with March quarter unemployment figures sitting high at above 10 per cent and even touching 20 per cent in some suburbs. There has also been a 16 per cent downturn in the jobs and wages index for the electorate since those figures were released.

Inequality, overcrowding and homelessness in Auburn are rife. This March quarter data should have rung alarm bells for the Government. When a person does not have much money, they rely on the people around them, and that is how our community works. In our community, families are not islands—they are co-dependent and interlinked. Rather than lecturing western Sydney for doing the wrong thing and breaking the rules, the Government should have taken a harder look at its own indifference to the needs of those in electorates other than the ones it holds.

The Western Sydney Local Health District, which worked extremely hard during the outbreak, was completely swamped. In my electorate those who tested positive were often stuck in isolation for well over 20 days, with 27 and 28 days not being unusual. Discharge papers were not being processed due to the sheer volume of cases, and people were being locked in their homes as a result. As word spread in the community, that translated to a reluctance to get tested. I have to ask: Why did healthcare employees carry such a heavy load? Where were the other government departments that should have been flooding in to help with data entry, food delivery, checking on the elderly, making sure that NDIS workers were still coming in and that there would be an alternative if they were not, contact tracing and looking after large families in need? Instead, a lot of that work fell on the shoulders of healthcare workers. Why did the Government take so long to give businesses assistance?

It has been a tough and distressing time in western Sydney. One local tragedy saw a mother who was desperately ill call an ambulance. Despite her being a single mum, no other family members were allowed to mind her three children. She did not want to leave them. Ambulance workers stabilised her but she died later that night at home, alone with her children. I received one call from a woman in Queensland. The previous night her brother had been taken away in an ambulance with COVID. His two dogs and cat were locked inside the house. Despite

her desperation, no-one would enter the house. In the end, after two days had passed, I fed the dogs myself and cleaned up. It took me four days to get his employer to take the animals.

Then there was the mother with a disabled adult child who did not tell her NDIS workers of her positive test result, as she was too desperate for the help. She spread COVID to many households. There was no mechanism in place. No-one checked on her circumstances when she tested positive. My daughter had COVID. Days after her positive test she called me. She was suddenly very ill. It took hours to find anyone to help her. Eventually, the Virtual Hospital said they would get a doctor to call her. Hours later she rang me to let me know that an ambulance had just left but because she still had not been put in the system, the Virtual Hospital could not treat her. No-one ever called her to do any contact tracing.

Those examples are a snapshot of what was happening in locked-down areas. Children were desperate to see elderly parents but were not able to do before they died. People suffered because they were cut off from confused and distressed elderly family members with dementia or Alzheimer's. People were found at home having passed away. On top of all this distress, our large Afghan community has been dealing with the grief of what has happened since coalition troops withdrew from the country. In south-western and western Sydney we have been hit hard. The question for the future and for this Premier is: Will the road map out of COVID continue to grow the inequalities between the people in my electorate and the people in electorates to the north and the east? Will our businesses and workers who saw their jobs go to businesses outside locked-down areas of concern continue to bear the brunt? The Premier claims to be for western Sydney but the proof will be in the pudding.

Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS (Dubbo) (17:20): I thank the member for Oatley for the opportunity to speak on the important issue of fighting COVID and the road map to reopening. I feel qualified to speak on this issue given the outbreak across the Western NSW Local Health District since August 10. There has been a total of 1,500 cases across the local health district, with over 950 coming from Dubbo alone. So far in this debate we have heard from a couple of speakers who have expressed passionate thoughts. Most people would agree that this has been a tragedy for so many reasons. In Dubbo alone we have lost 12 lives. It is a tragedy not just for south-western Sydney. Regional New South Wales has been impacted enormously, as have areas of Sydney.

I am not taking anything away from what Opposition members have said. We need to move forward and look for the hope that we now need. Rather than just trying to highlight everything that has gone wrong, it is also worth noting that there have been things that have gone right, some of which I want to talk about. The member for Oatley summed it up well when he used the phrase "onwards and upwards". At this point in time it is sometimes hard to see that because there have been so many challenges, but we need to find a way of moving forward. The extra 30,000 jobs that were created after the last COVID outbreak is an example of the better times ahead that business and the community can look forward to.

During this time in my region, collaboration between local government, the State Government and the Federal Government—as mentioned by the member for Goulburn—has been seen like never before. Emergency services—from the police, the ambos, the SES and the RFS—all pitched in to help with testing clinics and the like. The Western NSW Local Health District and the region's local emergency management committees were amazing. A combination of health district staff, police, the Australian Defence Force, Aboriginal land councils and other non-government organisations were all part of the community effort. That needs to be recognised. I spoke to police commander Assistant Commissioner Geoff McKechnie basically every day for 40 to 45 days in a row. He is now retired and enjoying a bit of a change. I have also done the same thing with his replacement. I spoke to the CEO and the mayor of Dubbo Regional Council every day during the crisis. I also spoke to mayors of other councils. Councils were important in this. Gilgandra Shire Council, Warren Shire Council and Orange City Council, to name just a few, were not in my area but I constantly kept up to date with them.

It is worth recognising that businesses in all parts of the State, including in regional areas, have been through huge upheaval during this time. Over the past couple of months I have been to a couple of meetings with local chambers online and spoken with members and hundreds of business owners. Businesses of every shape and size have had to deal with COVID, from small one-person sole traders to massive operations like Fletcher International in Dubbo, which employs hundreds of people from all sorts of different ethnic and language backgrounds. We need to recognise that every business is slightly different but resilience is a common thread in regional areas and in regional businesses. Government support for businesses has been there and, as we have heard, will continue to be there to help businesses get going on the way out of this pandemic.

We are on the way out; that is the good news. Part of the reason is the vaccination rates. As we know, New South Wales has reached just over 90 per cent first-dose vaccination of the eligible population, with over 74 per cent double vaccinated. In Dubbo 94.8 per cent of the eligible population have had a first dose and over 79.9 per cent are double vaccinated. In the mid-western region around Mudgee 94.9 per cent of the eligible population have had their first dose and over 75.1 per cent have had their second dose. In Narromine shire 94.7 per cent of the eligible population have had a first dose and over 76.8 per cent are double vaccinated. The

list goes on. Blayney Shire Council, Cowra Shire Council, Orange City Council and Warren Shire Council are all over 95 per cent first-dose vaccinated. Gilgandra, a small community with a massive heart, has seen over 95 per cent of its eligible population first-dose vaccinated and a whopping 83.7 per cent have had two doses.

People of western New South Wales have realised the challenge. They have taken up that challenge and have done extremely well. We all know that the vaccination rate is the way to moving forward, getting our businesses open and getting people back to our region. We are at the 70 per cent mark—happy days! Lots of things have changed as of Monday and we have got more on the way, with the 80 per cent double dose target firmly in our sights. That will mean more visitors to the home and more ability to see family and friends as we head towards a more normal Christmas, which is what everybody wants to see. The reopening is not just about returning to normal; it is also about getting the economy back on track. We are absolutely focused on that and this road map is definitely the way to help us get back to that.

Mr JIHAD DIB (Lakemba) (17:25): I thank the member for Oatley, my electoral neighbour. We do a fair bit of work together, even though he has always got the wrong idea when it comes to politics. During the pandemic we worked together at different places to support community. I thank every member who has spoken in this debate, and also I acknowledge that 444 people lost their lives since 16 June. I know that I speak on behalf of everybody in the House when I say that our thoughts, condolences and best wishes are with their families because that is what it is about—the lives that have been lost.

What a time we have had. It has been quite extraordinary, in some ways. Members—including the member for Goulburn, who participated remotely—have described their experiences. As the member for Dubbo said, it is not about western Sydney or south-western Sydney; it is about all of New South Wales. COVID affected us in so many different ways. I note that every single MP who spoke had notes, but they did not refer to them because they spoke from the heart. The member for Fairfield spoke about some of his experiences, as did the member for Auburn, who talked about the family experience. All of them turned up for their community groups and did whatever they could, as did every member of Parliament.

It is not all sunshine and rainbows. The pandemic has been pretty tough, and there are some lessons to be learnt from it. We got through COVID, to an extent, only because the community picked it up. When we left here on 24 June, only 20-odd per cent of people had been vaccinated. Our first job was to tell people to stay safe, get tested and stay indoors. I remember doing a video in different languages with the member for Fairfield, in his broken Italian and my broken Arabic, and a number of other MPs saying, "Stay home, get tested and stay safe." At that stage we did not have the vaccinations. We were not even talking about vaccination as our way out. We were saying, "Look after yourself." Then we moved to the vaccination rate and then we found the so-called local government areas [LGAs] of concern. Before that, Fairfield had a massive problem. We had people lining up for hours to be tested. That was the reality. Overlaying all of that was the fear people felt. Then it started coming into the Canterbury-Bankstown area and suddenly they were LGAs of concern.

There will be many private members' statements about this, but the reality is that we became a divided city. We cannot get away from that. I appreciate the sentiments of members on the other side of the House. I appreciate the sentiments of the Premier and others who might basically say, "Get over it." It is not that easy to get over. It is not that easy to get over when every day people were coming to our office and finding a way to contact us because they had lost their jobs, could not get food on the table and were trying to deal with really difficult situations while seeing things happen across other parts of the city that were not acceptable to them. I do not blame them.

Many people in those so-called LGAs of concern are the essential workers: the ones who we rely on, the first ones to lose their jobs, the ones who do not have job security and the ones who effectively were blamed, on some occasions, for what was going on. There was no indication of the reality of the situation: the multigenerational households living together or the fact that somebody would go to work and come back and catch COVID in that time. There was a narrative that "It's these guys' fault; it is western Sydney's fault". I did worry. I worried when COVID went into the regions and I worried when it went into Dubbo and Wilcannia. I have been to Wilcannia and I know they do not have much there. COVID would rip straight through.

We did get through to an extent, but it was a community-led response—the community groups that found generosity wherever they could, the healthcare workers who stepped up every single day and looked after one another, those who inspired others and those who managed to find things. The truth is that we lost employment. So many jobs were lost. We hope they bounce back, but so many businesses will not. It is not as easy as flicking a switch. There is psychological damage that we also need to address. In the road map out of the pandemic, we cannot just look at finances; we need to look at what those 12 so-called LGAs of concern do not have. We do not have nice green spaces that people can go to. We had basketball courts where the hoops were taken off. We had helicopters flying above parks telling kids to go back inside.

We need to address those issues. The COVID pandemic highlighted more than anything else the structural inequities that exist within our society. I do not want to stand here and say, "It is that side's fault or our side's fault." It is no-one's fault. It is our responsibility to fix it, whichever side of the House we come from and whichever part of New South Wales we come from. The COVID pandemic highlighted that some people will do the heavy lifting and others will not. Members on this side and some members on the Government side had to bear an incredibly heavy responsibility for their community. We cannot ever go back there.

Mr MARK COURE (Oatley) (17:30): In reply: I thank the members representing the electorates of Fairfield, Auburn, Goulburn, Dubbo and Lakemba. I will begin by expressing the condolences of myself and members across the Chamber for the 1,461 deaths from COVID-19 over the past two years right across Australia, including 498 deaths in New South Wales alone. They were all someone's mother, father, grandfather, grandmother, child or relative. I send my condolences to their families. I thank the community groups, churches, places of worship and local councils, who stepped up and provided that much needed support to back NSW Health to ensure that vaccinations and testing occurred right across New South Wales. I thank the frontline staff—the nurses and doctors—who have done an outstanding job over the past 13 weeks.

New South Wales has the highest rates of vaccination in Australia. That has allowed us to reopen safely. NSW Health, members of Parliament of all persuasions and community leaders have all played a critical role to ensure that vaccination rates increase in our communities. Our Government has been appropriately managing the biggest economic crisis to impact our nation since World War II. There is no rule book or precedent for this in any way, shape or form. The Government has been following the health advice every step of the way. I thank every citizen in this State and across Australia. They have made huge sacrifices in the past couple of months to keep themselves, their loved ones and their community safe.

Saving lives and protecting livelihoods is at the forefront of every decision made. All members of our Government and those on the other side as well have a great working relationship with NSW Health and we will continue this into the future. Our Government has a comprehensive plan to manage the ongoing impacts of COVID-19, whether it be in a health or an economic sense. We have always showcased our commitment to providing appropriate support to those who need it most. More than 90 per cent of those aged over 16 in New South Wales have come forward to receive their first dose of a vaccine, with almost 75 per cent now fully vaccinated. I thank all members who have participated in this debate.

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

Motion agreed to.

Committees

LEGISLATION REVIEW COMMITTEE

Reports

Mr DAVID LAYZELL: As Chair: By leave: I table the report of the Legislation Review Committee entitled *Legislation Review Digest No. 34/57*, dated 12 October 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. 33/57*, dated 7 September 2021.

Bills

ELECTRIC VEHICLES (REVENUE ARRANGEMENTS) BILL 2021

ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND ASSESSMENT AMENDMENT (INFRASTRUCTURE CONTRIBUTIONS) BILL 2021

NSW GENERATIONS FUNDS AMENDMENT BILL 2021

Second Reading Debate

Debate resumed from an earlier hour.

Ms ROBYN PRESTON (Hawkesbury) (17:34): As Chair of the Committee on Transport and Infrastructure and Chair of its inquiry into electric buses in regional and metropolitan public transport networks in New South Wales, I speak in strong support of the Electric Vehicles (Revenue Arrangements) Bill 2021 and cognate bills. The inquiry I chaired looked into the benefits of electric buses and the barriers to their wider use in

city and country public transport fleets. We examined the opportunities and challenges of transitioning the whole metropolitan bus fleet to electric; what energy and infrastructure is needed to power electric bus fleets; and other emissions, neutral energy sources and the like. Our role was to also consider how to support the manufacture and assembly of electric buses in New South Wales.

The inquiry was part of the New South Wales Government's overall strategy to transition towards the electrification of cars and avoid the noise and pollution associated with non-electric cars. The transition to zero emission vehicles, both public and private, is a significant change that requires a detailed transition plan. The New South Wales Government has set a target of achieving net zero emissions by 2050 and a 35 per cent reduction in emissions by 2030. The net zero plan includes the commitment of replacing Sydney's bus fleet with electric buses to help achieve those targets, providing environmental and health benefits and making bus operations more financially sustainable over the long-term period.

The Electric Vehicles (Revenue Arrangements) Bill 2021 is an important part of our State's transition to electric vehicles. The objects of the bill are to, firstly, impose a distance-related road user charge on registered operators of certain zero- and low-emissions vehicles and exempt certain zero- and low-emissions vehicles from the payment of stamp duty under the Duties Act 1997, chapter 9. A portion of government revenue is from fuel excise. If we are transitioning towards electric vehicles then we must have a charge to replenish the petrol excise so that we may continue to fund the investments of our future, and that includes maintenance of the very roads that electric vehicles will be travelling on. Our Government's Electric Vehicle Strategy will cut taxes, incentivise uptake and reduce barriers to electric vehicle purchases over the next four years. We aim to have electric vehicles account for more than 50 per cent of new cars sold in New South Wales by 2030 and for them to comprise the great majority of cars sold in New South Wales in 2035. The transition that we are planning for with this current legislation will reinforce new jobs that will be created in the electric vehicle industry.

The Government is committed to enhancing the sustainability, productivity and liveability of our community. I am glad to be a part of a government that is focused on strategies to deal with the transition towards electric vehicles, with this legislation being such an important component. I put on record that not every consumer will automatically favour electric vehicles over traditional vehicles, and I am known for supporting many Aussie traditions. Call me conservative if you wish, but I am mindful of the joy of driving that only comes with the grunt of a 351 V8 under the hood of my brother's 1936 and 1937 Ford hot rods; I cannot ignore that. The pleasure provided is unmistakable and irreplaceable, so let us respect the joys of the old-fashioned driving experience but move forward and embrace this new electric vehicle transition. The health benefits produced through lower air pollution from using electric vehicles cannot be dismissed. There is much infrastructure that we need to invest in, and I hope we can respect the thrill and joy experienced with street rods, Harleys. Who knows—electric vehicles making up 30 per cent of cars in years to come might even have a hybrid hot rod to thrill the green energy enthusiasts? I commend the bills to the House.

Mr CLAYTON BARR (Cessnock) (17:39): Via video link: I note from the outset that the Labor Opposition will not be opposing the cognate Electric Vehicles (Revenue Arrangements) Bill 2021, but it will be seeking to make amendments such that the bill, if enacted, will be reviewed in two years' time. I start my contribution by drawing direct attention to the beneficiaries of the bill and the \$490 million that is to be spent in the enactment of it. I ask this question: What three things do the following Sydney suburbs have in common—St Ives, Lane Cove, Point Piper, Mosman, Vacluse, Bellevue Hill, City of Sydney, Crows Nest and Gordon? The answer is that they are some of the most expensive suburbs in which to buy real estate in Australia, they are the suburbs with the highest ownership of electric cars, and the residents in those suburbs are the most likely to receive the great bulk of the money attributed to this particular bill.

The bill seeks to make available up to \$75 million so that a \$3,000 rebate can be given to the first 25,000 people to buy an electric vehicle [EV] where the vehicle is priced up to \$68,000. The obvious starting point for that rebate is that you need to have up to \$68,750 to spend on a new vehicle. At the very lowest entry point, a car buyer needs to have \$43,000 to enter the EV market at the very bottom end for a small vehicle. Rest assured, the great majority of people in the electorate that I represent, Cessnock, have nowhere near \$68,000 to spend on a car and possibly access the \$3,000 rebate. That is why I started my contribution to this debate by clearly identifying which people in which suburbs are currently able to fund the purchase of an electric vehicle because electric vehicles are, by comparison to other cars, expensive. Data, statistics and evidence tell us exactly who will most likely have access to the \$3,000 and where they live.

The generosity of spending taxpayer dollars in some of Sydney's most exclusive and expensive suburbs does not end with the \$3,000 rebate. Those very same people will also reap the benefits of having stamp duty waived of approximately \$2,500 per vehicle, and those lucky people, already doing quite well in life, will also not have to pay any road user charges until 2027 or beyond that might come in at some \$500 per annum for a vehicle that travels around 20,000 kilometres a year. It is hard to imagine the means by which we might more specifically,

geographically and by targeted population give tens of millions of dollars from the pockets of the many into the pockets of the few. Meanwhile, the people in the electorate of Cessnock will continue to drive their new, second-, third-, fourth- or fifth-hand combustion engine vehicles, often more than 10 years old, paying 42c on every litre of petrol purchased in taxes or road user charges. I emphasise the point about petrol taxing because it equates to essentially \$1 of every \$3 spent on petrol. Very specifically, I draw the attention of the House to the reality that owners of electric vehicles will not be paying that same tax.

There has been some suggestion in this debate that the rebates and waiving of stamp duty will somehow offer people choice. How insulting. How out of touch those types of comments are. I ask this rhetorical question to my colleagues: How many MPs are having their doors beaten down by families, essential workers and tradies who just cannot decide which \$68,000 luxury vehicle to buy? Any person who has an interest in electric vehicles will be aware that the reality of their place in the market is well on its way. It matters naught what mechanisms we put in place in New South Wales. The increase in electric vehicles on our streets is coming not because we are making the decision but because international governments have made a decision that this will be the case.

Governments of Europe, Asia and America that are not run by Neanderthals like our current Australian Government have decided to insist on future motor vehicles being electric. The electric vehicle rollout has already begun. In some precincts it will be compulsory for all new vehicles purchased after 2025, 2030, 2035 and beyond. Further to this, those same international countries will be phasing out combustion engines. The Australian car market is so incidentally small on a global scale that no car manufacturer is going to keep making vehicles only for our market should Australia try to swim against the tide and not go electric. We are going electric.

Those who are interested in the electric vehicle market will also be aware that production of what might be considered a more affordable electric vehicle for those earning low and basic incomes—I am talking about the primary affordable market in the current Australian vehicle market, which is in the \$15,000 to \$25,000 range—is still many years away. Construction materials have determined that this will be the case and there is no shortcut to that. We are still a long way away from affordable electric vehicles, hence my concern about many of the policy positions found in this bill. For the foreseeable future, the benefit will be to those who are doing very well. The pain of continuing to run combustion engines and pay all the taxes and stamp duties will be felt by those with less money.

There is a hint of insanity in suggesting that our preparation for future electric vehicles will somehow be enhanced by forgoing hundreds of millions of dollars in stamp duty. A saner approach would be to collect the stamp duties and actually invest that money into rolling out EV charging stations en masse right across the State. I do not mean just along the highways that help the people from the Harbour City get to their holiday houses along the New South Wales coastline. I want the stamp duties to put charging stations into the towns and villages in every regional, rural and remote community across Australia. I only wish that the NSW Nationals were not so out of their intellectual depth when it comes to negotiating bills like this.

Let us just take a logical walk, through current road policy. If you want to travel through a new tunnel or on a new motorway, the user pays the toll. If you want to use our broader road network, the user pays through current taxes. But if you are lucky enough to be able to afford an electric vehicle, after getting a \$3,000 golden handshake from this particular policy position everyone else is going to pay for you to have the privilege of accessing the rest of the road network. It is hardly a user-pays model when it comes to this opportunity. The tax on fuel is felt most by those who typically travel the most kilometres. By default, these are almost always regional people or people who travel for their work.

In regional communities and towns, jobs, schools and loved ones are often many kilometres away. Public transport is almost non-existent. Private vehicles are an essential item, and many kilometres are racked up each year. This bill will not address the expense of running a motor vehicle for residents of regional communities or regional New South Wales. This bill will, however, most probably benefit those city-based residents of New South Wales, who currently are the most likely to have entered or are about to enter the electric vehicle market, and who do so by way of having access to taxpayer-funded subsidies. But they also have access to taxpayer-funded and subsidised public trains, buses and ferries. [*Extension of time*]

People in the cities already have wonderful subsidies assisting with public trains, buses and ferries. The suburbs I mentioned at the beginning of my contribution are almost exclusively bound to the beautiful harbour of Sydney, and hence the wonderful opportunity for ferries alone. It is unfathomable that any regional MP would come into the House and speak glowingly of this bill. Yes, there are merits to this bill—there are a few—but the failures of the bill are plentiful. This bill will almost specifically, and by design, deny equity of access to regional communities and those communities that are, on average, not earning at least twice the national average wage. In fact, people in regional communities quite often earn well below the national average wage. This bill is an unconscionable shift of wealth—disguised as a stimulus package—into the pockets of some of the State's

wealthiest individuals. Preparing for electric vehicles will require genuine, insightful and equitable policy platforms based on honesty. Sadly, this bill delivers none of those things. I thank the House.

Mr RON HOENIG (Heffron) (17:51): I make a brief contribution to debate on the Electric Vehicles (Revenue Arrangements) Bill 2021 and cognate bills. In doing so, I endorse wholeheartedly the remarks of the member for Summer Hill, who has very clearly, insightfully and in considerable detail placed before the House the Opposition's position. I am a great supporter of a transition to electric vehicles. Only last week I wrote to the transport Minister demanding that the small proportion of electric buses that have been ordered be allocated to the areas of Zetland and Waterloo. They operate far more quietly and do not cause pollution, which would be welcome in that overdeveloped and outrageously and scandalously dense area of Zetland. I remind members that the Government is not solely responsible for that; so are we in Labor.

I support the whole concept of the movement to electric vehicles. Only last year I acquired a hybrid vehicle. I very much appreciate the fact that I very rarely have to put any fuel into the vehicle. However, this bill is really nothing more than a bill to provide a revenue stream lost by the transition of the community to electric vehicles. In my view, if the Government wishes to raise taxes—and it is its responsibility to provide a revenue stream and collect taxes—then there should be transparency in that process. If the public knew, for example, that every time they went to the petrol station and filled up their car with fuel they were paying 42c in the dollar for excise they would probably have a fit. If we add to that the registration costs of the vehicles, the horrendous impact of tolls as well as the cost of running vehicles, we see that running cars is an expensive exercise. But cars are also a huge revenue cost. I get the argument that governments need a revenue stream to be able to construct roads, but we need to be quite transparent about it.

I draw the attention of House to a second issue I noted while examining the bill and reading the very accurate outline of the summary of the bill prepared by the member for Summer Hill. The ability to raise revenue in the mechanism envisaged by the bill will in itself generate a huge bureaucracy to recover that revenue. I can well understand the member for Cessnock complaining about the impact of additional costs on a vehicle. It is peculiar that we have spent so much time successfully encouraging the transition of our economy to renewables—encouraging people to move to electric and hybrid vehicles. The world has forced vehicle manufacturers to make that move and people are conscious of those emissions.

In New South Wales and probably in Australia we are moving slower than the rest of the world and usually a price imperative is involved in that process. To generate another revenue stream for that movement is punishing people in the future for making that transition. My view is that taxes need to be transparent and the public needs to know how much they are paying. The mechanism proposed by the Minister will let people know how much they will be paying for the use of electric vehicles. There is no lack of transparency in that cost but there should be complete transparency in the process. Having said that, I endorse the remarks of the member for Summer Hill.

Mr MATT KEAN (Hornsby—Treasurer, and Minister for Energy and Environment) (17:56): On behalf of Mr Dominic Perrottet: In reply: I speak in reply to the debate on the Electric Vehicles (Revenue Arrangements) Bill 2021 and cognate bills. I thank all members for their contributions to the debate on these important bills. In particular I thank the member for Summer Hill for her contribution and constructive engagement on the bills. I welcome the support of the Opposition for the bills. The member rightly pointed to the issues that are currently holding the electric vehicle industry back: higher up-front costs making it harder to switch to an EV; the lack of models for sale in New South Wales limiting consumer choice; and range anxiety because of the lack of charging infrastructure across New South Wales. The member also spoke about the enormous benefits of EVs, lower fuel costs, lower maintenance costs, cleaner air, lower emissions and quieter roads. The Government intends to support the Opposition's amendment.

I acknowledge the member's comment that the Opposition intends to move amendments in the Legislative Council to ensure that there is a committee review of the bill in two years' time making sure that it is fit for purpose and achieving its intended outcomes. This is a sensible amendment and the Government intends to support it. I also acknowledge the concerns raised by the member for Summer Hill about the potential administrative burden on drivers having to report their kilometres travelled on a periodic basis. I reassure all members that the Government wants to make compliance with the new scheme as easy as possible. That is why the bill provides flexibility for implementation of the road user charge, including both pre and postpaid options for the payment of the charge. The bill also provides Transport for NSW with flexibility for how kilometres are reported, including mileage on private roads, which will allow the implementation of the scheme to evolve as technology in this space also evolves.

I reassure members that the Government is committed to keeping up to speed with new ways of reporting while also ensuring that the privacy of drivers is properly protected. The bill sets out a framework for road user charging that is technology neutral and workable from day one, but also provides for regulations to be created as technological options become clear. Over time this technology may evolve to allow for more sophisticated

payment types and for an integrated system that automatically recognises when travel should be exempt from road user charges. However, it is important that a basic odometer-based option remains available for drivers.

I also acknowledge the Opposition's concerns about the penalty regime. The bill puts forward a framework for maximum penalties, which is common in legislation. Conduct that the bill penalises includes not paying road user charges when they are due and failing to provide Transport for NSW with the information, such as odometer readings and other prescribed information, needed to administer the road user charge. Maximum penalties are exactly that—maximums for more egregious or fraudulent cases. The bill also sets out a power for penalty notices to be issued and for penalty notices to be established under regulations. This provides for enforcement discretion. Much like a speeding or parking ticket, these penalty notices will be designed to impose a relatively small penalty for minor breaches of the law, a discretion to not issue a penalty notice when a reasonable excuse is offered and provide a warning or provide a grace period for rectification of a breach with no penalty.

I acknowledge the contributions of the members representing the electorates of Manly, Coffs Harbour, Miranda, Tweed, Seven Hills, North Shore and Hawkesbury. The members were correct to point out the vast benefits of EVs for the State and everyone who loves to drive. Electric vehicles are typically high-performing vehicles that are cheaper and quieter to drive. The members also spoke about the importance of tax reform and the need to ensure that we have sustainable road revenue sources moving forward, particularly given the forecast decline in fuel excise over the coming years and the Government's decision to waive stamp duty fees under \$78,000. The deferred commencement of the road user charge strikes the right balance between driving uptake of EVs now and maintaining sustainable revenue sources for the future.

I thank the members representing the electorates of Maitland, Blacktown, Gosford, Swansea, Lakemba, Cessnock and Heffron for their contributions. The member for Maitland and the member for Gosford spoke about the importance of making sure our EV charging network covers regional parts of the State so drivers across New South Wales can buy an EV and drive it with confidence, no matter where they live and travel. I acknowledge the members' concerns about the need to minimise the compliance burden on people and reassure them that keeping the administrative burden as low as possible is the priority for the Government.

The member for Blacktown spoke about the importance of making sure that western Sydney drivers can access the benefits of EVs—something to which the Government is absolutely committed. That is why the Government is providing \$3,000 rebates and stamp duty waivers for drivers looking to buy a more affordable EV model and is committed to building charging infrastructure across western Sydney. I also acknowledge the member's concerns about more flexible payment options and how they would assist vehicle owners to manage their own budgets. The pre and postpaid frameworks in the bill will provide this flexibility.

I acknowledge the concerns of the members for Sydney and Swansea about the planning reforms needed to support EV charging infrastructure. I reassure members that the Government is committed to making sure new buildings are EV ready and have the right wiring in place to install EV chargers. This work is underway and we will have more to say on that over the coming months. I reassure the members for Swansea and Lakemba in particular that the Government is committed to supporting our workforce with training and support to work in the emerging electric vehicle industry. I note that my colleague the Minister for Skills and Tertiary Education has recently announced a new partnership between TAFE and Volvo to help mechanics to upskill and work safely in the EV industry.

We are at a turning point when it comes to the future of our car fleet. Do we look to the past and rely solely on existing models or do we look to the future and adopt the latest and best vehicles our car makers have to offer? Car makers right across the world are making huge shifts to retool their production lines for EVs. This is our time to take advantage of those global shifts and make New South Wales the easiest place to own and buy an EV anywhere in Australia. Our plan will lower up-front costs, reduce range anxiety and increase model availability. In the words of Electric Vehicle Council CEO Behyad Jafari:

This package, frankly, represents how grown-ups do reform—consultative, balanced and long-sighted.

The New South Wales Government has set the pace for the other States of Australia. Unless they want to see themselves lapped by the premier State, they will look to replicate New South Wales' smart thinking very quickly. I acknowledge the outstanding leadership of Behyad and the team at the Electric Vehicle Council. They have been essential in helping us to develop the best policy in the nation on this. I thank Behyad and his team. I want to make sure New South Wales is the Norway of Australia when it comes to electric vehicles. These bills and our nation-leading EV strategy will drive the State towards that ambition.

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

Motion agreed to.

Consideration in detail requested by Mr Matt Kean.

Consideration in Detail

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Greg Piper): By leave: I will deal with the Electric Vehicles (Revenue Arrangements) Bill 2021 in groups of clauses and schedules. The question is that clauses 1 to 27, and schedules 1 to 3 be agreed to.

Mr MATT KEAN (Hornsby—Treasurer, and Minister for Energy and Environment) (18:04): By leave: I move amendments Nos 1 to 4 on sheet c2021-098C in globo:

No 1 Relevant zero or low emissions vehicles

Page 3, clause 8, lines 4–8. Omit all words on those lines. Insert instead—

A road user charge is payable in relation to the following zero or low emissions vehicles—

- (a) a zero or low emissions vehicle that—
 - (i) is registered for the first time on or after the relevant date, or
 - (ii) after the relevant date, is registered in the name of a person that differs from the person in whose name the vehicle was registered before the relevant date;
- (b) a battery electric vehicle or hydrogen fuel cell electric vehicle—
 - (i) that is registered for the first time before the relevant date; and

No 2 When liability for road user charges starts

Page 13, Schedule 2. Insert after line 9—

2 Transitional provision in relation to liability for road user charges before relevant date

- (1) Despite Part 2, Division 1—
 - (a) a road user charge is not payable for kilometres travelled by a relevant zero or low emissions vehicle before the relevant registration date for the vehicle; and
 - (b) the registered operator for a relevant zero or low emissions vehicle is not liable for a road user charge in relation to the vehicle before the relevant registration date for the vehicle.
- (2) In this section—

relevant registration date, in relation to a relevant zero or low emissions vehicle, means the date the first of the following happens under the *Road Transport Act 2013* after the relevant date—

 - (a) the vehicle is registered for the first time;
 - (b) the person in whose name the vehicle is registered differs from the person in whose name the vehicle was last registered;
 - (c) the vehicle's registration is renewed.

No 3 Dutiable value of electric vehicle

Page 14, Schedule 3, proposed section 270D(1), lines 5 and 6. Omit all words on those lines. Insert instead—

- (1) Duty under this Chapter is not chargeable on—
 - (a) an application to register a battery electric vehicle or hydrogen fuel cell electric vehicle if—
 - (i) the application is made between 1 September 2021 and the relevant date; and
 - (ii) the vehicle has a dutiable value of not more than \$78,000, or
 - (b) an application to register a zero or low emissions vehicle made on or after the relevant date.

No 4 Dutiable value of electric vehicle

Page 14, Schedule 3, proposed section 270D, lines 10–17. Omit all words on those lines.

The Government announced its Electric Vehicle Strategy in June 2021. This bill seeks to deliver on that commitment to abolish stamp duty on electric vehicles to support the growth of the New South Wales electric vehicle market. It also sets up a framework for a road user charge that will provide a more efficient and fairer distance-based charge. This would help transition the State towards a more modern and sustainable revenue source for the ongoing funding of roads. However, I move these technical amendments to address some potential ambiguity in the original drafting, and to improve the administration of the Electric Vehicle Strategy.

First, amendments are proposed to change the transaction-based terminology used in parts of the bill, such as a vehicle being acquired, sold or purchased, which relate to when stamp duty exemptions and the road user charge apply. These sections will instead refer to the relevant registration date. This approach will help to improve

administration by providing a clearly defined date and to make the bill more consistent. Second, amendments are included to clearly state that the road user charge does not commence until an electric vehicle's first registration after the relevant date, which is the earlier of 1 July 2027 or the date that sales of battery electric vehicles have reached 30 per cent of new vehicle sales.

This is the intention of the bill and these amendments make clear that the road user charge does not commence until an electric vehicle's first registration after the relevant date. These amendments will provide certainty to electric vehicle buyers as they make purchase decisions. Third, the amendment will ensure that the stamp duty exemption will apply to vehicles priced up to and including \$78,000, rather than referring to being below that dollar amount. Stamp duty applies to price bands of \$100 increments. These amendments support better implementation with the existing structure of stamp duty systems for Transport for NSW. These amendments will improve the operation of the electric vehicles legislation and clarify the provisions of electric vehicle purchasers, dealers and manufacturers.

Ms JO HAYLEN (Summer Hill) (18:07): I will briefly address the amendments. The Opposition does not oppose these broadly technical amendments. In relation to amendment No. 1, the clarification that stamp duty exemptions and the introduction of the road user charge will be based on when an electric vehicle is registered rather than purchased, and the clarification of when the relevant rebates and stamp duty reductions apply provide clarity to those who wish to purchase a vehicle. The Opposition supports amendment No. 1. In relation to amendment No 2, again it is important to provide clarity that the road user charges does not commence for an electric vehicle subject to a duty until 1 July 2027 or such a time as when electric vehicles reach 30 per cent of new vehicle sales. It is really important that the intent of the bill is clear.

Labor supports the delayed introduction of the road user charge until such a time as the market has matured. Labor is pleased that the Government has learned from other jurisdictions and sought to balance the carrot and stick approach with this bill, with the intention of increasing the uptake of electric vehicles and securing an ongoing mechanism to fund road maintenance. Labor does not object to the broadly technical amendments Nos 3 and 4, which ensure those who purchase vehicles between \$77,901 and \$78,000 inclusive are able to take advantage of the stamp duty exemption laid out in the bill. Given stamp duty is calculated in \$100 increments, the current drafting of the bill would extend the duty exemption for vehicles that cost between \$77,901 and \$78,000. Labor supports these amendments as measures to provide clarity for those intending to purchase an electric vehicle.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Greg Piper): The question is that the amendments be agreed to.

Amendments agreed to.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Greg Piper): The question is that clauses 1 to 27, and schedules 1 to 3 as amended be agreed to.

Clauses 1 to 27, and schedules 1 to 3 as amended agreed to.

Third Reading

Mr MATT KEAN: On behalf of Mr Dominic Perrottet: I move:

That these bills be now read a third time.

Motion agreed to.

Private Members' Statements

TRIBUTE TO THE HON. MAX FREDERICK WILLIS, FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla—Attorney General, and Minister for Prevention of Domestic and Sexual Violence) (18:10): I pay tribute to the late Hon. Max Frederick Willis, RFD, ED, CSI, my constituent and a former member and President of the New South Wales Legislative Council. An alumnus of Murwillumbah High School, Max received a Bachelor of Laws from the University of Sydney in 1957. Soon after his tertiary studies he decided to practise law in Miranda, a decision that would lay the groundwork for his lifelong connection with the Sutherland shire. After 12 years of legal practice in Miranda, Max married Wendy Booth. Soon after, he was appointed to the New South Wales Legislative Council. His parliamentary career spanned nearly three decades. Max held the positions of Deputy Leader of the Opposition from 1977 to 1978, Leader of the Opposition from 1978 to 1981 and President of the Legislative Council from 1991 to 1999.

As President, he fought to ensure the Legislative Council would grow in its capacity as a house of review, winning a famous victory in *Egan v Willis* confirming the Legislative Council's right to review papers sourced from the Executive Government. He was also a champion of the parliamentary committee system, being the first

Chair of the Social Issues Committee. In this capacity, Max drove an inquiry into the accessibility of adoption information and presided over a major inquiry into drug abuse among New South Wales youth, a legacy which informs policymaking today. Max was a devoted servant of the Liberal Party, including serving on the New South Wales State Executive and as Regional President for the Sutherland/Illawarra Region. He was known for his intellect and political skill. As a long-time local Liberal figure, Max is distinctly remembered by many Cronulla residents as a gentleman and a scholar. Whether it be speaking as a member of the party's State Executive or simply chatting at the local Woolworths, he always provided wise and measured conversation.

Beyond an esteemed political career, Max was also committed to the Army Reserve. He had 30 years' involvement, including a three-year period as commanding officer of the University of New South Wales Regiment, and reached the military rank of brigadier. His involvement in the Army Reserve speaks to an unwavering commitment to protect the community which he represented. As a testament to his extensive service, during his career Max was awarded the Reserve Force Decoration, RFD; the Efficiency Decoration, ED; and the Cross of the Solomon Islands, CSI. His servant-mindedness continued into retirement. He became a member of the Commonwealth Day Council of New South Wales and President of the Australia Youth Trust, a position he retained until this year. Following his passing I have been heartened to hear the stories of constituents about Max. One described him as a thoughtful and generous man, a truth displayed in his sponsorship of a family from the Solomon Islands living in the Cronulla electorate. Richard Nott, President of the Australia-Britain Society New South Wales Branch says:

Dear Max was a valued member of our committee at the Australia-Britain Society, great supporter of the Reserve Forces Council and a generous supporter of schools at the Commonwealth Day Council events. A strong citizen, guiding hand to the Solomon Islands legal system and a great military raconteur.

In commemoration of his social, political and military contributions to Australia, in 2001 Max also received a Centenary Medal and the National Medal with clasp. Today we would be hard pressed to find an individual more deserving and, in true respect of his title, honourable. The life of the Hon. Max Frederick Willis was one of service and scholarship to which our State owes much gratitude. His legacy is undoubtedly one of pride for his late wife; his four children, Catherine, Sarah, David and Joanne; his grandchildren, Bryce, Imogen, Layton, Archer and Finn; and his extended family. Vale, Max Willis, family man, lawyer, parliamentarian, reservist and community servant.

MATRAVILLE WASTE INCINERATOR

Mr MICHAEL DALEY (Maroubra) (18:14): I thank the community members in the electorate of Maroubra, who have done remarkably well through the COVID outbreak, as have the citizens of New South Wales more generally. We came forward in huge numbers for testing and vaccinations, and I thank the people of my electorate for doing the right thing. Now we can all enjoy the freedoms that come with the end of the pandemic. We all know that we live in a terrific area. My electorate is one of the greatest areas in Australia to live but, particularly in the southern part of my electorate and in the southern part of Randwick City Council, there are some legacy issues from a great amount of industry that has been there for over a century. Some of that industry continues, some of it has gone, but it still leaves legacy issues.

There is a port, an airport and a sewage treatment plant, and we take exception to the great deal of historical legacy issues because they were ostensibly there long before people came to live in the area. But as the population increases, we do not want to see an intensification of the pressures that residents have to put up with. That is why in October 2019 we were all disappointed to hear that the paper mill in Matraville, which is run by Opal, formerly Orora, put in an application to the department of planning for a joint venture partnership to build a waste-to-energy incinerator facility. That State-significant development is likely to go to the Independent Planning Commission due to objections from Randwick City Council, and I thank the council for that. There are a number of unique objections and the community does not want the incinerator. We have been asking those applicants for quite some time to let us know some rudimentary facts about the project, such as what will come out of the stack, but they have been unwilling or unable to tell us.

There is still a lot that we do not know about the application and the plan to build an incinerator in Matraville. But we do know that it will have a 60-metre stack, it will be 100 metres away from homes and there will be odours, emissions and additional truck movements. As I said earlier, our community members are not nimbies, but in that area in particular there is a lot of heavy industry, and significant noise is produced by the activities that have been going on there for a very long time and there is a legacy of contamination. We can put up with that, but we do not want this and we will fight it. At this juncture I thank and congratulate Chris Hanson from No More Incinerators, now the No Matraville Incinerators group. He is really leading the charge on that, together with Steve McAndrew from the Matraville Precinct Committee, as well as elected representatives of all political colours. However, we were heartened to see the State Government release the document entitled the *Energy from Waste Infrastructure Plan*, which points out:

... populations can still experience health impacts when emissions are below national standards, and for some common air pollutants, there is no safe threshold of impact. It is becoming challenging to comply with national standards in NSW due to growing population, tighter national air quality standards and the impacts of climate change. From a population health perspective, even where pollution levels are held constant, health impacts from air pollution are likely to increase over time simply due to an increase in the number of people exposed due to population growth.

It is because of the overdevelopment principles of the Government that our area is being overdeveloped, but we keep fighting against that, and recently we had a win at Little Bay with Meriton. But it is also due to the growth of industry, so I was happy to see that the plan involved those new waste-to-energy incinerators being confined to four areas only: the West Lithgow Precinct, the Parkes Special Activation Precinct, the Richmond Valley Regional Jobs Precinct and the Southern Goulburn-Mulwaree Precinct. No doubt those communities will have something to say because no-one wants those facilities in their backyard. But I am worried about the fact that no Matraville incinerators have said that the applicant will seek a meeting or has sought a meeting with Minister Keane and Minister Stokes to get an exemption under the policy because the policy does allow for exemptions. On behalf of the people of the electorate of Maroubra, particularly in the southern part of Randwick City, I say to the Government and to Minister Kean: Do not grant an exemption for the project. Let it be refused.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Greg Piper): I call the member for Bathurst and Deputy Premier, and I congratulate him on the elevation to his new role.

BATHURST ELECTORATE SPORTING PROJECTS

Mr PAUL TOOLE (Bathurst—Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional Transport and Roads, and Minister for Regional New South Wales) (18:20): I thank the electorate of Bathurst for coming forward and increasing the vaccination rate. There is no doubt that it has been a long and hard journey. Many sacrifices have been made by my community to ensure those high vaccination rates in the local area. The message is simple: We will not stop there and we want to get it higher than it is right now. In Bathurst 92 per cent of people have had their first dose and 75 per cent have had their second dose. In Lithgow 88 per cent of people have had their first dose and 70 per cent have had their second dose. In Oberon 91.4 per cent of people have had their first dose and 74 per cent have had their second dose. In Blayney 95 per cent of people have had their first dose and 76 per cent have had their second dose. For the Mid-Western Regional Council, which takes in my areas of Kandos and Rylstone, 95 per cent of people have had their first dose and 75 per cent have had their second dose. I thank those communities.

Now I will talk about a couple of projects that received investment from the Government, because that money is changing the way in which communities play and invest in sport in our local areas. I will highlight a couple of projects that are underway as they are significant announcements that will improve sporting facilities in my backyard. Some \$1.3 million will go towards upgrading the Bathurst Sportsground in partnership with the Bathurst Regional Council. The project will improve the chances of major cricket fixtures taking place there in future. By upgrading the ground we have the opportunity to hold T20 or even Sheffield Shield cricket matches there. The bike track around the oval has been removed to make the playing surface bigger, a new picket fence will eventually go up and a special couch turf—which is what we see on the Sydney Cricket Ground—will be laid on the outfield. A new centre wicket will be laid and improved drainage will be installed. That will create a real buzz for locals and it will create the ability to attract major events in future.

Another \$3 million will go to the Bathurst Harness Racing Club to construct a new training centre at its new headquarters. Bathurst is one of the biggest hubs for harness racing in New South Wales, which is why the New South Wales Government is supporting the future of the industry in our region by working with the Harness Racing NSW board to develop the training centre. The centre will be an enormous boost for our community, creating around 30 jobs and resulting in the construction of permanent stabling for up to 60 horses as well as a training track and day paddocks. Some \$6.3 million will go towards improvements to the sporting precinct on Hereford Street, which is well underway. Again, that project is funded in a partnership between the Bathurst Regional Council and the New South Wales State Government.

The aim is to turn that area of Hereford Street into a major rugby league and rugby union hub that will be able to host regional and State-based events. Two new football fields will be built on the floodplain between the Bathurst Bulldogs and the St Patrick's Rugby League Club, taking the total number of fields to six. Further, a new amenities block and an 800-space car park will be constructed to support the future of sport in the local area. Another investment is the \$3.7 million upgrade to the Bathurst Tyers Park Racecourse, which has already resulted in the installation of a state-of-the-art horse walker at the venue. We will reinvigorate thoroughbred racing in the region. The project was rolled out as part of the New South Wales Government's COVID-19 stimulus package. It is actually resulting in around 40 jobs for local tradies. Four of the latest horse walkers are included in the development with the aim of attracting trainers to base their operations locally at the facility. The grant from the New South Wales Government is for the construction of additional stabling—four stable blocks of 20 boxes each—the horse walkers and treadmills, as well as widening the track by three metres.

Thoroughbred racing has a long and proud history in the Bathurst electorate and we are really looking forward to seeing these upgrades. There is no doubt that right across regional areas of the State the New South Wales Government is investing in sporting facilities in local communities that make a big difference to the way in which the sporting programs run. Sport is big in regional areas. The four developments are just another example of what the New South Wales Government is doing to ensure that regional areas continue to provide infrastructure improvements and create jobs in the local area as we continue to grow and flourish.

BAULKHAM HILLS ELECTORATE COVID-19 VACCINATION RATE

Mr DAVID ELLIOTT (Baulkham Hills—Minister for Police and Emergency Services) (18:25): This evening I recognise the valuable contribution of the Baulkham Hills electorate in assisting our State to reach its 70 per cent double dose vaccination target. At the time of speaking, I have the honour and pleasure to advise the House that The Hills local government area's first dose vaccination rate has surpassed 95 per cent and, incredibly, the number of residents who have received their second dose is at 91.6 per cent. This is the highest vaccination rate both in New South Wales and across the country.

I am also proud to inform the House that residents in the City of Parramatta local government area, some of whom are a valuable part of the Baulkham Hills electorate, have already reached 92.8 per cent for the first dose and 78.9 per cent for the second dose. I am incredibly proud of the way in which the Baulkham Hills community has answered the call to get vaccinated. It is a massive credit to our community and confirms, rightfully, that The Hills shire is the most community-minded and selfless place in which to live. It also highlights the pivotal role that The Hills community has played in helping our State to reach "freedom day" and what a day it was to see families reunite, including me reuniting with my dear mother at her nursing home, seeing businesses reopen—I visited a few—and seeing people getting back to work, providing much-needed hope and optimism after such a challenging and uncertain period.

By setting a cracking pace in getting the jab, the people of New South Wales had earned that moment by protecting our communities and businesses, who had such a tough time these past few months. This week is just a taste of the freedoms to come with the State on track to pass the 80 per cent double vaccination mark within days and, if we keep on going, we will ensure lockdowns become a thing of the past. So many people like me are keen to get back to the pub—maybe have already been to one.

Ms Tania Mihailuk: Tell us more!

Mr DAVID ELLIOTT: Members in the House will be surprised to hear that. People can now enjoy a meal at their local cafe and inject some money back into the local economy. It will not be long before we see the bush buzzing too, with the main streets of regional towns packed when unrestricted intrastate travel resumes.

Every citizen across the State has made considerable sacrifices in the past couple of months to keep ourselves, our loved ones and our communities safe. As we reach critical milestones in our road map, we have to get business back to business and get the economy going while staying safe. When we talk about businesses reopening, we must remember that this is about people, their livelihoods and their mental wellbeing. The best way to get people employed again and for existing staff to increase their shifts is to ensure local businesses have a plentiful supply of customers, so the challenge is out there for people to visit their favourite locations—retailers, restaurants, hairdressers, barbers and shopping centres—and to enjoy a meal at the pub, the club or a restaurant to support businesses' owners and their employees.

Summer will be a critical time for businesses to know that we will have their back. We want businesses to have the confidence to get out and invest in their businesses ahead of the busy Christmas trading period. New South Wales has pulled together to get our vaccination rate to more than 75 per cent as of today, which means we can begin the reopening process. We need the same spirit of cooperation to keep people safe and ensure that venues remain open. Overall, the people of New South Wales have done a tremendous job in reaching today's milestone, but we must keep going. We want to get as close as possible to 100 per cent double vaccination. Vaccination is our greatest weapon against the virus, together with social distancing, hand sanitising, mask-wearing and getting tested when we have symptoms—which all remain important as we navigate our way through this pandemic. We are on track. Most importantly, reaching these vaccination rates means people can reunite, celebrate and get on with their lives as we reopen the New South Wales economy.

COVID-19 AND BANKSTOWN ELECTORATE

Ms TANIA MIHAILUK (Bankstown) (18:29): Since the end of June, communities all across New South Wales have been coping with the challenging outbreak of the delta strain of COVID-19. As the State member for Bankstown, I have seen firsthand the devastating impacts that COVID-19 restrictions have had on local businesses, sporting groups and community organisations. If there was a community that experienced the brunt of the lockdown, it would be the Canterbury-Bankstown local government area. Being a local government area of

concern, we experienced some of the harshest restrictions in the State, being subject to stay-at-home orders, curfews, permits, restrictions on exercise and outdoor recreation, mandatory testing and vaccination requirements for over a hundred days. We also endured the biggest number of active cases of COVID-19 in the State, averaging over 5,000 active cases each day in September.

While the communities of south-west Sydney were pleased to do their part in ensuring our State could reopen, many will not forget the arbitrary and unclear rules that were imposed on them during the lockdown. The financial impacts that the COVID-19 outbreak had on jobs and on local businesses in south-west Sydney, and particularly my electorate of Bankstown, have been undoubtedly catastrophic. Over a fifth of the adults in my electorate are receiving disaster payments and close to 30 per cent of businesses are surviving on business support payments. Many businesses have closed. Indeed, my neighbouring local government areas also have suffered. Residents of the Fairfield local government area will remember the confusion and frustration they experienced as a result of the Government's decision to require essential workers, and later all workers, to be tested every three days. With testing facilities being under-resourced, residents were forced to wait in queues that stretched over several kilometres, as reported by my friend the member for Fairfield, Mr Guy Zangari.

But as is always the case during challenging times, heroes do emerge. It is important that I acknowledge the many organisations and clubs that have demonstrated exemplary service throughout this challenging time. I acknowledge Ms Mariam Mourad, CEO of Bankstown Women's Health Centre, and Ms Kerrie Newcombe, Operations Manager of Bankstown Women's Health Centre, and indeed the staff of the centre, too, for preparing food packages for some of our most vulnerable residents across my electorate. I thank also the Bankstown Women's Health Centre and the Fairfield Women's Health Service for participating in the forum to empower women in south-west Sydney to vaccinate, which I co-hosted with the Federal shadow Minister for Families and Social Services and shadow Minister for Indigenous Australians, Ms Linda Burney. I wish to acknowledge the Al Minia Charitable Association, which set up a vaccination centre in Chester Hill, and Arab Council Australia and its CEO, Ms Randa Kattan, for her tremendous work in providing support to multicultural communities during this challenging time.

I recognise many other community groups, but in particular I recognise the Bankstown Sports Club, which I am very blessed to be a patron of. I acknowledge the president, John Murray, and all the directors, as well as CEO Mark Condi and the team there for offering their club for the entire period to be a vaccination hub. They provided over 12,000 doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine and I take this opportunity to acknowledge in particular their efforts. I believe the club is one of the first in Sydney to offer their club as a vaccination hub. I had my first vaccination there too, so I am pleased that the club gave me that opportunity as well. Only a minute remains before the time allotted for my speech expires and in that time I wish to acknowledge the many GPs, pharmacies and medical centres that also provided opportunities for the people of south-west Sydney to receive vaccinations. In particular I acknowledge and thank: Dr Yvonne Huyen Pham, the Chapel Road Medical Centre, the Bankstown Medical Centre, the Primary Health Care Medical & Dental Centre at Bankstown, the Rickard Road Medical Centre, the Restwell Street Medical Centre, the Medicure Centre, the Bankstown Family Medical Practice, the Eldridge Road Medical Health Centre, and the Village Medical Practice.

I also acknowledge and thank: Dr Vinh Binh Lieu, Dr Peter Quang Pham, the Alpha-Cure Medical Centre, the Dutton Street Medical and Dental Centre, the Yagoona Family Health Care, the Yagoona Medical Centre, the Powell St Family Practice, Dr Edward Howe, the Yagoona Medical Pharmacy, the Chester Hill Family Medical Practice, the Cheso Family Medical Practice, the Aya Family Healthcare After Hours Clinic, The Excel Medical Centre, the Chester Hill Respiratory Clinic, Minett's Pharmacy, Kennelly's Pharmacy, the Bass Hill Medical Centre, the Bass Hill Plaza Medical Centre, the Chemist Discount Centre at Bass Hill, Pauls Pharmacy Plus at Bass Hill, the Villawood Medical Centre, Rochesters Pharmacy, the Dr Tin Surgery, and the Hector Street Family Medical Practice. I congratulate each of them for providing exemplary service in ensuring that our communities stayed safe.

COVID-19 VACCINATION RATE

Mr CHRISTOPHER GULAPTIS (Clarence) (18:34): Yesterday was "freedom day" for everyone who is double vaccinated. We have reached the 70 per cent double vaccination rate, and what a great milestone that is. It means lifting stay-at-home orders and implementing the 70 per cent road map. We have come a long way since the start of the pandemic last year. For most people in my region life will continue as normal, but those who are not fully vaccinated will not have the same freedoms and will need to adhere to restrictions on their movements. It is to protect them, their loved ones and the broader community. It is going to be a difficult time as we open up in different phases so we should treat everyone with kindness and respect and look out for each other. That is one of the great qualities of country people and one of the main reasons why we chose to live in a country town.

I understand there is frustration from those who have tried to get vaccinated, but for one reason or another have been unsuccessful in securing a timely booking or the recommended vaccine for their age and medical

condition. Currently there is an abundant supply of all vaccines and they can be administered by GPs, pharmacies, NSW Health-run vaccination clinics and the Aboriginal Medical Services. I strongly encourage anyone not vaccinated to make a booking as soon as possible in order to protect themselves, their loved ones and the wider community. Anyone who is not booked in for a COVID-19 vaccine should make an appointment as soon as possible. I understand that some people who have come forward for their first dose but who are still waiting to have their second dose will be restricted in their movements.

Over the past few weeks my Nationals colleagues and I have been advocating to allow people who have had a single dose to be treated in the same way as those who are fully vaccinated until we reach the 80 per cent road map. The only concession we were able to secure was that workers in regional areas who have received one vaccination dose will be able to return to their workplace from Monday 11 October and will be given a grace period until 1 November to receive their second dose. I ask NSW Health and the crisis cabinet to reconsider giving single vaxxed people in the regions the same freedoms as those who are double vaxxed across the State. It is not their fault that they have not been double vaxxed; it is because of confusion about AstraZeneca, the lack of Pfizer and the redirection of Pfizer vaccines to Sydney when help was needed to vaccinate year 12 students. And now, when we need some help in the regions, we would like to be treated with the same consideration we showed them when they asked for help. I recognise that some critics will argue that the vaccination rollout has been focused on Sydney but it was warranted because of the outbreak.

Sydney has been in lockdown since June, which is about 16 weeks to Monday 11 October. During that time there were over 26,500 positive COVID cases, over 120 deaths, over 1,200 people in hospital, over 200 in intensive care units and more than 100 requiring a ventilator to breathe. I do not want that tragic situation to be the reason that vaccination levels in my electorate are on a par with those in Sydney. In the Clarence Valley we have been in lockdown for about a month and in parts of the Richmond Valley such as Casino, for about six weeks. In the main we have been able to go about our daily lives in a relatively normal fashion because we have observed the public health orders. As we open up cases will increase but our vaccination rates are going up every day, which will better protect us. Yes, we have active cases in our region right now but in order for us to protect each other it is imperative that we get vaccinated and continue to observe public health orders. It is only for a short time. If we all do the right thing it will ensure that we have a Christmas that is as close to normal as possible. Be respectful and kind to one another and we will get through this together, as we have through all the other catastrophes that we have faced.

NSW MINISTER'S AND SECRETARY'S AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE

Mr PETER SIDGREAVES (Camden) (18:38): Via video link: The NSW Minister's and Secretary's Award for Excellence showcases the exceptional work that occurs every day across New South Wales public education by all aspects of the school community. I was extremely proud to see the schools within the Camden electorate perform so well at this year's awards. It is truly a testament to the hard work and resilience of these students, teachers, parents and carers. In 2021 the standard was as high as ever and perhaps even more impressive, as this work has been undertaken against the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic. Today I will inform the Parliament of the successful recipients of these awards within the Camden community. The Minister's Award for Excellence in Student Achievement this year went to two students in the Camden electorate.

Chelsea Nagel, who attends Elizabeth Macarthur High School is one of those recipients. The school has described Chelsea as someone with natural skills and talents, which she has presented over the past six years. Many of her achievements have been at Community of Schools Showcases, musicals and assembly talks where she describes her experiences and the lessons she has learned when faced with adversity. Chelsea has exceeded all expectations for her high school achievements and is on track to achieve her post-school destination of university. Chelsea has also been an integral member of the creative and performing arts faculty and of the wider school community by displaying ambition and sportsmanship beyond her years and physical ability. I congratulate Chelsea on what is a well-deserved recognition for her student excellence.

The other student from the Camden electorate recognised for excellence is Erin Bloor, who attends Elderslie High School. Erin has been described as an outstanding all-rounder who has achieved excellent results academically, in multiple sporting endeavours and also through sustained school leadership over six years at Elderslie High School. Erin represents her school at an elite level in the sports of netball, football, athletics and cross-country. She has proven her worth at State and regional level in many of these sports. Erin has developed her leadership on a sustained basis having served her school community as a Student Representative Council leader, as a prefect in 2020 and as a vice-captain in 2021. Erin is an excellent role model for her school community and well deserving of the Minister's Award for Excellence in Student Achievement.

The Minister's awards also recognise excellence in teaching. I was pleased to see Megan Atkinson, Agriculture Coordinator, Elderslie High School, recognised in the Excellence in Teaching award category. Megan has 25 years of experience and is one of the school's most prominent agriculture teachers. Megan has developed

a school farm that is second to none, ensuring a highly engaging space for students. Megan is the creator of the school's animal nursery program. Annually she runs around 12 community petting nurseries for small children. She gives up her Saturdays to allow students to showcase their animal handling skills. Megan develops displays for agricultural shows, including the Sydney Royal and the Camden and Penrith shows, to give students the opportunity to interact with the agricultural community. Over more than 20 years, students at Elderslie High School have won many parading competitions due to Megan's leadership. For her dedication, for going above and beyond in her role and for all she does for the school community, Megan is an excellent recipient of the Minister's Award for Excellence in Teaching.

The Secretary's Award for Excellent Service is another category in which the Camden schools have achieved success. It recognises those in teaching and non-teaching roles who have made an outstanding effort to improve the quality of teaching and learning in the school environment. I am proud to recognise Bringelly Public School Principal Simone Billingham. Simone is described as a passionate educator dedicated to improving learning opportunities for students, bringing a positive change to their futures and to their communities. She has devoted her time to increasing the professional skills of others, particularly in the understanding and development of Aboriginal education. Simone's commitment has been demonstrated by advancing educational leadership through action research in partnership with the Western Sydney University Project EPIC initiatives and working with other executive teachers in three networks. *[Time expired.]*

COVID-19 AND FAIRFIELD ELECTORATE

Mr GUY ZANGARI (Fairfield) (18:44): I will speak about the experiences of the Fairfield community during the recent 2021 COVID-19 lockdown period. First, I acknowledge my constituents and thank them for their mammoth efforts. They rose to each and every challenge the Government presented to them. Fairfield was definitely in the spotlight this time around. Never before has a community had to face as many restrictions as Fairfield did, and indeed as the rest of south-west Sydney did, throughout the recent lockdown period. Never before has a chunk of the State felt so isolated and so segregated as "the tale of two Sydneys" played out on the national stage.

The Fairfield local government area was the first community to suffer the brunt of the barrage of restrictions that were installed for the rest of the State in the months after. The closure of local businesses, which rely heavily on passing trade, was the first of many restrictions, driving a large part of Fairfield's workforce to close their doors as the Government began to introduce measures to contain the Delta strain of the coronavirus. The Government promised relief and that no business would suffer, and so our businesses waited and waited and still relief was nowhere in sight due to the bungling of payments delivery by Service NSW, with Minister Dominello admitting that the system was under pressure. It was a promise delivered without a system in place to support it, and that was to be the first of many such promises made by the Government.

Then came compulsory surveillance testing for workers in the Fairfield local government area, which was another disaster, with the announcement made before the infrastructure was there to support it. That resulted in long queues for workers who needed a COVID test in order to be able to work to put food on the table. To add to this, the long waits were often fruitless, with workers having to return numerous times to have a test simply because the facility was shutting down for the night. Many constituents were forced to remain at home during this period simply because there was no speedy means of obtaining a COVID test, with waiting times averaging between four and six hours, despite the Government enforcing the restriction—shame on it.

The situation was no better when it came to the vaccination program. The Government assured us all that the only way out of lockdown would be through vaccination. The only problem for Fairfield was that the announcement was made at a time when the community was already experiencing the toughest and tightest restrictions, with businesses closed, the construction industry shut down, doctors' surgeries closed and pharmacies not equipped to deal with the surge of residents who were only too willing to comply but who lacked the resources to do so. Bear in mind that our local pharmacies had already called on the Federal Government before the lockdown to assist with measures to implement the vaccination program only to be ignored.

Many community groups in Fairfield came together at this time to disseminate information in languages to the constituents of Fairfield. That was not an easy task. New restrictions were announced on an almost daily basis in English, with little time between the dates of announcement and the dates of implementation. That meant my community was not receiving the information in time even to understand what they were being asked to do, let alone be in a position to comply. In Fairfield we are fortunate to have the assistance of many not-for-profit organisations that have done a stellar job throughout the pandemic of stepping in and bridging the gap. However, it is glaringly obvious that this was in fact the Government's responsibility, and in this respect the Government failed the people of Fairfield.

We have heard many times references to this period in Greater Sydney and New South Wales as "the tale of two Sydneys," and yet COVID-19 and the restrictions associated with it did not cause that divide. The divide was already there. The lockdown period just brought it out into the open and showed up the Government's blatant neglect of western and south-west Sydney. I and my colleagues representing south-west and western Sydney residents have been calling on the Government for many years to address that divide and we have been constantly ignored. It is my hope that this situation will put an end to the neglect and that the new Perrottet-Toole Government will begin to address these discrepancies once and for all.

COVID-19 AND PROSPECT ELECTORATE COMMUNITY GROUPS

Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect) (18:49): I acknowledge the outstanding work that a number of charities and community groups in the Prospect electorate performed during the COVID-19 pandemic. During the Greater Sydney lockdown I had the immense privilege to assist and witness several charities and community groups provide food and other essential items to families and households in need across western Sydney. Families in the Prospect electorate were subject to some of the harshest COVID-19 restrictions in New South Wales. The electorate of Prospect encompasses the local government areas of Fairfield, Blacktown and Cumberland, which were all highlighted by the New South Wales Government as local government areas of concern.

The past few months have been incredibly tough for many families in the electorate of Prospect. Many businesses were forced to shut and many individuals lost their jobs. In western Sydney, small businesses lost up to 70 per cent of their trade and job advertisements dropped by 60 per cent. In addition, high numbers of COVID-19 cases forced thousands of families to self-isolate, causing further emotional, physical, psychological and economic burdens on families. However, despite the great burden placed on many individuals, families and small businesses, selfless members of our community stepped up to the challenge and worked hard to assist vulnerable families in need. These community groups and charity organisations deserve to be recognised for their outstanding work.

Tamil Resettlement and Community Konnect [TRACK] Australia assisted hundreds of Tamil families throughout the recent lockdown with its Tamil Community COVID Emergency Food Relief Appeal. Many members of our Tamil community come from refugee and asylum seeker backgrounds and those who lost work due to COVID-19 were not eligible for New South Wales Government financial assistance. Through the Tamil Community COVID Emergency Food Relief Appeal, TRACK Australia packed and delivered essential grocery items to over 100 families in need, which equates to approximately 400 people. In addition, TRACK Australia arranged for cooked meals to be delivered to Tamil families affected by COVID-19. Finally, TRACK Australia supported our Tamil community by providing mental health support to refugees coming from Tamil-speaking backgrounds. I thank Dr Thava Seelan, Rishi Rishikesan and the volunteers from TRACK Australia who so generously supported our community. I cannot thank them enough for their efforts.

The Parks Community Network, which operates in Wetherill Park, assisted thousands of families over the past 15 weeks. Using generous donations from Fairfield City Council, Turbans 4 Australia and Good360 Australia, The Parks Community Network packed and delivered essential food hampers, frozen meals, personal protective equipment [PPE], clothing and other essential goods to vulnerable families affected by COVID-19 and the restrictions. The Parks Community Network was also assisted by the NSW Police Force and the Australian Defence Force. I commend CEO Tairyn Vergara, operations manager Mathew Dillon and all the hardworking volunteers at The Parks Community Network for their life-changing work.

I have mentioned the fantastic work of Good360 in this Chamber previously, and throughout the recent lockdown Good360 once again stepped up to the challenge to deliver incredible community service. Good360 Australia provided hampers including PPE, hand sanitiser and cleaning products along with other essential care packages to many charities and community groups in western Sydney. With the assistance of the NSW Police Force and the Australian Defence Force, Good360 delivered essential hampers to St Thomas The Apostle Chaldean & Assyrian Catholic Diocese of Australia and New Zealand, the Consortium of Tamil Associations, St Anthony of Padua Catholic Church, the Sydney Tamil Manram, St Mark's Coptic Catholic Church, the Assyrian Church of the East, the Zen Tea Lounge, the Armenian National Committee, and the Rotary Club of Granville.

Those fantastic community groups, which I have had the pleasure of assisting on a regular basis, distributed key products to members of their own communities who needed care during the COVID-19 crisis. I thank Alison Covington, the founder and managing director of Good360, all the volunteers at Good360 and all of our community groups that extended a helping hand to those in need. The selfless dedication of these community groups and charities in providing much-needed support to the local community cannot be acknowledged enough. Their efforts are a testament to the strength of our western Sydney community. I sincerely thank them all for putting themselves on the front lines, day in and day out, to support our community. As New South Wales emerges from lockdown, we must remember that many families and small businesses are continuing to endure significant physical, psychological, financial and emotional hardship as a result of the ongoing COVID pandemic.

MULWALA BRIDGE

Mr JUSTIN CLANCY (Albury) (18:55): Via video link: Essentially what began as a routine project to replace the existing aging and ailing road bridge spanning Lake Mulwala on the State's southern border has become a long-running tale of two towns, two State governments and the view from two foreshores. It is necessary to provide a safe, strong and easily accessible crossing of Lake Mulwala to the Yarrawonga and Mulwala communities and the 11,000 motorists and freight drivers who use the bridge daily. In commercial terms the upgraded bridge is vital as it supports traffic from farmers getting grain to the rail siding, sand destined for the concrete camp at Benalla and the movement of explosives of military importance produced at Mulwala by the manufacturer Thales headed for Benalla and the Port of Melbourne.

Then there is tourism, which forms a major part of the region's economy with visitor numbers surging over the long summer period at beautiful Lake Mulwala. What we have is a much-delayed process to get a new bridge in place, a move that will both improve inner-city traffic safety and, importantly, boost local economies where planning is stymied by not knowing which route the new bridge and connecting roads will take—either right down the main commercial street of Mulwala, the so-called grey route, which represents the existing alignment, or around other streets of a residential nature, the green route, which is a new alignment.

Mulwala Bridge was built in 1924. The need for a replacement bridge was first mooted back in 1993. Over time the options were explored and two routes were presented to the communities, State governments and councils. In late 2015 both State governments endorsed the grey route. So did the two local councils. This did not go unchallenged by the communities on the lake. There is no need to go into particulars of the debate and the delay, other than to say that stakeholders had their opposing views and eventually local community surveys or plebiscites were held. The 2019 Federation Council community survey found 70 per cent of respondents were in favour of green. A similar result was returned in the Moira shire plebiscite of 2017.

We now have both councils and the two town communities unambiguously backing green, but the grey ghost continues to haunt these streets and needs to be put to its final rest. Transport for NSW has been investigating the options in detail with consideration of road work and relative cost implications. I invited the Deputy Premier in his then capacity as Minister for Regional Transport and Roads to visit Mulwala, and I thank him for travelling to the town in June. The Minister inspected the bridge and held a meeting with Mulwala Progress Association president Robert "Possum" Purtle and the mayors and general managers of Federation and Moira councils to hear their views.

Strong support for the green route was reiterated by councils and community members in attendance. The Deputy Premier took the opportunity to correct anyone who held the incorrect view that New South Wales currently backed the grey route. He clarified for the meeting that New South Wales was agnostic in the choice until the results came in from a final piece of consultation required of the formal State planning process. On 15 June the New South Wales Government went back to the community with detailed information on both options for their feedback. Submissions were made through an online portal, via email, post and phone until 30 July.

An online community information session was held on Wednesday 14 July, revealing a number of complex issues facing government and the community in terms of the impact on existing homes and some businesses. We can expect an announcement of the final selection by the New South Wales Government shortly now that this consultation is complete. It will then be up to Transport for NSW and Regional Roads Victoria to take up the challenge and work in partnership to get the bridge built. I appreciate that this process will also take time and thank the community in advance for its patience. While planning for the new bridge continues, the New South Wales and Victorian governments dealt with the immediate needs by undertaking \$3.45 million of essential maintenance work, including repairing damage to the steel support structures, improving the pedestrian footpath and upgrading the barriers.

It is not common that decisions on options for public infrastructure can boast they have such clear and unambiguous support of the communities where they will be situated, but this bridge route has the imprimatur of the people of Mulwala and Yarrawonga. It is green all the way. We eagerly await the results of consultation. We again thank the Deputy Premier for visiting Mulwala and appreciate that he knows of my support for the community in their preference for the green route.

PREMIER DOMINIC PERROTTET

Ms JO HAYLEN (Summer Hill) (19:00): While the last week has brought seismic shifts in New South Wales politics, unfortunately for the people of the inner west, not much has changed. With the ascension of Dominic Perrottet, we still have a government—and a Premier—that does not understand us or care about our needs or values. While the Premier might have realised his dream, the people across the inner west are left wondering what his premiership will mean for them, their families and their community. Let us take a quick

history lesson for an insight into what the future looks like under Premier Perrottet. While on day one of his premiership Dominic Perrottet committed to serve all the people of our State, picking and sticking to a community has not been this guy's strong suit. He has been elected to this House three times, yet three times in a different seat. He famously rocketed up the ranks of the Liberal Party.

In fact, since 2014 he has served in senior economic roles in the Government, and what has his priority been there? The fire sale of publicly owned New South Wales assets and services. Dominic Perrottet has been central to this Government flogging off WestConnex, AusGrid, the desalination plant, the ports, the Land and Property Information Office—the list goes on. In fact, \$93.4 billion of public assets have been sold under his watch. He has a fancy name for these sales. He calls them "asset recycling". However, the truth is there is nothing more in this than privatisation—\$93.4 billion worth of public money that has been lost to the future generations of this State. At the same time the Premier has overseen rising fees, rising fares, rising fines, rising taxes and rising tolls, foisting ever-increasing costs on New South Wales families and workers.

Let us not forget it was this Premier who was responsible for the worst rip-off of workers in our State's history with icare underpaying 52,000 injured workers in New South Wales while executives pocketed \$4 million in bonuses and salaries. He drove the State's workers compensation scheme to the brink of collapse, forcing the cost of a secret \$4 billion bailout onto New South Wales businesses with increased premiums. And now, after years of privatisations, ever-rising costs for families and ripping off workers, he has ascended to be the Premier of New South Wales. I think it says a lot about the New South Wales Liberal Party.

Dominic Perrottet has said he will be the Premier for all of the people in New South Wales. I hope that means he will indeed listen to the inner west community more than the last three Premiers have, because we need urgent investment in Canterbury Hospital, and we need urgent investment to make our train stations accessible to everybody, to make our schools better resourced and to get our kids out of demountables. We are crying out for greater investment in local parks and open spaces, including Canterbury Racecourse. These issues have been ignored by the Liberals over the past 10 years and deserve a new Premier's attention. I hope we can work together to make progress. There are a number of issues, however, on which the Premier and I fundamentally disagree.

We have stood on opposite sides of this House on the issue of reproductive rights. We fundamentally disagree on marriage equality and the rights of the LGBTIQ community. The Premier has taken me to task for supporting an evidence-based, health-focused approach to the use of illicit drugs and putting pragmatism and compassion before ideology. But the views he has expounded that perhaps give me the most concern are those in relation to climate change. In 2015 he said, "Another example of gratuitous waste is the almost religious devotion of the political left to climate change." I can almost hear him enjoying saying that. This was not a once-off. He doubled down during the 2019 State election. At that point he did at least offer a caveat that he believed in the science of climate change; he just did not think we should do anything about it. In this respect he is light-years away from the views of the inner west residents that I represent and, I believe, the vast majority of people in New South Wales, who want to see urgent, meaningful action on climate change for the benefit of future generations. How can Premier Perrottet say he is for families if he fails to take action on the biggest threat to our kids' future?

COVID-19 AND MYALL LAKES ELECTORATE

Mr STEPHEN BROMHEAD (Myall Lakes) (19:05): I inform the House of the vaccination clinics in the Myall Lakes electorate and what is happening with regard to COVID vaccinations. Vaccination is the best way to protect ourselves, our families, our friends, our communities and Australia against COVID-19. In that sense, it is the Australian thing to do. If we look at what Australia has done in the past when it comes to tuberculosis, polio and other illnesses, all Australians played their part to rid the country of those diseases. The people of the Myall Lakes electorate have certainly rolled up their sleeves and done their bit. As of yesterday, 91.1 per cent of the eligible population had received a single dose of the vaccine and 65 per cent had received two doses. It is expected that over the next two weeks the double-dose rate will get close to 80 per cent. Hopefully, by the beginning of December it will be around 90 per cent.

As a leader in the area it is very important that I say how much the community appreciates the hard work of the doctors, nurses, ancillary staff, administrators, cleaners and all the other staff at Manning Base Hospital. We also appreciate the work of staff at the many local doctors' surgeries, who have played their part in the vaccination rollout. I thank pharmacists, who have been administering the vaccine during this time, as well as workers at other clinics. Staff and healthcare workers have worked under challenging conditions to vaccinate Myall Lakes constituents at an impressive speed, helping the electorate reach its important vaccination milestones.

Tobwabba Aboriginal Medical Service, based in Forster, has provided an excellent service to vaccinate the local community. I particularly mention the service's CEO, Isaac Simon, who has ensured that clinics are as accessible as possible, while planning improvements to the facility itself. I was there a couple of weeks ago to see

the clinic and announce \$10,000 for its new maternity unit. Staff at the service know who their patients are, and they know who has come forward to be vaccinated and who has not. They know that for the ones who have not, it is not necessarily the case that they do not want the vaccination; there may be some issues that impede access to the clinic. As a result, Tobwabba Aboriginal Medical Service started a mobile door-to-door service to offer the vaccine to people if they want it. It is a fantastic service. The last thing we want is for one section of the community to get vaccinated only to leave another behind.

Biripi Aboriginal Corporation Medical Centre, based in Purfleet and Taree, has been running a number of vaccination hubs to ensure that the Aboriginal population in those areas is vaccinated against COVID. CEO Lisa Ogolo has done an outstanding job offering vaccinations to people in the Biripi community and beyond in Purfleet and an area in Taree called Bushlands. They too are looking at becoming more mobile to make sure that everybody gets the opportunity to be vaccinated. I will mention some of examples of what some doctors' surgeries are doing. Forster Tuncurry Medical Centre and its associate Macintosh Medical centre have administered over 13,000 vaccinations to the community, all while looking after other patients with medical conditions. I congratulate staff on their stellar efforts. A week or so ago I was at Wingham Showground, where the Wingham Family Health Clinic has set up a vaccination clinic. On the day I was there 575 people got vaccinated in 2½ hours. That is fantastic going. Manning Base Hospital has moved its vaccination clinic to the old Nita Reed cottage at 56 Chatham Avenue in Taree, which is open every day of the week.

FRENCHS FOREST PLACE STRATEGY

Mr JONATHAN O'DEA (Davidson) (19:10): Frenchs Forest is a popular residential area partly located in my electorate of Davidson. It features the world-class Northern Beaches Hospital, enjoys close proximity to beaches, and includes a number of excellent public and private schools. The new Frenchs Forest Place Strategy, developed by New South Wales Planning and supported by Northern Beaches Council, provides a 20-year vision to help support a predicted local population growth of 39,000 people by 2036. This vision will transform Frenchs Forest into a new strategic centre for the northern beaches over the next 20 years and beyond.

The proposed modern town centre and improved amenities will encourage further local employment and provide a community hub for local residents. It will include shops, restaurants, cafes and offices and is expected to create 2,300 new jobs, mainly in health and education. The strategy provides 1.5 hectares of public open space, including a 6,000 square metre village green, a 5,500 square metre forest parkland and a central plaza of 1,665 square metres. Those facilities will provide a variety of outdoor meeting places and play areas while leveraging the natural beauty of the neighbouring environment. They will also enable easier walking and cycling connections. The town centre will be built on the current site of the Forest High School next to the Northern Beaches Hospital in the adjoining electorate of Wakehurst. The Forest High School will move 1.5 kilometres to a new state-of-the-art education facility, which will be built at Allambie Heights. I continue to lobby the education Minister, the Hon. Sarah Mitchell, for upgrades to the nearby Davidson High School, especially considering the large population increase proposed for the surrounding area.

Over the next 20 years it is predicted that 5,360 dwellings will be constructed in Frenchs Forest. The Frenchs Forest Place Strategy includes a plan to fast-track the building of 2,000 new dwellings, including 1,000 in the town centre and 1,000 in adjacent residential areas, while ensuring the necessary infrastructure and services are in place first. There will be a variety of new homes, including townhouses, terraces, apartments and aged care, as well as homes for key workers such as nurses and paramedics. Happily, an east-west bus rapid transit system from Dee Why to Chatswood will be introduced to reduce dependence on private vehicles following the recent increase in bus services. Improved transport and road facilities are integrated into the strategy, including a new bus interchange and direct access to the city through the Western Harbour Tunnel and Beaches Link.

I note the NSW Labor leader's recent promise to ditch the northern beaches tunnel, known as Beaches Link. While residents have long accepted the need for a toll road to fund the project, any suggestion of scrapping the project should be strongly resisted by local residents and local members of Parliament, including myself. New South Wales Planning also intends to provide \$6.6 million to upgrade local parks, including Brick Pit Reserve, Akora Reserve and Rabbett Reserve. Additionally, special infrastructure contributions will provide \$37.3 million for necessary infrastructure improvements. The new Frenchs Forest Place will be a vibrant community destination designed for the future, providing valuable local employment. I look forward to community comments on the strategy. I commend all those involved in the plans for their contributions to what is a bold and creative vision.

TEMPE TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT AND BUNNINGS DEVELOPMENT

Mr RON HOENIG (Heffron) (19:15): I raise a matter that is of considerable concern to the residents of Tempe, in my electorate, relating to a proposal by Bunnings to establish a 19,813 square foot retail outlet with 424 car parking spaces on the Princes Highway at the intersection of Smith Street, Tempe. This development and

the concern of residents can be traced back some five years to 2016, when a local planning panel refused to accept the recommendations of Inner West Council planners and the Inner West Council Local Traffic Committee, which had adopted some recommendations that I was involved in making to protect the residents of Tempe. The concern of the residents of Tempe is not that there is a Bunnings to be constructed on the Princes Highway; the residents concede and agree that it is an appropriate location for a development of that nature. Their concern is the ingress and egress of the site and its impact upon their residential amenity.

In 2016 the council had recommended a deferred commencement until local traffic management could be sorted out and agreed upon. My good mate, the chairman, Carl Scully, decided he knew better than the council planners, the Inner West Council Local Traffic Committee and the member for Heffron, and gave a development approval, subject to local area traffic management. The problem is that anyone who knows anything about planning and has dealt with Bunnings before knows that they are not the most agreeable when it comes to changing their business model. As a result, the current proposal located at the intersection of Smith Street and the Princes Highway, if enacted, will have ingress and egress occurring out of Smith Street. That will result in traffic going from Smith Street, across the Princes Highway, down Union Street, into Unwins Bridge Road, past Tempe Public School, into Richardsons Crescent and into the electorate of the member for Summer Hill—something I am sure she would dread.

The streets to which I have referred are extremely narrow. They would have had enough trouble a century and a half ago fitting horses and carts without the volume that would be generated by Bunnings. The solution requires cooperation from Transport for NSW and some traffic control lights. There is a mechanism of having ingress from Smith Street in a one-way movement into a laneway that is about three lanes wide and owned by Bunnings. That is the way in which you could create one-way movement for ingress and egress which would not have the impact upon the residents of Tempe in Smith Street, Union Street or any of the other narrow streets that would be disastrously impacted.

The solution—and this is the position of Inner West Council, which again is seeking to implement a substantial investment by Bunnings and a substantial development that works—is firstly to delay the implementation of the planned local area traffic management and commence negotiations with Bunnings to make the following changes: to investigate and introduce one-way flow into the site, using Smith Street as the only access point and the Bunnings warehouse laneway with the approved traffic signals for exit only; to begin negotiations with Bunnings to adopt the change which would improve traffic flow through the site and direct traffic flow to the Princes Highway and Smith Street only, as well as reduce the need for some of the expensive traffic calming measures; and to reconsider the local area traffic management measures in light of the changes to one-directional flow through the site. This requires the assistance of Transport for NSW, which is always reluctant to further obstruct the traffic flow along the Princes Highway. The WestConnex is supposed to reduce that traffic. This is a particular solution, but we need the support of Transport for NSW and the ability to stop the intransigence of Bunnings.

COVID-19 AND NORTHERN TABLELANDS ELECTORATE

Mr ADAM MARSHALL (Northern Tablelands—Minister for Agriculture and Western New South Wales) (19:20): Despite the extreme challenges the COVID-19 pandemic has posed to our society, and the fact that relative to other parts of the State our region has had very few cases and no mass outbreaks, the overwhelming number of Northern Tablelands residents who have stood up, lined up and rolled up their sleeves in an effort to do their part to protect themselves, their families and the community to get themselves out of lockdown and back to business has been overwhelming and outstanding. Access to the COVID-19 vaccines under the Commonwealth Government's national vaccination rollout has been clunky at best—and I am probably being quite generous—particularly in our part of the world. The availability at the beginning was very ordinary, and then the obvious issues of workforce: The numbers of people to actually put jabs in arms is nowhere near the availability of other areas in the State. But through some local solutions and the cooperation of a number of GPs, as well as the University of New England [UNE], we have been able to find innovative ways of getting jabs in arms.

In the Northern Tablelands, the University of New England Medical Centre's mass vaccination clinics have been an absolute godsend. They have given literally thousands of people across the Northern Tablelands access to what was scarce vaccine supply at the time in a way that did not require them to make appointments. They could simply walk in. Looking back on it, people probably think, "What's the big deal with walk-in clinics?" But at the time it was quite innovative. It was new and no-one else was doing it anywhere in the New England, north-west part of the State. It has been a consistent opportunity for people to get their jab quickly, with the knowledge that the clinics will be back for their second dose. The key to success has been simplicity. As I said, no appointment required. You put on your mask, grab your Medicare card, turn up, roll up your sleeve and get jabbed. The friendly staff at UNE Medical Centre do the rest.

Since the first Armidale "Super Saturday" clinic on 14 August, the University of New England Medical Centre, combined more recently with the Armajun Aboriginal Health Service with its access to the Pfizer vaccine, has administered close to 5,000 doses across the communities of Moree, Inverell, Glen Innes, Tingha and Armidale. I cannot thank them enough for the work that they have done. I put on record my public appreciation for the work that they have done. In particular I thank the Vice-Chancellor of the University of New England, Brigid Heywood, whose leadership from the front has been instrumental; the Director of UNE Life, Dave Schmude; the General Manager of UNE Life, Ben Bible; and the rest of their team, which includes Scott Leven; Alahna Fiveash; Chris Foldi; Alan Gray; Tanya Alcorn; Gay Leys; Melia Macmahon; Dr Jane Watt; and Ronan Crotty. Peter Cameron and his team from the St John Ambulance have been wonderful in looking after people after they get their jab. There are many more in that team.

I also mention the CEO of the Armajun Aboriginal Health Service, Deb McGowan, and her wonderful team. The partnership between them and the UNE Medical Centre has been crucial, particularly in reaching some of the most vulnerable people in our region in some of those hard-to-reach communities and encouraging them to come out and get their jabs. Certainly the Pfizer doses that Armajun have had access to, which so many of our practitioners have not had access to very recently in our region, have been absolutely vital in getting those numbers up incredibly quickly. Armajun's success in running buses into remote Aboriginal communities and bringing them to the clinics has been a key to that success as well.

Then, of course, there are also the heroes of the sky—the Royal Flying Doctor Service. It has conducted walk-in Pfizer clinics in Moree, North Star, Warialda, Bingara and upper Horton and is coming back this week for the second round of doses. Combined, nearly 2,000 doses have been administered. Of course, in the GP network, I thank GPs like the amazing Dr Ricardo Alkhouri and his team at the Uralla Medical Centre. Dr Ricardo and one of his nurse practitioners have administered almost 6,000 jabs—just the two of them—at their medical centre doing weekend clinics. Having been jabbed there myself I speak from experience that they do a magnificent job. It literally is a slick, well-oiled production line machine.

I thank everyone in the region that is doing their bit to get people vaccinated. Our rates are nothing like some of the rates that we have heard tonight, but 63.3 per cent of our adult population in the Northern Tablelands is fully vaccinated and 85.8 per cent have had their first dose. That is impressive for a region that has not had any mass outbreaks and not a lot of cases, and they are going up at around 6 per cent per week. I thank everyone for what they do. People should continue to roll up their sleeves.

TRANSGRID HUMELINK PROJECT

Dr JOE McGIRR (Wagga Wagga) (19:25): Via video link: I wish to update the House on the Transgrid HumeLink project—the building of massive transmission infrastructure in southern New South Wales. For more than a year I have been calling on Transgrid and the Government to treat landowners and communities with respect. This year, Transgrid asked its landowner and community advocate to undertake an independent review of its engagement. The report released in July is highly critical and makes 20 recommendations. It notes that landowners are most angry with the consultation process itself and distressed by the ongoing uncertainty at whether or not their property is affected and the concern that they will not be adequately compensated. Landowners have become deeply frustrated, believing that they have been treated with disrespect, fobbed off or ignored.

I raised concerns directly with Transgrid and in Parliament, as well as with Mr Matt Kean, the Minister for Energy and Environment, who in fact visited the area of consultation and met with landowners. One group—the Kyeamba Valley Concerned Landowners Group—worked with me on a HumeLink landowners survey. The survey ran for four weeks and we received 110 responses. More than 90 per cent of respondents were not satisfied with Transgrid's consultation. They believed Transgrid provided poor quality information and engaged with practices that were limited in scope and quality, resulting in dissatisfaction and distress across the community. The majority of survey respondents believed that Transgrid was not taking into account community views, environmental issues or farming interests and failed to provide clarity on how community feedback might influence the project.

Members of the Kyeamba Valley Concerned Landowners Group have become so frustrated that they are contemplating locking the farm gates and no longer engaging with Transgrid or the State and Federal governments. The group produced a manifesto, which listed five requirements for re-engaging. The first is a comprehensive and independent feasibility study that compares a range of corridor and transmission options, including the use of underground cables with the latest technology to ensure the option selected is the best balance between agricultural communities and environmental transmission infrastructure. The second is that the prime agricultural land and Landcare tree planting works be considered as high priority constraints to be avoided where possible in selected transmission line routes.

The third is that there should be thorough justification of any proposed routes, including objective evidence and measures to minimise impacts on the agricultural community, families, houses, the environment and future property farm development in the area. The fourth requirement is a full review of the outdated Land Acquisition (Just Terms Compensation) Act 1991 to ensure there is a fair and reasonable agreement on compensation for landholders directly impacted, including those within at least one kilometre of the corridor. This review must consider options for annual payments to those directly and indirectly impacted. Finally, there must be formal and transparent notification of all proposed future transmission lines and any associated infrastructure which is part of the national and State planning activities, including how these plans fit into the future of local town planning. Transgrid undertook the review and is committed to the recommendations, including a reset of the consultation process. It has offered support and has indicated a willingness to be transparent.

However, landowners remain sceptical and concerned. A new route outline has been announced and some are no longer affected, but others are now impacted. There are many concerns, including that the route does not go through public land in preference to private land and compensation will not include an option for annual payments. It will not include communities as well as landowners. Annual payments have helped acceptance of other major infrastructure such as wind turbines and telecommunication towers. I call on the State Government to work with the Australian Energy Regulator and the Federal Government to find a way to fairly make annual payments an option for impacted landowners, their neighbours and the broader community.

I also call on the Government to ensure public land is used in preference to private land wherever this is possible. I urge the Government and Transgrid moreover to do all they can to assist those affected. They should consider payment for legal and other acquired imposts, including council fees for all those who are in the corridor being started now, not just for those who end up with an easement through their property. The transmission lines must be the best possible for all, not just the cheapest. We should have the best underground if necessary, respecting our agricultural land and sharing the benefits with the communities impacted. Modern day infrastructure programs cannot go ahead without social licence. The HumeLink project has yet to earn its social licence. I urge the Government to make sure that this happens.

COVID-19 AND MAITLAND ELECTORATE

Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland) (19:30): COVID has presented so many challenges to our regional communities. On 5 August the Hunter region went into lockdown as a result of COVID-19 outbreaks. I thank every person in Maitland who has complied with the public health orders, who has been tested and who has been vaccinated, and I doubly thank those who have done it twice. I also give a special thank you to everyone who has reached out to me and my office for assistance or advice. With very few exceptions, the thousands of people who have reached out have done so with patience, kindness and understanding of the vast number of calls and requests we have had every day and to which my wonderful team and I have been responding. I say thank you to everyone for that. We have all been in this together and I am so proud to represent my community in this place.

I understand why the community has been so concerned. As regional MPs in the Hunter, we have lobbied for months to get testing facilities, vaccination pop-up clinics and clear advice for our local residents. We have had to fight to get outreach for vulnerable communities and to understand the barriers to vaccination and testing—transport, education, poverty and access. Just today I was advised that one of the most vulnerable properties in my electorate was an exposure site for five days last week. On the weekend I visited a pop-up clinic that has taken months to establish. This weekend another vaccination pop-up clinic will be established in Woodberry, which will be helpful for Madam Temporary Speaker Horner and the people in her electorate.

It has taken so long to get Pfizer in our region because it was all being sent to Sydney. We must ensure that rural communities are protected from this virus just as much as our friends and families are in Sydney. The anger in my community over the lack of testing facilities at the start of our lockdown was well justified, with people waiting excessively long times and parents of children with disabilities waiting for up to seven hours in their car to get tested and then waiting over five days to get results back. The longest I heard of was seven days and there was no Test and Isolate payment in the Hunter. Our community, which is extremely reliant on casual and penalty overtime rates to survive and get by, was left high and dry.

I take this opportunity to thank Greg Granger from Histopath, who has provided two pop-up testing clinics in my electorate which has improved turnaround times and made such a difference to getting testing done. Other people in the Hunter who suffered during this pandemic are businesspeople who could not access funding support because websites were not updated, they were not eligible because support had not been rolled out to our regions, or because information was so confusing that they were given the wrong advice, sometimes even by their own accountants. There has been little to no leniency from Ministers in this situation. One would have thought that the lessons from the 2020 bushfires had been forgotten. People waited so long for assistance either because they were not eligible or they missed out by half a day because something had not been lodged on time.

I thank all those who have worked so hard in this pandemic—everyone from NSW Health and other healthcare providers who have worked side by side. In particular I thank Dr Craig Richards from the Lorn Surgery who, on his own, has vaccinated thousands of people in our community; he has been a juggernaut and has been incredible. I also want to thank Stephen Boyle from the Thornton Discount Drug Store and other pharmacies around our community for the work that he has done to try to assist people in getting vaccinated. Thanks also to the government workers: the police, the Service NSW staff, emergency services and the many other government workers who work anonymously and tirelessly. We might never know who they are, but they have done an amazing job to keep us all so safe and going.

Of course, the other unsung heroes have been the community services like Maitland Neighbourhood Centre, Carrie's Place domestic violence and special homelessness services, Maitland Family Support, and Hume. We have seen an outbreak of homelessness in our electorate due to this pandemic and we really need to get on top of that. I would also like to thank Michael Di Rienzo, Lauren Cruz and Liz Grist from Hunter New England Health, Sue Buckman, Paul Craven, Police Superintendent Chad Gillies and Dr David Dunne for the excellent work they have done to try to keep the Hunter Safe. I also want to personally thank Minister Hazzard and his team, particularly Ellie Statamoulos and Leonie Lamont, for the help they have provided to our team and community in helping us understand the changes, and for always answering our calls.

COVID-19 AND LAKE MACQUARIE ELECTORATE

Mr GREG PIPER (Lake Macquarie) (19:36): It is great to be back in the House representing the people of Lake Macquarie. One hundred and ten days ago, along with other members of this House, I ended up isolated in my office here for a while before spending two weeks in full isolation at home, having been deemed a close contact of the member for Northern Tablelands. I am very happy that he and other members are now in good health.

Mr Adam Marshall: Sorry about that.

Mr GREG PIPER: It's okay, mate. Do not apologise. Nevertheless, it has been a long 110 days for the Lake Macquarie community. Until August, most of the Hunter region had remained largely insulated from the outbreaks of COVID-19 that were widespread in Sydney. But on 5 August 2021, stay-at-home orders were placed issued for almost all of the Hunter region, including Lake Macquarie and Newcastle, after a number of infected people from Sydney breached the health orders and travelled to our area. It obviously generated a great deal of anger and frustration in our local communities, which had worked so hard to keep COVID-19 at bay. The Hunter New England Area Health District has recorded almost 2,000 cases since those early seeding events at the start of August. Today the Hunter region recorded another 47 cases, including 11 in Lake Macquarie. Like the rest of New South Wales, we are quite encouraged by those figures because less than a week ago we reached almost 100 daily cases and about 30 in Lake Macquarie alone.

As we all know, only a little bit of luck is involved in containing these outbreaks—by and large, it has been the extraordinary efforts of Hunter New England Health, the tracers, other allied health staff and, of course, the local community. We also know there is never a perfectly curated response to any COVID outbreak, so it has been an incredibly challenging and difficult road for everyone, not just in containing the virus, but in getting everyone in our local community vaccinated. Certainly, such a massive vaccination program was never going to be easy—we know that. But I am pleased to say that almost 95 per cent of people aged 15-plus in Lake Macquarie have now received their first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine and we are inching towards 70 per cent of people being fully vaccinated. Six weeks ago I did not think I would be saying that today, especially given the well-documented problems with the Commonwealth vaccine rollout, the need to urgently direct more vaccines into western Sydney and the unfortunate and somewhat unnecessary reluctance to receive the AstraZeneca vaccine, combined with the shortage of Pfizer vaccine.

As I said earlier, it has been an extraordinary effort by our local health staff. When we had some local government areas falling behind in vaccination rates, extra resources were provided and pop-up clinics were established in those areas. When we had significant outbreaks in certain areas, Health responded with extra vaccines when they were available. In recent weeks we have had priority clinics for aged-care and teaching staff, for students, hospitality workers and, very importantly, for our Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander communities. Tomorrow a pop-up vaccination clinic will be held at Morisset in the south of my electorate, where getting to a local hospital or vaccination hub has been difficult for many people. I acknowledge the great work of the Minister, the Hon. Brad Hazzard, the NSW Chief Health Officer, Kerry Chant, and the former Premier, Gladys Berejiklian. But I also acknowledge my Hunter colleagues, including Madam Temporary Speaker as the member for Wallsend, who have all worked together in lock step to try to address the deficiencies in the rollout and the different concerns our communities have had.

I know I do not need to remind anyone in this place that we are still a considerable way away from containing COVID-19, and that the months and years ahead will continue to create many significant challenges for the State and regions such as Lake Macquarie. But we should never lose sight of the fact that we have fared remarkably better than many overseas communities. History will show, as it already does, that we got most things right and many thousands of lives have been saved. I again thank and acknowledge all of our frontline workers at Hunter New England Health, in particular the nursing and tracing teams, as well as our aged-care workers, our teachers, police, ambulance officers, retail staff, bus and rail staff, cleaners and other essential workers who have stepped up during an extremely difficult period in our history.

I also acknowledge and thank everyone in the Lake Macquarie community who, in very frustrating and confusing times, pulled together to make sure that no-one, not even our most vulnerable, was left behind. This thanks and acknowledgement must extend to all those parents who made huge changes to their lives to adapt to homeschooling, for example, often while dealing with changes in their work circumstances, including working from home. I have no doubt that at the end of the next 110 days we will be living in a world that is far more familiar and enjoyable than the one we have had to endure over the past two years. I give my thanks to everyone who has worked so hard to make it that way.

KU-RING-GAI ELECTORATE OLYMPIANS AND PARALYMPIANS

Mr ALISTER HENSKENS (Ku-ring-gai—Minister for Families, Communities and Disability Services) (19:40): Today is the first day that Parliament has sat since the Sydney lockdown. In the lockdown our Tokyo Olympians and Paralympians showed us the best of the human spirit and sent a powerful message of resilience. Locally, Ku-ring-gai is home to an extraordinary level of sporting talent and I am proud of our athletes, especially with the challenges of preparation throughout and performance during COVID. I acknowledge a number of athletes with connections to Ku-ring-gai and congratulate them on their achievements.

Women's softball returned to the Olympic schedule after being omitted for eight years. The Aussie Spirit softball squad ranked fifth in the world and included Turramurra local and Loreto Normanhurst alumni Tahli Moore and Ellen Roberts. After running a series of personal bests in the qualifiers, Loreto Normanhurst alumna Liz Clay narrowly missed a spot in the 100-metre hurdles final by 0.8 of a second. Despite this, Liz is now the second-fastest hurdler in Australian history, a testament to her talent and training. This was Liz's Olympic debut and although she did not make the final, I am sure we will see her back on the track and standing on the podium in Paris.

Swimming icon and Australian flag-bearer Cate Campbell has been training and coaching at the facilities in Pymble Ladies College and is part of the Knox Pymble Swim Club. In Tokyo, Cate won a further three medals—one bronze and two gold—to add to her remarkable collection. She was part of the Olympic record-breaking women's 4 x 100 metres medley relay and also competed in the 4 x 100 metres freestyle relay, along with her younger sister Bronte, Emma McKeon and Meg Harris. With their third consecutive win and setting another world record, all our Aussie swimmers were bound to make some waves. They had an incredible week in the pool, capturing nine gold, three silver and eight bronze.

Genevieve Horton, Pymble Ladies' College alumna, competed in the women's eight rowing in her second Olympic Games campaign. The squad came in fifth place. Genevieve is part of the women's sweep squad and is an experienced role model for the crew. I congratulate her on her remarkable achievement. Another Pymble Ladies' College alumna, Edwina Tops-Alexander, is one of the highest-ranked female equestrian riders in the world. Her impressive career has taken her around the globe. An inspiration to us all, Tokyo was her fourth Olympic Games where she competed in the individual jumping. I congratulate Edwina on her performance.

Mariafe Artacho del Solar, who attended Gordon West, along with her teammate Taliqua Clancy, became the first pairing in the women's beach volleyball to win an Olympic medal since that great pair who won the gold in the 2000 Olympic Games. When she was just 11 years old, Mariafe and her mother migrated to Australia from Peru to join her older brother and family. She made her Olympic debut in Rio but was unable to clinch a victory in the preliminary rounds. In 2017, she joined forces with Taliqua and together they reached the podium 21 times. This time Mariafe and Taliqua brought home the silver and I congratulate them both on their outstanding performance. It was a tough match against the United States of America, but the Aussie pair gave it their best and fought to the end.

Despite the disruption of COVID-19, our Paralympians have also had outstanding performances. I congratulate Turramurra High School alumni Amy Ridley on her debut at the Tokyo Paralympic Games. Amy competed in the Australian women's goalball team, the Aussie Belles, who made it to the quarterfinals for the first time. They took on Turkey, the reigning Paralympic champions, and although they went down 10-6, they never gave up. I hope their extraordinary performance inspires more people who are vision-impaired to take up the sport. The Aussie Belles have raised the profile of goalball back home and made history on the international stage.

A person I have mentioned previously in the House, Tiffany Thomas Kane, OAM, who appeared in her second Paralympics, finished with two bronze medals in the pool. Tiffany went to Ravenswood School for Girls and began swimming to develop strength. Swimming has brought her many accolades and international recognition, including a gold medal at the Rio Paralympics and a Medal of the Order of Australia. In recognition of their amazing efforts, the faces of each Olympian athlete who competed in the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games was projected on the Sydney Opera House—a fitting tribute to all 665 athletes, as they gave us hope and a much-needed lift in these difficult times. I am immensely proud of and inspired by all those athletes, coaches, officials and support staff and everything that they have achieved. I wish them every success in the future.

COVID-19 VACCINE ROLLOUT

Mr CLAYTON BARR (Cessnock) (19:46): Via video link: Today I express the enormous frustration and anxiety felt by my community during the COVID-19 vaccination rollout. At the beginning of the COVID vaccine response, the Australian Prime Minister established a distribution model that unquestionably divided our country based on class and wealth. In simple terms, the Prime Minister of this country set up a model whereby the rich and wealthy had terrific access, while poor and regional communities had terrible access to vaccines. It may be that the Prime Minister had no ability to foresee the true effects of his chosen model for vaccine distribution. If this is true, then he really needs to get a new job because he is well out of his depth in the current one. Seriously, could a Prime Minister really be that inept?

Personally, I believe it far more likely that Prime Minister Scott Morrison knew exactly and precisely what he was doing when he decided that vaccines would be rolled out through GPs and pharmacies almost exclusively. He knew that this model would favour those living in suburbs where the GP-to-resident ratio is high—perhaps as good as one GP for every 1,000 residents. He knew that this model would be least successful for communities where those GP-to-resident ratios are lowest—for example, suburbs in low socio-economic communities and regional communities where there can sometimes be just one GP for every 2,000 or 3,000 residents. You do not have to be a rocket scientist to know this. And where goes a GP also goes a pharmacist. The work of pharmacists is inextricably linked to the work of GPs.

So it is no surprise that in New South Wales the communities that have had wonderful access to COVID vaccines have been, almost exclusively, north of the Sydney Harbour. Those kicking vaccination goals first of all were from Ku-ring-gai, Baulkham Hills, Hornsby, Pennant Hills, Pittwater and Manly—and good on them. They had terrific access to vaccines while poor and regional communities had terrible access to vaccines. Meanwhile, until specific New South Wales Government interventions fixed Morrison's mess, places like Bourke, Dubbo, Cessnock, Cobar, Tenterfield, Moree and Inverell lagged terribly behind those well-to-do Sydney suburbs. But even inside of Sydney, there were places like St Marys, Canterbury, Auburn, Mount Druitt and Fairfield that were also doing really poorly on the early vaccination front. Scott Morrison knew this would be the case, and if he did not know it, he should not be the Prime Minister.

The work of the New South Wales Government and NSW Health was further hindered by Morrison's persistence that the New South Wales Government was just one of the clients seeking access to the vaccines, as though it was somehow in line with the normal GP or pharmacists. This meant that aside from the essential interventions by NSW Health in hotspots in western Sydney and western New South Wales—and good on the New South Wales Government for doing that work—there were no NSW Health vaccines left to assist places like Cessnock or Maitland or the Upper Hunter. We were left starving for vaccinations, while others feasted under the Morrison model. Now, as the Prime Minister crows about his "road map", the people in communities that he deliberately left behind face longer periods in lockdown because they simply have not had the access that his preferred communities had. Perhaps he should have asked his wife, Jenny, what she thought about that model that he established. She may have given more balanced guidance to his elitist and entitled moral canyon.

GOULBURN ELECTORATE WASTE-TO-ENERGY PROJECTS

Mrs WENDY TUCKERMAN (Goulburn) (19:50): Via video link: Today I speak on the concerns raised through my office regarding waste-to-energy projects for the electorate of Goulburn and the NSW Energy from Waste Infrastructure Plan. Earlier this year, the communities of Bungonia and Marulan were very concerned about a waste-to-energy proposal, a \$600 million project to be built in a rural-zoned area expressly prohibited under the council local environmental plan. That area is rural but also has a small-lot rural residential setting. It was an unsuitable area for such a proposal. I applaud the community that sprang into action, creating representative action groups and gathering data and information in a bid to stop that project going ahead. They were articulate, respectful and presented information for me to present to government and agencies to consider. The community received a very good hearing, and together we advocated to consider further strategies around waste-to-energy projects.

On Friday 10 September the New South Wales Government released its Energy from Waste Infrastructure Plan to support the NSW Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy 2024. The communities of Bungonia and Marulan breathed a collective sigh of relief when it was determined that priority areas for strategic planning for future thermal energy from waste facilities had been identified, including West Lithgow, Parkes, Richmond Valley and Southern Goulburn Mulwaree. The strategy has effectively ruled out the Bungonia proposal. Despite this, the Goulburn Mulwaree Community of Tarago remain concerned for the Veolia Woodlawn Advanced Energy Recovery project—a similar project to the Bungonia proposal, although in an area that has been identified by the New South Wales infrastructure plan. For this project, State environmental assessment requirements have already been issued and cannot legally be withdrawn as it was already a permissible area. The community are asking a lot of questions that I too am seeking answers to. As their local member, I am committed to ensuring that this is a robust planning process and their concerns are being heard.

I want to assure the Tarago community that although the policy update identifies the Veolia precinct as a permissible zone, there is still a significant planning framework that must be satisfied. One was rejected in western Sydney recently. This begs the question: If it does not meet the planning threshold in western Sydney, how can it meet those requirements in a small rural village? I have been told the NSW Chief Scientist & Engineer suggests it is possible for the project to reach the high benchmarks required; however, surely what is feed in is the ultimate determinate. There are so many questions to be answered. I have been in regular discussions with both the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces and the Minister for Energy and Environment to make it very clear that we do not want any waste-to-energy facilities in our electorate if they pose any kind of threat to the health of the community or the surrounding environment. It will be upon the proponent to now satisfy the rigorous planning framework.

Now that COVID-19 restrictions are easing, it is imperative that meaningful engagement occurs with the Tarago community. I will be holding the proponent to account to ensure that this happens. Face-to-face discussions are far more valuable than a Zoom or online meeting and many unanswered questions remain. I understand the environmental impact statement [EIS] is currently being developed by the proponent. I hope it will address the many concerns raised by those affected. I note that many residents of Tarago have contacted my office with their concerns and I have been advised that it is anticipated that the EIS is expected to be finalised by the end of the year. Goulburn Mulwaree Council has been outspoken on this matter, conveying the anxieties of its ratepayers through my office. I commend the council for its efforts in that regard.

It is no secret that the current Veolia waste facility at Tarago has had an odour issue, causing much stress and anxiety for our neighbouring residents. I have made representations on behalf of the community. Thankfully, some additional measures were put in place to ensure that Veolia was controlling that concern. I reassure the Tarago community that I am hearing its concerns loud and clear and I will be with the residents throughout this process. It is important to remember that whilst I have no role in the decision-making on the project, I am certainly hearing the community's collective objection and conveying its concerns to my parliamentary colleagues. I, too, look forward to the finalisation of the EIS process and to questions being answered. I will monitor this closely.

CENTRAL COAST REGION ELECTORATES

Mr DAVID MEHAN (The Entrance) (19:56): I speak about The Entrance electorate and the wider Central Coast region. The boundary changes to The Entrance electorate resulting from the recent redistribution of State electorates have slightly increased the size of the electorate. The suburb of Berkeley Vale is now completely within the electorate; previously, I shared Berkeley Vale with my colleague David Harris, the member for Wyong. I welcome the residents of Berkeley Vale to my electorate and pledge my willingness to do what I can to advance their interests. I look forward to their participation in the 2023 election. The redistribution will see some 60,000 electors participate in the 2023 election on behalf of the electorate's 75,000 or so residents.

The Entrance electorate is part of the wider Central Coast region. The name "Central Coast" was in common usage for many years to describe the area between Sydney and Newcastle. On my application, which I made to strengthen our local regional identity, on 2 December 2005 the Central Coast was officially recognised as a region in its own right when the Geographical Names Board of New South Wales advised that "Central Coast" had been assigned as a geographical name for a region under the provisions of the Geographical Names Act 1966. Five years later the Keneally Labor Government declared the Gosford and Wyong local government areas [LGAs] to be the Central Coast region for planning purposes, underpinning the board's declaration, and the region was included under the provisions of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979. Labor then made the first development plan for the new region.

The Central Coast encompasses four State electorates: Gosford, Terrigal, Wyong and The Entrance. It includes part of the electorate of Swansea, which covers the northern part of the Central Coast, and part of the Lake Macquarie LGA. The region is home to over 330,000 residents and is the third largest local government area in the State. The Central Coast is separated geographically from Sydney by the Hawkesbury River; the people of the Central Coast prefer it that way. Its mixture of rural and suburban coastal development makes the Central

Coast distinctly different from the Newcastle and Lake Macquarie region. The Central Coast is not a regional area; it is a separate and distinct region in its own right and wants to be treated that way. The Coast has developed incrementally and local preference has preserved a large amount of green space, particularly on hilltops and ridge lines, and there is a strong local preference to preserve that look and feel.

The people of the Central Coast expect government to do things. They expect government to ensure that the region gets its fair share and that all people have equal access to the services provided by the State. In that expectation, I believe the Coast reflects the common Australian preference for an active form of government. Ours is a social democratic tendency with Australian characteristics. Any government, Labor or Liberal, that deviates too far from this preference will be punished. I thank the people of my electorate and the wider Central Coast for their support and forbearance over the course of the current COVID-19 pandemic. In particular, I acknowledge those workers who could not work from home and who provided essential services in the areas of health care and food provision. I appreciate that some people in my community have opposed the restrictions. However, the great majority have accepted the need for restrictions on their free movement and for vaccination to protect the wider community.

My community expected government, both State and Federal, to do more to support the pandemic response. Sadly, the Federal Liberal-Nationals Government failed to deliver the vaccines we needed in a timely manner, and the Liberal-Nationals State Government has been distracted by leadership change and confusion as to whether the Central Coast is to be part of Sydney or regional New South Wales. Despite all of that, my Labor colleagues and I will continue to work closely together to advance the interests of the Central Coast as a separate and distinct region in its own right and to make it a better and fairer place for all its citizens.

Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal) (20:01): I acknowledge the contribution of the member for The Entrance. The people of the Central Coast have done an amazing job over the past four months. The member for The Entrance, the member for Gosford, the member for Wyong, the member for Swansea and I have been briefed regularly by our excellent local health team on the Central Coast. It is great to see our community working together to deliver the best outcomes and to keep our community safe under what have been very difficult circumstances. On average 30 people a day were contracting COVID-19 on the Central Coast. We have seen our vaccination numbers skyrocket because people wanted to keep each other safe. It is good to see that politics was put aside and that we were able to focus on our communities to ensure that the Central Coast was held up and taken care of in the best possible way during these difficult times. As the Parliamentary Secretary for the Central Coast, I am proud to continue fighting for funding for our region, from one end of the Coast to the other, because we deserve every cent we can get.

COVID-19 AND FRONTLINE WORKERS AND VOLUNTEERS

Ms ROBYN PRESTON (Hawkesbury) (20:02): I commend and thank our frontline workers and volunteers for their diligent and tireless response to the COVID-19 pandemic and to the challenges it has brought upon us. Our brave workers in health care put themselves front and centre from day one of the pandemic to treat those who were stricken with COVID-19 and to test those who were at risk of having contracted it. To put it simply, many lives were saved because of them. The important role that those workers have performed throughout the vaccination process cannot be overstated and we owe our incredible vaccination rates to their work. As a result, we have been able to move towards greater freedoms at a fast pace. We know the job of a healthcare worker can be tough in normal times, let alone during a health pandemic. Those were unprecedented times and our healthcare workers responded by working hard to provide high-quality care and to protect the lives and health of all in our community. They continue to do so and I wish them the best of health and safety. I extend my thanks to their families for having their loved ones serve the community on the front lines during the pandemic.

I also thank another group of frontline workers who have been and continue to be vital in protecting us during this pandemic. The police have done an amazing job in very difficult circumstances, enforcing the public health orders that were put in place for the community's protection. In some areas—certainly not in Hawkesbury—they have been placed in tense and hostile situations. The bravery of our police long predates the pandemic. I recognise the risks to their lives every day prior to, during and after the pandemic.

The role of the police during the pandemic was enforcing compliance. That meant, too, that they were frontline workers who were dealing with people who were perhaps COVID-19 positive. That was the risk they faced. I also acknowledge the assistance of police with hotel quarantine. It took them away from their regular beat, but it was an essential requirement and they rose to the occasion. I also thank the families of our brave and hardworking police for having their loved ones protect us in the community at great risk to themselves.

It is also a pleasure to thank and commend the many volunteers who contributed to the wellbeing of others in many different ways. I saw this in my electorate of Hawkesbury. Around New South Wales there are a lot of stories that I was in awe of. We are well aware of the stories of the good people utilising their own time and

bearing the cost of expenses to drive around and deliver essential food hampers to people in need. I especially mention Karen Stuttle from Mountain of Joy in Hawkesbury and Linda Strickland from Hawkesbury Helping Hands. They are just two individuals who devote their time to helping others.

These individuals contributed to our fight against the pandemic despite having worked hard to deal with other disasters that occurred prior to and during the pandemic, such as drought, bushfires and flood. The people of Hawkesbury and all of New South Wales are indebted to them. I have no doubt that their commitment to the protection and betterment of our community will continue for the remainder of the pandemic and beyond, as they respond to any future challenges that individuals face on a day-to-day basis and those that society may face as a whole. Nevertheless, having faced drought, bushfires, floods and the COVID-19 pandemic within the last few years, I hope the future is one that is a lot calmer for our frontline workers and volunteers. I thank the House.

COVID-19 AND NEWCASTLE ELECTORATE

Mr TIM CRAKANTHORP (Newcastle) (20:06): Via video link: Is my audio working as well?

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Ms Sonia Hornery): Yes, it is nice and clear.

Mr TIM CRAKANTHORP: That is great. As we saw with the 2020 lockdown, times of adversity can bring out the best in people and communities. That has again been on display in Newcastle during this year's lockdown. Only one day passed between learning of COVID detections in Newcastle sewage and stay-at-home orders being implemented, the city falling only a few days short of reaching one year without a case. While most of us expected that Sydney's outbreak would eventually reach us it was nonetheless still extraordinarily disappointing that, despite working so hard to keep it out, Delta made it to our region. We bowled along with low numbers through early September—even recording a donut day at the end of August—but sadly it was not to last.

Newcastle was never going to let this outbreak crush its spirit, though. Once again, everyone stepped up to make sure anyone who was struggling had access to support. Newy Burger Co. and Onyx Espresso Bar are just two businesses that went above and beyond, continuing the fantastic work that they did last year to ensure that no-one went hungry. Newy Burger Co. reinstated their kindness boxes, working with local businesses to put together packs of pre-made meals, pantry basics and vouchers for whoever needed them. Onyx dished out free soap for anyone who needed a meal and also served up free coffee to hardworking COVID testing and vaccination workers. For the non-essential businesses that had to close their doors, the Makers and Traders collective jumped in and created the Newcastle Window Wander—20 businesses took part by dressing up their windows, with passers-by snapping selfies to enter a draw to win a gift voucher.

Just like last year, our teachers stepped up to the plate with creativity and innovation to keep everyone learning. This year we were locked down for a highlight of the school year: Book Week. Megan Thompson, years 1 and 2 teacher at Newcastle East Public School, did not see this an obstacle, though. She created a scavenger hunt across the city for students and families to complete as they went for walks. Little gestures just to make people smile abounded. Free flowers were on offer from Lone Clothing Co., while everyone was encouraged to get crafty by decorating a wooden spoon and popping it in the ground in their suburb's designated "Spoonville".

While essential workers in health, supermarkets and public transport went to work on the front line, we also welcomed a new cohort that was working the COVID response: the doctors, pharmacists and hub staff who joined the vaccination rollout. It is fair to think that these people have never been busier than in those first few weeks. Regional areas have largely been abandoned in the vaccine rollout. When supply did arrive, it did not come close to making a dent in demand, putting an enormous amount of pressure on those trying to manage appointments and prioritise our most vulnerable. They persisted, though, with staff battling through hundreds of daily phone calls, the attempted walk-ins and the pressure of these additional duties to do everything they could to get as many people vaccinated as possible.

This also saw clinics taken to the vulnerable, with organisations including Awabakal, Life Without Barriers and Flourish doing everything they could to ensure that these people were not left behind. I have no doubt that these efforts have significantly contributed to lifting vaccination rates across the region, with the work so appreciated. As we now move towards living with COVID there may well be blips along the way. But Novocastrians have shown time and time again that they are kind, they are resilient and they will always look out for each other.

Community Recognition Notices

RICHARD HARRIS

Mr MATT KEAN (Hornsby—Treasurer, and Minister for Energy and Environment)—I would like to congratulate and acknowledge my friend Dr Richard Harris who has released his first novel 'Imagine'. The novel, which is more than 4 years in the making, is based on the John Lennon song of the same name. It looks at

our world, both the good and the bad, with a group of intertwining stories. I first met Dr Harris when he was advocating for better facilities for Hornsby Hospital, having brought a number of issues to the public's attention including possums running through operating theatres. It was his advocacy which began our journey to see the hospital re-built, something which has completely transformed the facility and is expected to be completed next year. Congratulation Dr Richard Harris on your first novel Imagine. I have no doubt there will be many more books in your future.

FENWICK'S MARINA

Mr MATT KEAN (Hornsby—Treasurer, and Minister for Energy and Environment)—Today I would like to acknowledge Fenwick's Marina in Brooklyn who have been named Australia's Best Boat Yard for Under 20 Boats in 2021. The Marina Industries Association Club Awards were held before lockdown in May and the Fenwick's were up against finalists White Bay 6 in Sydney and from Western Australia the South Perth Yacht Club. Having previously won the award in 2019-20 and 2015-16 it was noted their continued effort to maintain and update the marina. This includes the development of a computer-based program to manage the workflow through the yard. A family business which has been in our community for many years, Managing Director Andrew Fenwick dedicated the award to his late father Doug who passed away last year. It was Andrew and Doug who in the 80s worked to build the marina and repair the greenfield site in Brooklyn. Andrew's son Tim is now Operations Manager and together the Fenwick family have built this into one of the best facilities in the country. I would like to congratulate Andrew, Tim and their team on this well-deserved award and thank them for everything they have done for the Brooklyn community.

ILLAWARRA LIGHT RAILWAY MUSEUM

Mr GARETH WARD (Kiama)—I would like to acknowledge Treasurer Brad Johns and the wonderful team of volunteers from the Illawarra Light Railway Museum in Albion Park Rail. The Museum approached me with a very detailed Community Building Partnership application looking to purchase new display cabinets and other related upgrades to their museum building to house additional Railway memorabilia. It is a fantastic facility which I have visited numerous open days and I been very pleased to support for many years. I have also secured various funding amounts for the Light Rail Museum as the local Member. The museum is now in its 49th year of operation since it was founded in 1972. The museum in 2021 is a great place for families who enjoy the museum and also is a great place of family entertainment and riding those trains from industrial railways and tramways of yesteryear with great displays.

NORTH NOWRA-CAMBEWARRA CRICKET CLUB

Mr GARETH WARD (Kiama)—I would like to acknowledge the North Nowra Cambewarra Cricket Club who I secured funding for the purchase and installation of increased equipment storage. I was joined at this announcement by Club President Justin Weller and Secretary Eleysha Weller during my visit. I was extremely pleased to be able to secure this funding under the Local Sport Grants Program which will go towards the purchase and installation of two 40-foot shipping containers for cricket equipment storage at the Bernie Regan Sporting Complex in North Nowra. The North Nowra Cambewarra Cricket Club was first formed in 1991 and incorporated in 1994. So this season is the Club's 30th anniversary. The club is a member of the Shoalhaven District Cricket Association and also the Shoalhaven District Junior Cricket Association. Securing grants like this makes all the difference for volunteer clubs. It means that club members and volunteers can be more focused on cricket rather than selling raffle tickets. I would like to acknowledge the Club President Justin Weller, Vice-President Matt Hickmott, Secretary Eleysha Weller and Treasurer Rod Walsh who have all been tireless advocates for this great local cricket club.

ST PETERS ANGLICAN CHURCH SHOALHAVEN HEADS

Mr GARETH WARD (Kiama)—I would like to acknowledge Rick Lewers, Rector of St Peter's Anglican Church in Shoalhaven Heads. St Peter's have submitted a very detailed submission for funding under the Community Building Partnerships program which I had the pleasure of discussing via a Zoom meeting with Mr Lewers recently. St Peter's have applied for funding in order to secure play equipment including swing and climbing equipment to accommodate local young families. St Peter's Anglican plays a pivotal role in the local Heads community. Regular Church of England Services began in Shoalhaven Heads in 1955, the meeting being held in the Community Hall in Celia Place. That Hall became a Pre-School following the building of the Community Centre in Shoalhaven Heads Road in the mid-1990s. I would like to acknowledge and thank Rick and his wife, Janene Lewers, and also Amanda Stavert, the children's and youth minister at St Peter's Anglican Church, and her husband, Jonathan.

JAMBEROO UNITING CHURCH

Mr GARETH WARD (Kiama)—I would like to acknowledge Church Property Manager Cliff Mason from Kiama Jamberoo Uniting Church in relation to seeking funding under the Community Building Partnerships program to undertake upgrades to disabled amenities at Jamberoo Uniting Church. I would also like to acknowledge Rev Katherine Merrifield and Rev Janice Freeston. They provide worship on Sundays, a Healing Service, Bible Studies and more informal social gatherings, learning to play a new instrument, learning to knit or to improve carpentry skills, or just drop by for coffee and a chat. There are a range of activities on offer across both Uniting Church facilities in Kiama and Jamberoo and play an important role in our local community.

BRENT FARR

Mrs TANYA DAVIES (Mulgoa)—I would like to congratulate local Glenmore Park resident, Brent Farr, for giving up his time to take part in 'The 2021 Variety - Children's Charity B to B Bash'. Brent will be dressed as part of The Avengers beginning on 1st to the 10th of August covering a distance of 4,400kms with a group of 4 others including his dad and brother. The purpose of this event is to raise funds to help his nephew and other kids who have Cerebral Palsy. Brent has continued to support this great cause since 2010, making this his 11th Variety Bash, he looks forward to seeing all the familiar faces in which he has created relationships with over the many years.

COOPER HALFPENNY

Mrs TANYA DAVIES (Mulgoa)—A big congratulations to local Glenmore Park footballer Cooper Halfpenny for scoring yet another deal to extend his already one-year deal to play football in Spain with U19 La Liga club Aravaca CF. Cooper's toughness, dedication and ability to adapt and learn paid off in a big way when he was offered the chance to extend his stay in Europe by another 12 months with CD Leganes. Although being away from home for eight months already, he is more determined than ever to perform and give himself the best chance to extend further. I wish Cooper all the best and I look forward to hearing of his future success.

GLENMORE PARK PUBLIC SCHOOL'S COLOUR EXPLOSION FUN RUN

Mrs TANYA DAVIES (Mulgoa)—I would like to commend staff and students at Glenmore Park Public School who have celebrated their first fun run for the year, with the local community coming together to help the school raise over \$30,000. The school's Colour Explosion Fun Run was a major fundraising event as it was the first of many events to go through in light of recent COVID restrictions. With the funds raised, the school is hoping to further develop the outdoor playground area for the students, building fixed equipment for their enjoyment. What an incredibly successful event and a wonderful opportunity for the community to support and celebrate its local school. Congratulations Glenmore Park Public School!

PHILIP NIGHTINGALE

Mrs TANYA DAVIES (Mulgoa)—I would like to acknowledge an outstanding Glenmore Park resident who has served the local community as a fire fighter for Fire and Rescue NSW, 6918 Station Officer Philip Nightingale for 32 years. Congratulations to Officer Philip for your generous contribution to the community for 32 years, while stationed at St Marys, Penrith and Regentville Fire Stations. Philip had always been interested in joining the Fire Brigade and describes it as a tremendous and rewarding job being able to help people when they are in difficult and stressful situations as well as the mateship amongst fellow fire fighters. Well done and congratulations to you Philip, I wish you all the best for the future!

SAFE WATERS ULLADULLA

Mr RYAN PARK (Keira)—I would like to bring to the attention of the house the admirable work of Sarah Date and the team from Safe Waters Community Care in Ulladulla on the South Coast of NSW. At a recent online forum I hosted along with the Shadow Minister for Housing and Homelessness Rose Jackson MLC, industry experts and community members came together to discuss the rising rates of homelessness in the Shoalhaven region and to explore opportunities to address the growing problem. Sarah and her team of dedicated volunteers run Safe Shelter in the centre of Ulladulla, providing night by night crisis accommodation for people experiencing homelessness in the Shoalhaven region including young people, families with children, older women and veterans. Safe Shelter is just one of the services provided by Safe Waters Community Care which was established in 2019 to assist the most vulnerable people in the Ulladulla area including people experiencing homelessness, those fleeing domestic violence and people with substance misuse difficulties. I extend my sincere thanks to Sarah and her team for their tireless dedication to helping those in need and I look forward to working together in the Shoalhaven region.

SALT MINISTRIES NOWRA

Mr RYAN PARK (Keira)—I would like to bring to the attention of the house the admirable work of Peter Dover and the team from Salt Ministries in Nowra on the South Coast of NSW. At a recent online forum I hosted along with the Shadow Minister for Housing and Homelessness Rose Jackson MLC, industry experts and community members came together to discuss the rising rates of homelessness in the Shoalhaven region and to explore opportunities to address the growing problem. Peter and a team of dedicated volunteers run Salt Safe Shelter providing crisis accommodation for people experiencing homelessness, and Salt Assisted Houses for people who are transitioning from crisis accommodation to independent living. Peter and the team at Salt are fierce advocates for better resources and services for the most vulnerable people on the Shoalhaven community, and have designed an innovative program of assisted housing with wrap around services to support people at their most vulnerable time in life. I extend my sincere thanks to Peter and the team at Salt Ministries for their tireless dedication to helping people in need and I look forward to working together with Salt in the Shoalhaven region.

RFS AWARDS

Mr NATHANIEL SMITH (Wollondilly)—On June 17, I was a guest at a special awards evening for the Southern Highlands brigades of the NSW Rural Fire Service. It was a distinct honour to pay tribute these local men and women who volunteer their time to keep my local communities safe from bushfires. There were thirty-eight award recipients, including 5 national medal winners, with a combined 921 years of community service. This a phenomenal statistic worth celebrating. Hill Top RFS's Brian Coates deserves special recognition. He has been on the roster for the past 73 years. I understand that serving in the local RFS is something of a tradition in the Coates family. Brian followed in the footsteps of his father Albert, who volunteered back in the 1930s. Brian's wife, Janet, has been a volunteer for 63 years. An equally staggering achievement. Mr Coates' daughter, Tina Hindley, son and daughter-in-law, Michelle and Ian Coates, and granddaughter, Sara O'Brien, were also recognised for their commitment to the RFS. I wish to thank all the volunteers who were recognised at the awards evening. The Southern Highlands community, and the Wollondilly electorate, is better and safer for their dedication and committed service.

STEPHEN DELLA-FIORENTINA OAM

Mr NATHANIEL SMITH (Wollondilly)—I wish to extend my congratulations to Associate Professor Stephen Della-Fiorentina on been awarded the Order of Australia Medal for service to oncology as part of the Queen's Birthday Honours List. Professor Della-Fiorentina lives in the electorate of Wollondilly and has called the Southern Highlands his home since 2001. He is currently a senior medical oncologist and has been providing high quality cancer care in the region since 1999. He is also the Director of the Macarthur and Southern Highlands Cancer Centres. I understand that his specific interests are in breast and lung cancer but provides multidisciplinary care in all solid tumours by linking with teams within South West Sydney Cancer Services. He has extensive experience in multicentre randomised clinical trials; quality assurance programmes and registrar training. He also provides education to our next generation of frontline carers at Western Sydney University. For families that are dealing with the devastating effects of cancer, the value of having quality cancer care in their local area cannot be overstated. I thank Associate Professor Della-Fiorentina for his wonderful work in this field. His OAM is very well deserved.

STEPHEN SPENCE OAM

Mr NATHANIEL SMITH (Wollondilly)—I would like to recognise Stephen Spence who was recently awarded the Order of Australia Medal for extraordinary services offered to veterans in the Southern Highlands. Mr Spence is a veteran of the Vietnam Campaign. He joined the Mittagong Sub-Branch and the Mittagong RSL Club in 2007. Since this time he has been dedicated to the betterment of veteran affairs and the wider community as a whole. He has held a number of positions in the sub-branch, including Secretary, Historian, Welfare and Pensions Officer, and Vice President. He is currently the sub-branch President. Stephen serves on the board of Mittagong RSL Club as Vice-President. I understand he is an active participant in many of the Board sub-committees. I thank Mr Spence for his service in both Vietnam and, more recently, his activities assisting other veterans. His OAM is richly deserved.

TULIP TIME

Mr NATHANIEL SMITH (Wollondilly)—The annual Tulip Time festival held in Bowral's Corbett Gardens is one the oldest floral festivals in Australia. This year it celebrated its Sixtieth Diamond Anniversary. For many local residents, Tulip Time is a bright feature each calendar year and not only brings everyone together, but usually serves as a tourism boom for the area. After much careful deliberation from Wingecarribee Council, this year it was decided to transform the festival into a virtual online tour. Whilst the Gardens remained open to locals during the months of September and October, subject to COVID-Safe practices, the traditional stalls,

entertainment and tourists did not take place. The online video footage of this year's Corbett Gardens Tulip Time display has been uploaded free to view on the Destination Southern Highlands website and I encourage anyone who has not seen it to do so. Like every year, the flowers look amazing. Well done to all those that were involved this year. It was a challenging time and I thank you for your innovative thinking in still managing to bring joy to the many thousands that delight in the spectacular beauty of gardens overflowing with colour.

BRUCE ANGUS

Ms ELENi PETINOS (Miranda)—I congratulate Illawong Rural Fire Brigade member Bruce Angus, who was awarded with the 1st Clasp to his National Medal earlier this year. Bruce has selflessly served our local community for over 32 years, commencing his distinguished career with the Illawong Rural Fire Brigade on 1 August 1988. His volunteering journey has led him to contribute significantly to hazard reduction activities across our community, as well as battle many fires across our state. Over this time, he has held the ranks of Brigade President, Captain, Senior Deputy Captain and Deputy Captain. It is undeniable that Bruce is a truly selfless and community minded individual. Bruce gives freely of his time to support new members of the NSW Rural Fire Service by delivering training modules across our state. In recognition of his important contribution, Bruce was awarded the National Medal in 2005, the NSW Rural Fire Service Long Service Medal and 1st Clasp in 2012, and 2nd Clasp in November 2020. Bruce is a worthy recipient of the National Medal 1st Clasp, and I thank him for his ongoing dedication to keeping our community safe.

LESLIE DERWENT

Ms ELENi PETINOS (Miranda)—I congratulate Illawong Rural Fire Brigade member Leslie Derwent, who was awarded a National Medal earlier this year. Leslie has selflessly served our local community for over 27 years, commencing his outstanding career with the Illawong Rural Fire Brigade on 16 January 1994. His volunteering journey has led him to battle many fires across our state, including the Black Saturday fires, the 1997 Coonabarabran and Sydney fires, the Christmas Fires of 2000 and the 2001 New Year fires. Over this time, he has held a number of operational roles including Station Officer and Trucks Pumps and Motors Officer. It is undeniable that Leslie is a truly selfless and community minded individual. Leslie was part of the originating group that developed the district's Rural Fire Driver Course, and for the past 24 years has volunteered his time and knowledge to deliver the training modules to new brigade members. In recognition of his important contribution, Leslie was awarded the Long Service Medal in 2011 and 1st Clasp in 2015. Leslie is a worthy recipient of the National Medal and 1st Clasp, and I thank him for his ongoing dedication to our community.

MARK PRYOR

Ms ELENi PETINOS (Miranda)—I congratulate Illawong Rural Fire Brigade member Mark Pryor, who was awarded with the 1st Clasp to his National Medal earlier this year. Mark has served our local community with distinction for over 27 years, commencing his esteemed career with the Illawong Rural Fire Brigade on 16 January 1994. His volunteering journey has led him to contribute significantly to hazard reduction activities and battle many fires across our state. Over this time, he has held the ranks of Captain, Deputy Captain and Senior Deputy Captain. Mark's willingness to pass on his knowledge has seen him mentor, train and assess district members completing courses such as Advanced Firefighter, Crew Leader, Conduct Briefing and Debriefing. In recognition of his important contribution, Mark was awarded the National Medal in October 2015, the NSW Rural Fire Service Long Service Medal in October 2001 and 1st Clasp in November 2015. In June 2018, Mark was made a Life Member of the Illawong Rural Fire Brigade in recognition for his outstanding service to both his brigade and our community. Mark is a worthy recipient of the National Medal 1st Clasp, and I thank him for his ongoing dedication to our community.

MICHAEL MAINGARD

Ms ELENi PETINOS (Miranda)—I congratulate Illawong Rural Fire Brigade member Michael Maingard, who was awarded a National Medal earlier this year. Michael has protected our local community for over 26 years, commencing his distinguished career with the Illawong Rural Fire Brigade on 22 January 1995. His volunteering journey has led him to contribute significantly to fundraising efforts and hazard reduction activities across our community, as well as battle many fires across our state. Over this time, he has held the ranks of Captain, Deputy Captain, Treasurer and First Aid Officer. It is undeniable that Michael is a truly selfless and community minded individual. Michael gives freely of his time to help upskill members of the NSW Rural Fire Service by delivering numerous training courses within the Sutherland District relating to First Aid. In recognition of his important contribution, Michael was awarded the Long Service Medal in October 2011. Michael is a worthy recipient of the National Medal, and I thank him for his ongoing dedication to keeping our community safe.

TEACHERS OF THE COOGEE ELECTORATE

Dr MARJORIE O'NEILL (Coogee)—To the amazing teachers of the Coogee electorate, I say thank you and well done. On behalf of everyone in the Coogee electorate, I wish to thank and congratulate to our remarkable educators, administrative staff, tech staff, support staff cleaners and everyone that has played a role in keeping our schools running and our students learning. Thank you for the way you have all performed your roles, adapted your teaching and supported your students through some of the most testing times that our education system has faced. In the past few months, our teachers have had to navigate the closing of schools, a return to an extended period online learning, a thorough preparation for reopening classrooms and finally, they will soon be welcoming back their students. Our teachers have conquered all of this with a no-fuss, get on with the job attitude and for that, they are truly admired. What I hope this crisis has taught us is exactly how valuable our teachers and educators are. They are absolutely essential and they deserve facilities, pay and conditions that reflect how truly vital they are.

SURF LIFE SAVERS

Dr MARJORIE O'NEILL (Coogee)—I acknowledge the important work done by our Surf Life Savers across the state, and in my electorate of Coogee as the new summer season fast approaches. This season will be unlike any other, but I know our local clubs, volunteer lifesavers and Council guards are prepared and ready for the task ahead. The Coogee electorate is lucky to have some of the most famous and most widely visited beaches in Australia and our volunteer and professional surf life savers do an amazing job on our beaches every year. Across the 2020/2021 season, surf lifesaving clubs in the Eastern Suburbs performed almost 1,000 rescues. This year, we are likely to see a hotter summer than the last, bringing more visitors to our local beaches, with the added complexity of redesigning beach and water safety to ensure both visits and our lifesavers are COVID-safe. The work that our surf life savers do is so essential to our way of life in the Eastern Suburbs and allows both locals and visitors to enjoy our wonderful, natural asserts in safety. To all of our Eastern Suburbs lifesavers, best of luck for the upcoming season.

ZOE TUDOR

Mr DAVID LAYZELL (Upper Hunter)—I would like to congratulate Singleton High School's, Zoe Tudor, who recently received an award from the NSW Minister of Education, The Hon. Sarah Mitchell. Zoe, a 2021 School Captain, has been recognised for her excellence and achievements during her senior studies. Her award citation noted that Zoe was "an exemplary student personifying the values of public education through her diligence and commitment to herself and her school community, as reflected in her academic, sporting and leadership success." The Minister's Award for Excellence in Student Achievement is one category of a series of highly accredited awards given out to students, teachers and volunteers across NSW each year. This year there was approximately 30 recipients of the award. Again, I congratulate Zoe on her wonderful achievement and wish her all the very best in her future endeavours.

TRACEY LOWREY

Mr DAVID LAYZELL (Upper Hunter)—I would like to congratulate Tracey Lowrey of Dungog who was named the NSW Parents and Citizens Volunteer of the Year 2020. The annual award recognises a P&C Association volunteer who has gone above and beyond in their role, to the benefit of students and their school community. Tracey became involved in the Dungog Public School P&C Association in 1994, first as a parent and now continues to volunteer as a grandparent. In that time, she has volunteered at the school as a class parent reader, sports coach, provided volunteer support in the Special Needs Unit, among numerous other activities. Again, I would like to congratulate Tracey on her outstanding achievement and her contribution to the Dungog community.

KAL GLANZNIG

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla—Attorney General, and Minister for Prevention of Domestic and Sexual Violence)—I congratulate Kal Glanznig of Yowie Bay on his selection for the World Ocean Day Youth Advisory Council. The Youth Advisory Council helps develop World Ocean Day into an opportunity to connect youth focussing on action for a healthier ocean and more sustainable society. Kal was the 2020 Sutherland Shire Young Citizen of the Year, co-founding Plastic Free Cronulla with the Cronulla Chamber of Commerce. Kal has encouraged Cronulla businesses and my electorate office to become plastic-free in an effort to reduce the amount of plastic waste that enters the ocean. Kal was also awarded one of two 2021 Unibank Leaders Scholarships as well as the University of Sydney Blue and Gold Scholarship for environmental leadership. This is an excellent opportunity for Kal to collaborate with global like-minded peers, and I look forward to hearing about the outcomes Kal will achieve on the Youth Advisory Council.

MOSMAN YOUTH AWARD IN LITERATURE WINNERS

Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore)—I recognise the winners of this year's Mosman Youth Awards in Literature. There were 321 entries submitted from students in our local schools, which covered a wide variety of topics. I want to congratulate Catlin Ong with 'The Fishing Girl', Chantilly Ho with 'Cancer, Alphabetically', Matilda Meikle with 'Dear Friend', Jade Cummins with 'Athazagoraphobia', and Isaac Elms with 'Motorcar'. Each of these students won first prize in their respective category. The Mosman Youth Awards in Literature is a fantastic initiative established in 1993 by Helen Egan, Marie Pitts, and Cheryl Thomas, three friends who shared an interest in and background in the education of young people. These awards in literature have always been to encourage young people interest in writing prose and poetry. There was a total of \$2,500 worth of prize money for the various winners. I want to thank the Mosman Rotary Club, Mosman Lions Club, Oracle Books Mosman, Northern Beaches and Mosman College, and Constant Reader Bookshop for sponsoring the competition.

AUSTRALIA REMEMBERS 79TH COMMEMORATIVE SERVICE

Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore)—Earlier this year, I attended the seventy-ninth anniversary of the Battle of Sydney with the Member for Manly, James Griffin. It was a morning to reflect on the historical moment when Japanese submarines entered Sydney Harbour and unleashed a series of attacks on our city. More importantly, it was a time to remember the many lives lost during these attacks, including the 21 individuals on-board HMAS Kuttabul. War had made its way to our shores and became heavily imprinted in the memories of those who live to tell their stories today. I was honoured to join James Griffin MP with members of the North Shore and Northern Beaches communities to commemorate this significant event. We are solemnly reminded of the cost of our freedoms. Thank you to all those who contributed to the service, including speakers Luke McNamara from St Aloysius College and Chaplain Catherin Wynn-Jones from HMAS Penguin. I also want to thank students from St Aloysius College, Middle Harbour Public School and Mosman High School for participating in the day.

JANE MEREDITH

Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore)—I wish to acknowledge the work of Neutral Bay resident and full-time criminal lawyer Jane Meredith for harnessing the goodwill and generosity of the North Shore electorate, to benefit those in need in our local community. Jane has helped collect more than ten tonnes of food and household basics for Addi Road Food Pantry through great local businesses in the North Shore. Thank you to businesses in Cremorne Plaza, Chargrill Charlies, the Deli at Kirribilli, Simple Simons Coffee, and Gelato house. Jane has managed to mobilise a large group of volunteers who all share the same passion and interests in helping out people who are currently facing difficulties. The volunteers have now started collecting items for the Addi Road Hope Boxes that they will be delivering to over 2000 people in need over the Christmas period. I want to thank every member in my local community who took time and money out of their day to donate. When everyone gives just a little, together it can make a great difference to many. This is just another example of the generosity of my local North Shore community.

LOCAL OLYMPIC ATHLETES

Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore)—I wish to congratulate the extraordinary work of all the Olympic and Paralympic athletes who competed in Tokyo, and particularly our local athletes from my electorate of North Shore. I commend their sheer grit and determination that got them to the Olympics this year through all the challenges they endured over the past 18 months. The talents of these athletes and all of the months and years of preparation is truly incredible. In particular, I would like to acknowledge the outstanding performances from three local athletes; Rowena Meredith, who won a Bronze medal in the Rowing for the Women's Quadruple Sculls, and Matilda Kearns and Hannah Buckling, who were in the Women's Water Polo team that placed 5th. Congratulations on these outstanding results. I know that many in our community and everyone across New South Wales and Australia were incredibly proud to watch you compete in the Tokyo Olympics. I want to extend my sincerest congratulations to all our athletes, the coaching and sporting staff, and their families. You all made us all so incredibly proud.

STUDIO SHIRE

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla—Attorney General, and Minister for Prevention of Domestic and Sexual Violence)—Yesterday Small Business Minister Damien Tudehope visited Studio Shire, a boutique hair salon located in the heart of Caringbah. We met owner Silvana Manno and her daughter Ashleigh. Silvana has over 37 years of hairdressing experience. Formerly trading as Silvana's Hair design, she has now re-branded and moved across the Kingsway into new premises. Silvana was very excited to open her hair salon for the first time since the beginning of lockdown. She is completely booked out for the rest of the month and into November, with local double vaccinated residents still calling to make bookings. Silvana's positivity and upbeat energy were

infectious as she described the precautions she has implemented to ensure customers can have their hair cut and styled in a COVID-Safe environment. It was clear that Silvana genuinely cares for her customers and has a real passion for styling. It was also very pleasing to hear Silvana express her appreciation for the NSW Government business support grants that have helped her throughout the lockdown period. I wish Silvana all the best for her newly re-named business.

NURSING AND MIDWIFERY GRADUATES JOIN SOUTH WEST SYDNEY HOSPITALS

Mr PETER SIDGREAVES (Camden)—It was wonderful to welcome new Nurses and Midwifery graduates when visiting Campbelltown Hospital with the Premier, Health Minister and Member for Wollondilly. 264 nurses and midwives will embark on their new careers with NSW Health, 51 of those will work at Campbelltown and Camden Hospital. The NSW Government has invested in a record total of 8,300 frontline health staff over four years, including an additional 5,000 nurses and midwives, including mental health and palliative care nurses. I thank our new graduates and know that their commitment and compassion combined with their clinical skills will make a huge difference and contribute to the health and wellbeing of many people.

HANNAH DARLINGTON MAKES ODI DEBUT

Mr PETER SIDGREAVES (Camden)—I offer my congratulations to Campbelltown-Camden Ghosts first grade captain, Hannah Darlington who last month made her One Day International (ODI) debut against India in Mackay. At only 19 years old, Hannah, a bowling all-rounder received her ODI cap from fellow indigenous player Ashleigh Gardner. Hannah has become the third Indigenous Cricketer to play for the Australian Women's Cricket Team. Congratulations again Hannah on a very successful ODI debut for the Australian Women's Cricket Team who defeated India by 9 wickets.

CAMDEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Mr PETER SIDGREAVES (Camden)—Today in NSW Parliament, I recognise the incredible work of the Camden Historical Society within my electorate. The Camden Historical Society work tirelessly accurately cataloguing and advocating for the protection of the history of Camden. The importance of the work they do will ultimately benefit the future generations of Camden for many years to come. I also recognise the management committee members; President: Ian Ramsay. Vice Presidents: John Wrigley OAM and Warren Sims. Secretary and Assistant Secretary: Lee Stratton and Jo O'Brien. Treasurer: Fletcher Joss and Past President: Doug Barrett. As well as the General Committee Members: Rene Rem, Ian Willis, Frances Warner, Robert Wheeler, Dawn Williams and Julie Wrigley.

BIG YELLOW UMBRELLA

Mr PETER SIDGREAVES (Camden)—Big Yellow Umbrella is a not-for-profit community organisation with non-religious or political affiliations based in Narellan, serving the entire Camden and Macarthur Local Government Area. Each week they provide free food hampers for local families who are doing it tough. Without the ongoing support and donations, Yellow Hampers cannot continue operation. I thank Coles Narellan, Harrington Park and Mount Annan for their involvement in the Second Bite Program. Second Bite is a national not-for-profit establishment to rescue fresh food and redistribute free of charge to community food programs around Australia.

DR VINH BINH LIEU

Ms TANIA MIHAILUK (Bankstown)—I would like to recognise an esteemed member of our local community, Dr Vinh Binh Lieu. Operating from the Vinh Binh Medical Centre in Bankstown Plaza, Dr Lieu has tirelessly served the local community for years, and is currently working through the pandemic, vaccinating Bankstown residents. Dr Lieu is passionate about helping others and this has led him to practice medicine in Australia for 36 years. His generosity extends beyond the medical service, having been instrumental in establishing the Vietnamese-Australia Medical Association, and the Australian Dragon Business Association. Dr Vinh Binh Lieu has initiated a host of charitable initiatives including raising aid toward Queensland floods, Victorian bushfires, and fundraising for Bankstown-Lidcombe Hospital. Dr Lieu serves as a shining example of the Australian dream, having immigrated as a refugee after the Fall of Saigon. Today he stands as a pillar of his community, and I commend his long-standing medical service, and resolute commitment to assisting others.

BANKSTOWN SPORTS CLUB VACCINATION HUB

Ms TANIA MIHAILUK (Bankstown)—I would like to commend the Bankstown Sports Club, who in service to the local community, converted their premises into a COVID-19 vaccination hub. The Club formed a partnership with the South-Western Sydney Local Health District and AMI Expeditionary Healthcare. The Bankstown Sports Club was eager to participate in the frontline response and administered 12,000 doses of the AstraZeneca during the three months the hub was open. I also had the opportunity to receive my COVID-19

vaccine at the Bankstown Sports Club vaccination hub. Despite having to shut down during the lockdown, it was pleasing to see the Club demonstrate their community spirit by helping Canterbury-Bankstown Local Government Area reach the vaccination target. The Canterbury-Bankstown Local Government Area is well on its way to surpassing 90% for first-dose vaccinations. I wish to acknowledge the Bankstown Sports Club CEO Mr Mark Condi, Chairman Mr John Murray, as well as Directors Mr Jim Hanna, Mr Richard Phillips, Mr Vern Falconer, Mr Martin Klumpp, Mr Jim Ronis, Ms Carolyn Campbell, and Ms Clare Pearson, for their commendable contribution to our local community. I am delighted the Club is now able to reopen and serve its patrons.

LIANNE NGO

Ms TANIA MIHAILUK (Bankstown)—I am proud to have nominated Ms Lianne Ngo as a candidate for the 2022 NSW Women of the Year awards, in the category of NSW Community Hero of the Year. Lianne Ngo has worked as a community pharmacist for over a decade and is also a bilingual caseworker at Fairfield Women's Health Service. Lianne is passionate about providing support to her community in ensuring that our community in South West Sydney receives access to quality health care, information, and resources. In her longstanding role at One Door Mental Health in Bankstown, Lianne regularly facilitates workshops, organises community events, and offers advocacy services to support and empower women, particularly women from multicultural and lower socio-economic backgrounds. Living and working in South West Sydney, Lianne frequently attends online forums and reaches out to community, cultural, and charitable groups, to explain the benefits and importance of getting vaccinated. Lianne was a guest speaker at a Zoom Event I hosted in September to empower women in South West Sydney to vaccinate, where she provided valuable information about the vaccine to many multicultural groups. I thank Lianne for her invaluable contribution to our local community.

EMPOWERING WOMEN IN SOUTH WEST SYDNEY TO VACCINATE

Ms TANIA MIHAILUK (Bankstown)—On Friday, 10th September, I had the pleasure of hosting an online forum with Linda Burney MP, Shadow Minister for Families, Social Services, and Indigenous Australians, and Ms Mariam Mourad, CEO of Bankstown Women's Health Centre and Fairfield Women's Health Service, to empower women in South West Sydney to vaccinate. I acknowledged guest speakers, Ms Dee-Dee San Jose, and Ms Lianne Ngo, case managers from Fairfield Women's Health Centre, for providing valuable information to the attendees on the progress and effects of vaccinations within their communities. I thank the Bankstown Women's Health Centre, and Fairfield Women's Health Service, for providing support to our community during this challenging time and in being committed to ensuring that all women in South West Sydney receive access to health care, information, and resources. I would also like to thank community leaders from the Arab Council, CORE Community Services, Good 360, the Islamic Women's Welfare Association, Multicultural Health, and Western Sydney Local Health District, for attending and raising awareness in our local community about the value of vaccinating and keeping our community safe.

LOCAL TAKEAWAY FOOD BUSINESSES

Ms LIESL TESCH (Gosford)—I would like to send my gratitude to every single local business across the Gosford electorate, and Central Coast who have continued to supply us with takeaway food, coffees and cocktails along with caring support, social interaction and kindness during the latest lockdown. I would love to name you all, except I don't want to miss anybody, and you all know who you are! From Kariong and Mangrove Mountain through Kariong, West Gosford, Gosford town centre, Narara Valley, East Gosford Point Clare, Woy Woy, Umina, Ettalong and Pearl Beach - you have all done an amazing job to keep our bellies full, the coffee flowing and most importantly keeping us sane. For many people across our community purse strings have been tight, yet you have juggled continuing to source ingredients, prepare food, care for staff pay the rent and utilities and reshape the opportunity for us to purchase food in safety. You have kept the lights on, supporting people working from home, people teaching from home, frontline workers and more, and we all sincerely appreciate your efforts. Thank you so much, and best wishes for the next stages of this journey together.

VALE, JONATHAN COLEMAN OAM

Mr JONATHAN O'DEA (Davidson)—I acknowledge Jonathan Coleman, former Lindfield resident in my electorate of Davidson, who sadly passed away on 9 July this year. Jono was born in London in 1956, and he had a substantial career in television and radio in both Australia and the United Kingdom. He worked as a presenter on the Channel 10 program Studio 10, and presented radio shows on 2JJ, Triple M, the BBC, and community radio. I especially remember his vibrant energy when reporting stories on the TV show 'Simon Townsend's Wonder World' when I was at school, in the early days of his career. Committed to a wide range of community causes, Jonathan Coleman supported the School for the Deaf and Blind, Carers Australia, Schizophrenia Research Institute, and the Movember Foundation. He also became the founding patron of the Marian Street Theatre in Killara. In recognition of his long-standing service to broadcast media and the community, Jonathan was awarded

a Medal of the Order of Australia in 2015. Jonathan is remembered fondly by his wife Margot and their family, the entertainment industry, and many members of my local and the broader community.

TRIBUTE TO BRUCE CHISNALL

Mr JONATHAN O'DEA (Davidson)—I regretfully note the recent sad passing of Bruce Chisnall of Forestville. Bruce worked in the newspaper industry, was a national serviceman in the Army from 1956 to 1959, served as President of Forestville RSL Club from 2007 to 2019, as well as being a sub-Branch Patron. Making many special memories with friends at the RSL, Bruce would spend Friday nights in the club, having a beer with his mates and solving the world's problems. He was also known as the 'go to' man if you needed any help, including driving the club bus, helping out with golf barbecues, director's raffles, and working in the club garden. Through his long-standing service to the Forestville RSL as Patron and Past President, Bruce's contribution to the community has been substantial. Appropriately, he was made a life member. His wife, Barbara, was also a long-standing President of the RSL Women's Auxiliary and continues to be an active member. I attended the funeral online on 20 August to celebrate Bruce's life, and I offer condolences to his wife, Barbara, their daughters and grandchildren, and all who knew him.

DAVIDSON ROWERS AT TOKYO 2020 OLYMPICS

Mr JONATHAN O'DEA (Davidson)—My electorate of Davidson is home to many outstanding athletes including Genevieve Horton from East Lindfield, Nicholas and Alex Purnell from Killara and Tara Rigney from Roseville, who competed in rowing at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics. Previously, they had all competed at the Australian Rowing Championships, winning several national titles. While they had qualified to compete in the Olympics in 2020, the event was postponed due to the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic, and instead ran in 2021 from 23 July to 8 August. Genevieve competed with the Women's Eight team, Nicholas the Men's Eight, Alex the Men's Four and Tara with the Women's Double-scul. I was pleased to hear that that Alex and his team won Gold in their event, reclaiming the title for Australia for the first time since the Oarsome Foursome's success at the Sydney Olympics in 2000. I congratulate Genevieve, Nicholas and Tara for reaching the highest level of competitive sport and wish them the best of luck in the future.

SINGER NATALIE AROYAN

Mr JONATHAN O'DEA (Davidson)—I acknowledge Natalie Aroyan, an accomplished Armenian-Australian singer from Roseville in my electorate of Davidson. Since 2013, Natalie has been a principal artist with Opera Australia, and has an extensive portfolio performing both internationally and domestically, with many title roles. Natalie recently performed in Opera Australia's 'Ernani' at the Sydney Opera House, which ran from February 2-13 and also at the Melbourne Arts Centre from May 15-22. A descendant of survivors of the Armenian Genocide, Natalie also directed and performed the production "An Armenian Journey" in 2015, to mark the 100th anniversary of the atrocity. I commend Natalie on her achievements as an artist, and for incorporating her Armenian roots into her art. Her success is an inspiration to us all.

MS PATRICIA BAKER, PRINCIPAL, CERDON COLLEGE, MERRYLANDS

Ms JULIA FINN (Granville)—I offer my congratulations on the occasion of the recent announcement of the forthcoming retirement of Ms Patricia Baker, Principal, Cerdon College, Merrylands. As State Member for Granville I have got to know her well and understand the high regard in which she is held by local students and families. Ms Baker is someone who advocates for all members of the community and respects the dignity of each person. She is compassionate, humble, approachable and able to find ways to support the needs of each student. In 2017 our community recognised her as Paul Harris Fellow because the Rotary Club of Holroyd believed that her life exemplified the humanitarian and educational objectives of the Rotary Foundation. In 2021 the Independent Education Union recognised nearly 200 years of teaching experience and loyal union membership when four members of the Baker family (including Patricia) received their 40-year IEU membership gifts. After dedicating over 40 years of service to Education first as a teacher, then a Studies Coordinator, Assistant Principal and Principal I am sure Ms Baker will enjoy her well-deserved retirement but she will be missed.

OZHARVEST GRANVILLE HUB

Ms JULIA FINN (Granville)—I recognise and thank the wonderful food rescue organisation, OzHarvest, for supporting the most vulnerable communities across NSW during the Covid-19 pandemic. I also pay my special thanks to those volunteers and staff members who have been helping at the Granville hub to deliver thousands of food hampers during this challenging lockdown period. OzHarvest was founded in 2004 by Ms Ronni Kahn AO with the goal to nourish our country by stopping good food from going to waste and delivering food to charity groups to help feed people in need. I was delighted to be able to assist them set up their Hub in Granville in early 2021 and that the Hub Granville has been extended to the end of 2021 to provide support to the community. Each Thursday during the pandemic I have joined my colleagues Lynda Voltz MP and Chris Bowen MP to pack

hampers and help distributed to people in need. I cannot thank them enough for their generosity and devotion to bringing essential food to the table and giving local people hope to overcome this pandemic. Thank you again to those volunteers and OzHarvest staff members across NSW especially at the Granville hub.

PARRAMATTA CUMBERLAND FAMILY AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PREVENTION COMMITTEE

Ms JULIA FINN (Granville)—The Committee aims to mobilise the power of community and government agencies working in the Parramatta and Cumberland LGAs to reduce domestic and family violence while improving the safety and status of women experiencing violence. The Committee is convened by the Cumberland Women's Health Centre. The Committee is coordinating a Virtual Walkathon to raise funds for the Parramatta Women's Shelter with a fundraising target of \$30,000 – or the operational costs of the shelter for an entire month. The Walkathon commenced on 1st August and will continue to Monday 1st November and supporters are getting involved while following the public health orders. To date a total of 59 people have participated but the community's generosity has been overwhelming. At a time when so many are doing it tough it is a credit to my community that \$30,115 has been raised so far. Supporters include Cumberland Councillors George Campbell and Lisa Lake, Former City of Parramatta Lord Mayor Bob Dwyer and City of Parramatta Councillors Donna Davis and Sameer Pandey. This wonderful initiative will help Parramatta Women's Shelter to continue their great work providing crisis accommodation and support to vulnerable women and families.

HINDU BENEVOLENT FUND

Ms JULIA FINN (Granville)—A local superhero in the Granville electorate deserving of appreciation during the pandemic is the Hindu Benevolent Fund. Alongside the Hindu council of Australia they prepared and distributed over 200 Grocery hampers at the Redgum Centre in Wentworthville on 26 September to members of the community in need during the Covid-19 crisis. Once again, most of the recipients of these packages were international students and anyone in the community who were hit hard during the Covid-19 crisis. In some cases where members of the public were in isolation, a hamper was delivered to them and their families. Operating for four years now Hindu Benevolent Fund has long been helping with students and international student's needs, medical needs, funeral costs and income support wherever they can. It was heart-warming to see the coronavirus crisis bring out the best in members of our community and I am grateful to have been a part of it.

ALAN CARTER

Ms YASMIN CATLEY (Swansea)—I congratulate Mr Alan Carter on being awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia as part of the Queen's Birthday Honours list. Mr Carter was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia for his service to children with a disability, and to the community. Mr Carter started as a volunteer with the Royal Institute for Deaf and Blind Children in 1996. He has served as both Secretary and President of the Parents and friends Fundraising Committee, before becoming a life member in 2005. Along with his work with the Royal Institute for deaf and Blind Children, Mr Carter has also volunteered with the Men's Probus Club of Valentine, Valentine Ladies Probus Club, Jewells Lifestyle Residents' Committee, and Valentine Residents' Association. I thank Mr Carter for his decades of service to our community and congratulate him on the well-deserved recognition of his work.

DAVID DURRHEIM

Ms YASMIN CATLEY (Swansea)—I congratulate Mr David Durrheim on being made a Member of the Order of Australia as part of the Queen's Birthday Honours list. Mr Durrheim was made a Member of the Order of Australia for his service to public health medicine, and to international health. Mr Durrheim has served in numerous roles with the World Health Organisation and currently sits on both the Ebola and COVID-19 working groups. Along with his work with the World Health Organisation, Mr Durrheim has served in several roles with the Australasian Faculty of Public Health Medicine with the Royal Australian College of Physicians. Mr Durrheim is currently the chairperson for the National Certification Committee as part of the Polio Eradication Initiative. Mr Durrheim is currently the Director of Health Protection with Hunter New England Health and has played an important role in helping the region fight the COVID-19 pandemic. I thank Mr Durrheim for his decades of service to public health and congratulate him on the well-deserved recognition of his work.

JOAN AND KEVEN HARMAN

Ms YASMIN CATLEY (Swansea)—I rise to congratulate Mr Keven and Mrs Joan Harman on their 70th wedding anniversary. The couple was married on 23 June 1951 and will celebrate the day with their children, grandchildren and many great grandchildren. The couple met at the Swansea-Belmont Surf Club's annual ball. Joan a Blacksmith's girl was making her debut at the ball, while Keven a Belmont boy was loyal to the rival Caves Beach Surf Club with family ties that went back to foundation members. Keven and his friends decided to crash the ball wearing their Caves Beach Surf Club blazers. The pair spent the night dancing away.

Despite their divided surf club loyalties the couple was married at Belmont Methodist Church by Rev Walter Pidgeon. The pair purchased a house opposite the Swansea Bowling Club where they raised their children. I congratulate Mr and Mrs Harman on their 70th wedding anniversary, what a fantastic milestone. I wish you all the best.

CLIFF MARSH OAM

Ms YASMIN CATLEY (Swansea)—I honour the life of Cliff Marsh OAM, a stalwart of the Swansea – Belmont Surf Life Saving Club and long-serving chairman of the Hunter's Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service. Mr Marsh served as a director of the Hunter's Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service from 1991 to 2017, and as chairman from 1992. In 2017, Mr Marsh became the service's first patron. During his time with the service he played a crucial role in helping to secure government funding to support the important role it plays in the Hunter community. Alongside his work with the Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service, Mr Marsh was a dedicated member of the Swansea – Belmont Surf Life Saving Club. He served as club captain from 1962 to 1968, and as president from 1969 to 1974. The loss of Mr Marsh will be felt by the entire Hunter community and our community will be poorer for his loss. Thank you Cliff for your outstanding work throughout your life with the Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service. Vale Cliff Marsh

SENIOR SERGEANT LES NUGENT

Mr JUSTIN CLANCY (Albury)—Congratulations to Senior Sergeant Les Nugent who is celebrating 50 years' service in the police force. To reach such a milestone is a rare honour worthy of acknowledgment. Senior Sergeant Nugent began his career when he was only 19 years of age. Arriving in Albury in 1996 he engaged in many different roles, from traffic policing to preventing and disrupting crime. With the introduction of newer technologies he was able to develop this important work into more proactive policing for the community. I would like to personally thank Senior Sergeant Les Nugent for his dedication to keeping our community safe over an extensive career.

THURGOONA CAFE PANDA'S KITCHEN - A LITTLE KINDNESS IS POSITIVELY CONTAGIOUS

Mr JUSTIN CLANCY (Albury)—A big thankyou is due to owner of Thurgoona's Panda's Kitchen, Dean West, to café manager Susan Hay and staff for introducing the 'Pay it forward' and 'Positivity Pin Board'. This is a great initiative for those in the Thurgoona community doing it tough during the COVID-19 pandemic, and in particular for those who have been struggling with financial or mental hardship. The generosity of local customers simply paying for a future meal, coffee or snack reminds us that we can all do something to help. It is wonderful how such simple acts of kindness in a community can create a meaningful difference in someone else's life. Congratulations to Panda's Kitchen.

ADDISON ROAD COMMUNITY CENTRE

Ms JO HAYLEN (Summer Hill)—The Addison Road Community Centre has become the engine room of the Inner West Community's efforts to combat food insecurity throughout the COVID-19 Delta outbreak and lockdown. The Centre is rescuing food and feeding over 8,000 people each week during the pandemic, including households and families across the West and South-West Sydney. I was proud to visit the Centre to assist with packing hampers, joined by the tireless Jihad Dib, Member for Lakemba, and Leader of the Opposition, Chris Minns. We saw dedicated, passionate volunteers working around the clock to ensure that the most vulnerable in our community are still able to access food and other support. We saw donations of food flooding in from local businesses and manufacturers, and local organisations like the Newtown Neighbourhood Centre helping distribute packed hampers to the households that needed them. I want to thank Rosanna Barbero, Chief Executive Officer at Addison Road, as well as all the other staff and volunteers who have worked so tirelessly to support our community. You have made an extraordinary difference to countless people when they needed it most.

BILL CREWS EXODUS FOUNDATION VACCINATION CLINICS

Ms JO HAYLEN (Summer Hill)—For so many in the Inner West community throughout the Delta outbreak, the Bill Crews Exodus Foundation has been a source of support, sustenance and hope. In addition to serving countless people through the Loaves and Fishes Restaurant in Ashfield, The Reverend Bill Crews and his extraordinary team have teamed up with Aspen Medical to help vaccinate vulnerable people across the Inner West. The Foundation has run pop-up vaccination clinics at the Addison Road Community Centre, Marrickville West Primary School, and the Newtown Neighbourhood Centre. Regular vaccination clinics are being held every Tuesday. Other clinics have also been offered outside the Summer Hill electorate, including in Liverpool, Woolloomooloo and Miller, showing the extraordinary reach of this Inner West institution. I send my warmest thanks to the Reverend Bill Crews, Aspen Medical, and all the staff and volunteers working with the Exodus Foundation. The extraordinary response of local organisations like yours has been essential to ensuring that vulnerable people are able to access vaccinations and protect themselves and their loved ones from COVID-19.

VALE KENNETH ADDERLEY

Ms JO HAYLEN (Summer Hill)—Kenneth George Adderley sadly passed away on 8 July 2021, surrounded by his loving family. Kenneth was a devout supporter of the Sydney Souths Rabbitohs and loved attending live theatre and music performances. Kenneth lived with profound disability and for a number of years, was resident of the Summer Hill Group Home. Here, Kenneth and his parents, Melinda and Paul, became the powerful voices for disability rights and reform. They spoke up when the NSW Government outsourced the operation of the home and more recently, became the voice for countless people living in residential facilities for people with disability who were unable to access COVID-19 vaccines, despite being some of the most vulnerable to the virus. The impact Kenneth made in his life cannot be understated, both to his loving family and to all people with disability across NSW. Kenneth was the cherished son of Paul and Melinda, brother of Patrick, Fergus and Eloise, and grandson of David, Jean, Bruce and Lucille. Vale Kenneth.

MARRICKVILLE PCYC

Ms JO HAYLEN (Summer Hill)—I extend my thanks to the staff and volunteers of the Marrickville PCYC who worked with NSW Health to establish a pop-up vaccination clinic. As the Delta outbreak worsened, local residents were eager to get vaccinated but many faced barriers to accessing jabs. Many local organisations stepped up, generously offering their venues as vaccination hubs, including Inner West Council, Bethlehem College and the Parish of St Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church, and residents were thrilled when Sydney Local Health District partnered with the Marrickville PCYC to establish a pop-up clinic. It ensured hundreds of locals were able to get vaccinated and keep themselves and their loved ones safe from COVID-19. I joined The Hon. Linda Burney in writing to NSW Health asking that a Koori Clinic be established and was thrilled when a Koori Clinic was also set up at the PCYC to ensure local First Nations people were able to access vaccines. The Marrickville PCYC is the heart of the South Marrickville community, working to connect and empower young people and keep our community safe. Thank you again for making this critical pop-up vaccination clinic possible and giving inner westies the opportunity to get vaccinated.

SOAPY FLAT ROAD RESERVE

Mrs WENDY TUCKERMAN (Goulburn)—I recognise the Improvements to Soapy Flat Road Reserve, High Range in NSW. Soapy Flat Road Reserve has been given some much-needed attention after concerns were raised by residents regarding reckless and dangerous use of the road by unregistered trail bikes and the subsequent trashing of the adjacent bushland. I am pleased to share the area has now been turned into a 'Flora Reserve' managed by the NSW National Parks and Wildlife. I would like to recognise the efforts of Raf Pedroza, Greg Sharman and Willy Hall. This trio have worked with the community to make this an improved reserve and more importantly improve the quality of life for neighbouring residents. The many hours spent coordinating community garbage day clean ups, revitalising the areas signs and establishing barricades to prevent environmental damage I believe deserves public recognition and I would like to congratulate all those involved. Your efforts are to be congratulated.

REBECCA FERGUSON

Mrs WENDY TUCKERMAN (Goulburn)—I recognise Rebecca Ferguson and the hard work she has undertaken with her horse 'Southern Cross Apollo'. Apollo won the award of champion shire stallion at this year's Sydney Royal Easter Show. Rebecca is the owner of the private barn Speciosissima Stables based in Marulan. She comes from a background of dressage and has trained Apollo for the competitions. She also has a special interest in equine-assisted therapies and the healing qualities of horses for humans with disabilities. Apollo has been trained in the saddle and also to harness. Rebecca hopes to solidify the training under saddle and get out in harness at the next Sydney Royal Easter Show. I would like to publicly congratulate Rebecca on her, and Apollo's, success at this year's Sydney Royal Easter Show.

MARIE KENNEDY

Mrs WENDY TUCKERMAN (Goulburn)—I congratulate Marie Kennedy who is a constituent of the Goulburn electorate. Ms Kennedy is a Riversdale National Trust volunteer and was recently named the 2021 Southern Inland Senior Volunteer of the Year at a special online ceremony for the NSW Volunteer of the Year Awards. The NSW Volunteer of the Year Awards are run by The Centre for Volunteering to recognise the outstanding effort of volunteers working across all sections of communities throughout the state. Marie began volunteering as a tour guide with the National Trust at the historic Riversdale property in Goulburn over five years ago. She has run the property since COVID-19 began, working with tradespeople and Sydney based staff to re-open safely in time for the National Trust's 75th Anniversary open day in February. Marie has been training guides, managing the office, writing the newsletter, and even baking for visitors. I want to acknowledge the dedication and hard work of Ms Kennedy of Goulburn.

TRINITY CATHOLIC COLLEGE, GOULBURN SHEEP SHOW TEAM

Mrs WENDY TUCKERMAN (Goulburn)—I recognise the Trinity Catholic College, Goulburn Sheep Show Team. The Sheep Show Team won the Grand Champion School Exhibit with their Corriedale Ewe – Trinity Dixie at this year's Sydney Royal Easter Show. It took the team months of preparation. Feeding, tracking and teaching the sheep to lead and stand in the show ring without wearing a halter. The judge described Trinity Dixie as the complete package and an excellent example of what the industry is looking for. Trinity Dixie has also won Champion Schools Ewe and the Terry Goldrick Memorial Prize. The school has also won Schools Interbreed competition with the best pair of Ewes – Trinity Dixie and Trinity Delta. I would like to publicly congratulate the staff and the students at Trinity Catholic College, Goulburn, involved in this achievement

IMOGEN HART AND ELOISE ALSOP

Ms SONIA HORNER (Wallsend)—Eloise Alsop was four years old when she begged her Mum to let her join her friend's ballet class, and Imogen Hart started dancing when she was three. They have stuck with it ever since. This year, Eloise and Imogen have had their hard work and devotion to dance recognised. Eloise and Imogen have both completed their Certificate IV in Dance and Diploma of Dance (Elite Performance) at National College of Dance, Lambton. Both Eloise and Imogen have been given the opportunity to further develop their skills and careers overseas. Eloise will join Bayerisches Junior Ballet Company in Munich for a one-to-two-year program while taking classes with the Bavarian State Ballet. Imogen will join Elmhurst Ballet School in Birmingham for a three-year program. Both these young women have the dream of dancing in the beautiful Romeo and Juliet, and Imogen also wants to dance in classics like Sleeping Beauty and Swan Lake. Well done Eloise and Imogen. I hope you have incredible experiences on your amazing journeys.

HENRY CHAN OAM

Ms SONIA HORNER (Wallsend)—It is often a difficult decision to uproot your family and make a new life in a new country. That is what Henry Chan and his family did when they migrated to Newcastle from Hong Kong on 25 February 1985 and they have now been in Newcastle for 36 years. Henry's brother-in-law was already settled in Australia and he and his wife decided that they wanted a more relaxed lifestyle for themselves and their two children. Henry volunteered his service to the community and was the Chairman, Board of Management of the Northern Settlement Services (previously known as the Migrant Resource Centre of Newcastle and Hunter) from 1991 to 2012 for 22 years. He has been a Justice of the Peace since July 1991. He was awarded the Centenary Medal in 2001 and was honoured by Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, in 2009 with the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for service to the community of Newcastle, particularly through support for migrants and refugees. In his retirement, Henry likes to wine & dine and travel when possible. Thank you, Henry, for your dedication to the migrant and refugee communities in Newcastle.

DARRELL BULLEN

Ms SONIA HORNER (Wallsend)—Having our children walk to school safely is very important to parents. Our hardworking school crossing supervisors ensure the safety of infants and primary school students when using pedestrian crossings adjacent to, or nearby to, schools and provide efficient movement of those students. This can often be a thankless task with abuse from drivers and near misses. Tracy, a parent of Glendore Public School, wrote to me to tell me about how amazing the School Crossing Supervisor, Darrell Bullen, is. Darrell has been a School Crossing Supervisor for about 16 years, with 10 of them being at Glendore. Prior to then he was at Shortland, Branxton and Charlestown schools. The students all absolutely love him and he loves interacting with the students and their parents. He goes above and beyond every day. He is always so happy, friendly and positive. I know that Darrell is looking forward to school going back after the COVID-19 lockdown and I'm sure the students will be happy to see him too. Thank you Darrell for the positive energy that you bring to the job.

AUNTY DENISE EMMERSON

Ms SONIA HORNER (Wallsend)—After more than 25 years working in student support roles, Aunty Denise Emmerson has retired from her position at the University of Newcastle. She was bid a farewell by her colleagues over a morning tea with COVID-19 restrictions forcing the event to be held over Zoom. Denise held a variety of roles in her years at UoN, ranging from a Project Manager for the Student Games Committee, to a receptionist for the Aboriginal Medical Unit and the Wollotuka Institute, and for the past 18 months has been a student mentor. She will be sorely missed by the University. She has been described as a "humble woman who reminded people of their mothers or grandmothers" and "kept staff and students grounded and connected to their culture and community". Aunty Denise plans to leave the Hunter and move up to family in Millmerran, Queensland, before eventually returning to where she grew up, around Hervey Bay. She intends to travel back to

Newcastle to see her son, and to keep in touch with colleagues and students. I wish her all the best in her future plans.

CHRIS CAMIN

Mrs HELEN DALTON (Murray)—Today I would like to recognise and congratulate Chris Camin of Balranald. Chris has single-handedly saved the trees at the entrance to the truck wash in Moa Street, Balranald. These trees were planted without any irrigation system, and when Chris noticed the trees were under stress and dying, he took it upon himself to install a dripper system at his own expense. For over eighteen months now Chris has nurtured the trees, digging trenches around each tree for water, replacing those that have died, and keeping the whole area neat and tidy. Chris also gives his time and energy freely to the Balranald Rescue Squad and the Field and Game Australia as well as numerous other organisations. He has earned the respect of the whole community, and he has become the man to call when the town's seniors need assistance. I applaud Chris for his initiative in looking after the trees and parklands, and for his many ways of assisting and supporting the Balranald community.

ARTHUR OWEN

Mrs HELEN DALTON (Murray)—I recognise and congratulate Mr Arthur Owen of Tocumwal for his lifelong contribution to the sport of cricket. Mr Owen has been a valuable member of the sporting community in Tocumwal and surrounds, especially within the Tocumwal Cricket Club. Not only has Mr Owen participated as a player for the club, but he has also coached and umpired extensively. Mr Owen was the President of the Goulburn/Murray Valley Cricket Umpires Association in 2018 and a committee member from 1985 to 2018. Since 2001, he has held the role of president to the Southern Riverina Cricket Association, of which he has served as an executive member since 1965. After a 65-year cricket career, Mr Owen continued to umpire at his local club, and earlier this year received an Order of Australia Medal for service to cricket. Mr Owen is to be congratulated for his dedication and commitment to sport in his community, especially cricket. He has clearly been, and remains, a valued and beloved member of the community.

JEANETTE CREW OAM

Mrs HELEN DALTON (Murray)—Today I would like to congratulate Mrs Jeanette Crew OAM of Deniliquin for her service to Indigenous culture and conservation. For some 50 years now, Mrs Crew has been actively involved in public service and indigenous affairs. In that time, Mrs Crew fought for the preservation of Aboriginal land and history as well as the continuing practice and sharing of Aboriginal culture. In 2017 she was awarded the NSW Museums and Galleries Imagine Award for a lifetime contribution to cultural preservation. She has also been a member of Aboriginal advisory committees for both the Australian Museum and Murray Local Land Services. Locally, she is best known for her role in founding the Yarkuwa Indigenous Knowledge Centre in 2003. In 2019, Mrs Crew was awarded an Order of Australia Medal for her service to Indigenous culture, and I commend her lifelong dedication to its conservation and continuation.

SIKH COMMUNITY

Mrs HELEN DALTON (Murray)—I recognise the Gurdwara Singh Sabha Society of Griffith, representing the Sikh community in the Riverina and Murray region. The Sikh community has exemplified their altruistic and compassionate culture by raising over \$20,000 to assist Covid-19 relief in India. Their willingness to go above and beyond embodies the Sikh religious paradigm of 'selfless service,' and is a testament to the integrity of the entire community. The community has supported any community in need, as when they raised over \$20,000 and donated 15 pallets of water bottles for bushfire victims in a span of two days. Their desire to assist in providing humanitarian aid can be seen through their protest for the farmers in India, campaigning for the elimination of inequities and restoration of democratic justice. The Sikh community continue to serve the residents of Griffith through their langar service – providing free food to anyone who enters the Temple irrespective of gender, sexual orientation, race or ethnicity. This is run by volunteers who give up their time and place the needs of their community above their own. I applaud the Sikh community for role-modelling selfless service, and for continuing to inspire and serve the citizens of the Murray region.

OLD BAR TENNIS CLUB

Mr STEPHEN BROMHEAD (Myall Lakes)—Old Bar Tennis Club have increased the number of people engaging in tennis in the Old Bar community and beyond, by offering diverse sessions. President, Richard Ellison and Coach, Ellise Bowerman have done an excellent job in bringing the tennis courts to life with hopes for future upgrades. I recognise them and thank them for their work and dedication to the sport and this outstanding community asset.

HEALTHCARE WORKERS MYALL LAKES

Mr STEPHEN BROMHEAD (Myall Lakes)—I recognise the Healthcare workers in the Myall Lakes. COVID-19 has put unprecedented pressure on our health-care workers as residents endeavour to get vaccinated and tested for COVID-19, along with the routine healthcare needs of our electorate. Without our healthcare workers putting in the long hours, setting up clinics, and working with our community, our vaccination rate would not be as high as it is. I would like to thank healthcare workers in the Myall Lakes as they continue to work on the frontline as we as a State navigate our way out of lockdown into normality.

TEACHERS IN THE MYALL LAKES

Mr STEPHEN BROMHEAD (Myall Lakes)—I recognise teachers in the Myall Lakes. During the lockdowns, teachers have had to turn to different teaching methods in order to ensure children remain on track. I would like to thank teachers for their hard work and diligence in ensuring the students of the Myall Lakes continue to receive an excellent education. In particular, while HSC students are facing a challenging exam period, the time, effort and influence of their teachers is extraordinary.

LUKE BAILEY

Mr STEPHEN BROMHEAD (Myall Lakes)—I recognise Luke Bailey. Hailing from Wingham, Luke recently made his Paralympic debut in Tokyo, competing in the wheelchair racing. He qualified in the T54 100m. Although Luke didn't make the podium he did the Myall Lakes proud in wearing the green and gold. It's a remarkable achievement to make it to the Paralympics and I'm aware it came from hard work, dedication and complete commitment to his passion. I wish Luke luck as his hard work continues to pay off and I, along with other residents in the Myall Lakes, look forward to cheering Luke on again in the future.

FAIRFIELD POLICE

Mr GUY ZANGARI (Fairfield)—I would like to commend the efforts of Fairfield School Liaison Police Officer Senior Constable Glenn Clarke and Camden School Liaison Police Senior Constable Melanie Sumerta in caring for the students of Canley Vale High School during the 2021 lockdown period. On Monday 2nd August 2021, these two officers safely transported laptops and a modem to six individual senior school students from Canley Vale High School. The delivery of the technological resources enabled the students to continue their online learning throughout the challenging time. Senior Constable Glenn Clark is a regular visitor to Canley Vale High School to give presentations, information sessions and discussions with students and staff. During the lockdown period NSW School Liaison Police did a great job across NSW with such work as providing school supplies, hampers and conducting home visits. Thank you to Senior Constable Glenn Clark and the Fairfield City Police Local Area Command for their work in the Fairfield community.

FAIRFIELD SALVATION ARMY

Mr GUY ZANGARI (Fairfield)—During the 2021 lockdown, the Fairfield branch of the Salvation Army worked around clock attending to the increasing needs of the Fairfield community. The team of volunteers led by Pastor David Delaney packaged food and personal hygiene products and distributed them to vulnerable residents. As part of the Fairfield Electorate Care Package Program, the Salvos distributed KOH Universal Cleaner as well as the Essentials Care Packs donated by the wonderful charity partners at Good360 Australia. It was heartening to see different groups in the community coming together to help ease the hardship of residents during the 2021 lockdown. The packing and distribution were completed under the most difficult of circumstances. This however did not deter the Fairfield Salvos who were always ready to take up the challenge in difficult times. I commend the Salvos Fairfield for their commitment and perseverance during the difficult time. I would like to thank Pastor David Delaney and the Ministry team of volunteers for their continued service to the community with care and diligence.

GOOD360 AUSTRALIA

Mr GUY ZANGARI (Fairfield)—I would like to take this opportunity to thank Good 360 Australia for the wonderful work they did for the Fairfield and wider community throughout the 2021 Lockdown. While Fairfield was in lockdown, Good 360 Australia was generous enough to provide our community with PPE supplies such as hand sanitiser, masks and personal hygiene products to keep the community safe. These supplies were distributed to residents via community groups, not-for-profit organisations, schools, religious welfare agencies and directly from the Fairfield Electorate Office as part of the Fairfield Electorate Care Package Program. The Fairfield community is very thankful and appreciative for the generous gesture and I commend Good 360 Australia for their efforts in keeping the community safe throughout the challenging period. A special vote of thanks to Good 360 Australia Founder & Managing Director Ms Alison Covington, Ms Susan Wallis Engagement Advisor, Ms Cheryl Johns Head of Marketing/ Communications, Mr Tom Sawkins Operations Manager and the team of

volunteers for their work in turning products/items destined for land fill a second chance by packaging them into useful personal packages for the vulnerable and underprivileged in the community.

THE AUSTRALIAN MAN CAVE SUPPORT GROUP

Mr GUY ZANGARI (Fairfield)—On Saturday 26 September 2021 The Australian Man Cave Support Group its monthly workshop for members via zoom. The focus of the workshop was suicide prevention and support strategies for men and women. I take this opportunity to thank The Australian Man Cave Support Group President Lou Greco for the presentation of the workshop. I would also like to thank founding father Agostino Gattelari for his contribution to the workshop. While the conversation about suicide is an especially difficult one to have, it is extremely important that this issue is discussed. At the Australian Man Cave Support Group, there is no judgement. Rather there is encouragement and support for those who are dealing with a challenging time in their lives and who require assistance. I wish to commend and thank suicide saviours Peter and Charlie, and "sister Cavers" Roberta and Sonia for sharing their experiences without any reservation at this workshop. It was also great to hear from board member Charles Tees, always on hand to offer his own personal wisdom and tips. I commend the Australian Man Cave Support Group for their very successful workshop.

SOUTH WEST MULTICULTURAL AND COMMUNITY CENTRE

Mr ANOULACK CHANTHIVONG (Macquarie Fields)—I want to take this opportunity to recognise a shining light during the dark days of lockdown. The staff and volunteers at the South West Multicultural and Community Centre in Minto knew their community needed assistance so they stepped up to help. Demand for their weekly \$10 food hampers, in partnership with FoodBank, went up about 80%. The centre partnered with OzHarvest and local police to provide food hampers to people who had tested positive to COVID-19. Hampers were also distributed to the elderly, international students, temporary visa holders with limited access to government assistance, local churches and Aboriginal community. Under the guidance of co-ordinator Mal Fruean, the centre partnered with the Bill Crews Foundation and Aspen Medical to set up a two-day vaccination hub in Minto for the Pasifika and local community. People would come in to pick up a hamper and get the jab, then bring their families back the next day in a terrific boost to vaccination rates. My thanks go to everyone at the South West Multicultural and Community Centre for their invaluable assistance during a difficult time.

24-HOUR FIGHT AGAINST CANCER MACARTHUR

Mr ANOULACK CHANTHIVONG (Macquarie Fields)—Homegrown charity, 24-Hour Fight Against Cancer Macarthur, has created the 'Big Blue Cancer Walk' in lieu of its annual weekend walkathon at Campbelltown Sports Stadium in October. This year, due to COVID-19 restrictions, residents are encouraged to wear blue and walk, knit, meditate or simply donate to raise vital funds in support of local cancer therapy services. Every dollar raised will go towards the Macarthur Therapy Centre, Oncology Ward and Paediatric Ambulatory Care Unit at Campbelltown Hospital and Palliative Care Unit and associated outreach service at Camden Hospital. Funds will assist in the treatment, care and comfort of children and adults dealing with cancer in our community. I would like to acknowledge Chairperson Warren Morrison for his commitment to continuing the late Fred Borg OAM's legacy to ensure ongoing funding for local cancer patients and local health services. The 24-Hour Fight Against Cancer Macarthur has been supporting Macarthur for 17 years and raised \$4.8 million since 2005. This year's goal is to raise \$90,000 and return bigger and better in 2022. As a proud supporter of this cause, I am confident it will do just that.

MENTAL HEALTH MATTERS

Mr ANOULACK CHANTHIVONG (Macquarie Fields)—Extended lockdown and the financial, social and emotional impact of COVID-19 on our lives has given rise to the shadow mental health pandemic in our community. To continue the important conversation on mental health at this time, I was delighted to deliver my 2021 Mental Health Matters video series. A special thank you to the guest speakers: Cheryl Paradella of Beautiful Minds South-West Sydney; Associate Professor Jill Newby from the Black Dog Institute; Dr Paul Fung of Uniting; and Ashley de Silva, CEO of ReachOut Australia. My video series covered issues such as carers, the pandemic and natural disasters, self-harm, and mental health support for young people and their families. The series concluded in October – Mental Health Month, an opportunity to raise awareness and reduce stigma. While we navigate a way forward and learn to live with COVID-19, urgent action is needed to deal with rising rates of mental illness, which will cast a shadow for decades to come. Now, more than ever, we must remember that we are not alone and, importantly, there are people who can help. Together, let's continue the conversation because Mental Health Matters.

STACEY MORGAN

Mrs LESLIE WILLIAMS (Port Macquarie)—I congratulate Principal of Port Macquarie Performing Arts (PMPA) Stacey Morgan for taking out the AusMumpreneur NSW Regional Business of the Year Award on 16th September for her sustained efforts in inspiring and educating our young dancers. In keeping with COVID-19 restrictions this year, the AusMumpreneur Awards 2021 were held through an online platform to recognise Australia's talented mums in business who excel and lead in their profession while raising a family. Stacey has built a first-class performing arts studio in Port Macquarie that prides itself on core values of empowering and nurturing younger generation through a professional and inclusive management style that offers creative opportunities for children to shine in dance. The list of local awards won by PMPA through the Port Macquarie Chamber of Commerce are simply amazing and a testament to the hard work and commitment displayed by Stacey and her dedicated team. To date they have won the Excellence in Innovation and the Young Entrepreneur Award, on more than one occasion, including State Finalist in the Outstanding Business Leader category. PMPA was also successful in winning the silver award in service and a bronze in the pivot category at the AusMumpreneur Awards. Congratulations Stacey!

ETHAN CORNELL

Mrs LESLIE WILLIAMS (Port Macquarie)—I recognise 18-year-old Ethan Cornell for being appointed Director of Lifesaving for Wauchope-Bonny Hills Surf Life Saving Club. A bright and talented young man who dedicates his spare time to serving others, Ethan has recently taken on the responsibility of Director of Life Saving for his local surf club in Bonny Hills to continue a legacy of maintaining patrols on Rainbow Beach. At the age of just 15, Ethan was out and about on his board, patrolling our waterways and ensuring visitors and locals were safe while enjoying a day at the beach. In 2020 Ethan was named a top patroller after racking up an impressive 80 volunteer hours for the season. It may be a cliché but it is true that 'from little things, big things grow' which is absolutely the case for Ethan having commenced surf lifesaving as a nipper in the Under 9's, to now holding a major leadership position for Wauchope-Bonny Hills Surf Life Saving Club. Currently studying his Year 12 Certificate at Newman Senior Technical College, while undertaking a school-based apprenticeship in metal and engineering as a boilermaker, Ethan has a bright future ahead and should be proud of his achievements.

HELEN GILBERT & JUDITH CRICK RETIREMENT FROM TEACHING

Mrs LESLIE WILLIAMS (Port Macquarie)—Today I ask the House to join with me in recognising two inspirational teachers from Mackillop College in Port Macquarie as they farewell an illustrious career spanning a combined more than six and half decades. I have always said that teachers are the backbone of our education sector being instrumental in shaping each child as they become the future leaders of tomorrow. They inspire, motivate and encourage our students to become whatever they want to be, and it is because of them that we have a world class education system in New South Wales. Announcing their retirement in September were Helen (Gilbo) Gilbert and Judy Crick from MacKillop College. Recognised by their colleagues as leaders and mentors, both teachers have put their heart and soul into education, committing 110% percent to improving student outcomes and ensuring each child had access to a pathway to succeed. Judy Crick finishes her career serving at total of 27 years for St Paul's High School and Mackillop College while Helen Gilbert farewells her loved profession after 38 years of teaching in the Parish schools. I wish both teachers all the best in their future endeavours.

MARINE RESCUE PORT MACQUARIE SERVICE AWARDS

Mrs LESLIE WILLIAMS (Port Macquarie)—I acknowledge the extraordinary efforts of our Marine Rescue Port Macquarie volunteers who have dedicated hundreds of hours of their time and energy to ensure each vessel on our waters returns safely home. Aptly referred to as the heroes of our waterways, you often see our local marine rescue teams out and about, generously offering assistance where needed. Today, I recognise four outstanding members of the Port Macquarie Unit who have gone above and beyond to support Marine Rescue. Wendy Young has served Marine Rescue Port Macquarie for an astounding 28 years, holding the position of Unit Treasurer and radio operator while regularly being involved in fundraising activities. Bob Green was awarded a 10-year service medal for his dedication and professionalism as a watch officer and training officer. Keith Reichenback was recognised for his fundraising achievements spanning 10 years and for the time he has committed as a radio operator and Unit Treasurer. Last but by no means least, Christine Dickson is recognised by her colleagues as a fundraising champion for the organisation, coordinating golf days and barbecues that have racked in \$70,000 over the past six years. Congratulations on a marvellous achievement.

MR PETER MCQUIE

Mr PHILIP DONATO (Orange)—I wish to recognise Mr Peter McQuie, of Parkes. Peter has faithfully and diligently served as my representative on the Parkes Traffic Committee for the past five years, since I was

first elected in 2016. Peter has drawn upon his incredible fifty years of professional driving and transport industry experience in contributing to the enhancement of traffic safety for the community of the Parkes Local Government Area. Peter entered the bus industry when he commenced Western Road Liners in 1971, at which time he was one of three local bus services in Parkes. Since then he has steadily grown the business and is now the only bus company in Parkes. Peter remains as the Managing Director of Western Road Liners and is transitioning business operations to his son, guaranteeing the long-term future of this family owned and operated business. I sincerely thank Peter for his years of representative service to my office, and to his community, for the benefit of public road safety for the people of Parkes.

AMELIA WHITE

Mr PHILIP DONATO (Orange)—I wish to recognise Paralympian, Amelia White, hailing from Orange. Amelia was selected to represent Australia in equestrian at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games, held from 24th August to 5th September 2021. Amelia competed in the Paralympic Grade 5 Individual Test on 26th August, Paralympic Grade 5 Team Test on 28th August. Amelia succeeded in garnering the necessary score in the Individual test to qualify her to compete in the Paralympic Grade 5 Freestyle, being one of only two Australian competitors to advance to this event, which she competed in on 30th August. Amelia and her mount, Genius, finished in 6th place for in Paralympic Grade 5 Freestyle, proudly representing her country and achieving such a high place on the greatest sporting stage in the world. Prior to the commencement of the Tokyo games, Amelia and her mount were training in Germany where they had been since the beginning of the pandemic, unable to return home to Australia. Amelia endured long-term intercontinental isolation from her family, intensive training and logistical challenges to compete in the Tokyo games. I congratulate Amelia on her Paralympic campaign and outstanding result. We look forward to watching her continue in her equestrian sports career.

TEGAN SAMMUT

Mr PHILIP DONATO (Orange)—I wish to acknowledge Miss Tegan Sammut, of Orange. Tegan's mother, Francine Sammut, was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2009, when Tegan was 2 years old. Sadly, Francine lost her battle with breast cancer and passed away in 2018. The experience of witnessing her mother bravely fight cancer, and eventually succumbing to breast cancer, motivated Tegan to do what she could to help those who were fighting this potentially life-threatening disease. At the start of 2021 Tegan became a member of the Student Representative Council of year 8 at Orange High School. In that elected position, Tegan proposed a fundraising initiative for 2021. Tegan's charitable fundraising campaign was two-tiered. Shaving her head and donating her hair to the Sustainable Salon project, who use donated hair to make wigs, and the setting-up of a GoFundMe page with her friend, Ella Lamrock, with the goal of raising \$750 for charity. Tegan surpassed this goal on the day it was launched, so Tegan's father, Brett, challenged Tegan to raise \$2,500. At the time of Tegan's scheduled head shave, she had raised \$4,055 which she donated to Canteen. Tegan, your family and community are proud of your effort. Congratulations and well done.

WESTERN REGION ACADEMY OF SPORT

Mr PHILIP DONATO (Orange)—I recognise the following Western Region Academy of Sport's dedicated athletes, having been recently awarded for their achievements in 2021. Addison Chapman, from Orange, recipient of the WRAS 2021 Hockey Coach's Award. Meg Turner, from Parkes, recipient of the WRAS 2021 Strength and Conditioning Award. Mitchell Bland, from Orange, named the WRAS 2021 Volunteer of the Year for his invaluable support to the WRAS athletes, coaches and office staff. Jordan Moody, from Parkes, Hockey nominee for the Chairman's Award for Excellence. The Chairman's Award for Excellence recognises the athlete who has demonstrated an attitude of 'anything less than my best is not good enough'. This athlete shows a desire to succeed, not only in their chosen sport but in all aspects of their life. This athlete has excelled in their WRAS program, achieved at a high level outside of WRAS and leads a balanced life. Congratulations to Addison, Meg, Mitchell and Jordan on being recognised and awarded for your extraordinary accomplishments in 2021. Well done.

BRANDON STARC

Mr MARK TAYLOR (Seven Hills)—It gives me great pleasure to acknowledge the former Seven Hills electorate local, Brandon Starc, who competed in the Men's High Jump at the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo. Brandon was a former Winston Hills Little Athletics star, who began learning his craft at Gooden Reserve in Baulkham Hills. He regularly assists young athletes from across the Seven Hills electorate at the Winston Hills and Kings Langley Little Athletics Centres. Brandon was a student at The Hills Sports High School at Seven Hills – just down the road from the electorate office. I always find it a great honour to recognise the extraordinary sporting achievements of constituents and locals to my electorate. Brandon Starc won the Commonwealth Games in 2018 on the Gold Coast, jumping the Australian Men's High Jump record at the time. At the Olympics, Starc jumped 2.35m, which broke the Australian record once again and scored him the 5th overall spot in the final. I would like

to congratulate Brandon on this wonderful achievement and I look forward to seeing him continue to succeed in the years to come.

METELLA ROAD PUBLIC SCHOOL'S JENNIFER CARTWRIGHT

Mr MARK TAYLOR (Seven Hills)—I acknowledge the recent departure of a long serving teacher from Metella Road Public School, Mrs Jennifer Cartwright. Metella Road Public School has been teaching primary school students in Seven Hills and Toongabbie for over 40 years, and he has developed a proud community spirit. Mrs Cartwright has served as a teacher at Metella Road Public School for nearly 30 years and has taught multiple generations of families within the Seven Hills electorate community. She is to be recognised for the enjoyment she brought to learning, in particular for her creativity, music and songs. It always brings me great joy to acknowledge the outstanding work of the teachers in the Seven Hills Electorate, in particular when they are long-term members of the school community. I would like to thank Mrs Cartwright for her long-standing service to Seven Hills and Toongabbie students, and the Metella Road Public School community. I wish her all the best as she embarks on a new chapter in her life and enjoys her retirement.

SEVEN HILLS ELECTORATE SCHOOLS NAIDOC CELEBRATIONS

Mr MARK TAYLOR (Seven Hills)—I acknowledge the National Aboriginal and Islander Day Observance Committee Week hosted by schools across the Seven Hills Electorate. NAIDOC week is held annually from the 4th to the 11th of July. The NAIDOC 2021 theme, heal country, focused on ways in which groups and individuals across Australia can better engage with our indigenous communities by embracing the various customs, traditions and extensive knowledge they inherit from generation to generation. It is a great privilege to celebrate the diversity in our communities, but also a time to reflect on how we as Australians can better incorporate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture. Students of Seven Hills West Public School got the fantastic opportunity to view a performance of TAPALINGA by Indigenous performer Majeda Beatty which featured traditional song, dance, stories, and Indigenous language for students. I want to specifically thank students and staff of Seven Hills High, Seven Hills West Public School and Vardys Road Public School for their efforts in celebrating the richness of Indigenous culture within our communities and greater Australia.

JACK VEEN

Mr STUART AYRES (Penrith—Minister for Jobs, Investment, Tourism and Western Sydney, and Minister for Industry and Trade)—South Penrith resident, 13-year-old Jack Veen rode an impressive 203km during September as part of the Starlight Children's Foundation Tour de Kids Challenge. Born with Hypopituitarism, Jack will require medication and treatment for the rest of his life. Having spent time in the Starlight room, Jack wanted to give back to those that had helped him so they could continue to help other sick kids and to make them feel happier. As a keen bike rider, Jack committed to this challenge and rode almost every day with a lot being done on the weekend and during school holidays. It is fantastic to see young people like Jack doing what they can to make our community and our world a better place. Great work Jack!

ALANA KAYE

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla—Attorney General, and Minister for Prevention of Domestic and Sexual Violence)—I congratulate Cronulla resident, Alana Kaye, the founder of the "For You Haiti" charity. For You Haiti provides medical care and education for the people of La Gonave, which is one of Haiti's most poverty-stricken communities. Since its creation in 2016, For You Haiti has helped over 2500 patients and facilitated over 500 surgeries for children.[1] For You Haiti has also established a school in Anse a Galets, which educated 400 children between the ages of three and eleven. The charity has also established a nursing school, an English school and an IT class for adults. I thank Alana for her many hours of service and dedication to improving the lives of some of the most vulnerable. Her noble work has changed the lives of many people across La Gonave.

CAITY JAMES – MAITLAND 2021 YOUNG ARCHIE FINALIST

Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland)—The Art Gallery of NSW's Young Archies competition was established in 2013 for artists between 5 and 18 years. This year there were over 2,100 entries, with ten finalists in each age category. The finalists are displayed at the Art Gallery of NSW. It was very exciting to see 17-year-old Caity James from Maitland was a finalist in the 16- to 18-year-old section of the Young Archies. Caity's lovely work was Reflections and her description of the piece was beautiful: "I painted my reflection in a window, using a style and medium unlike my usual approach. Being in my final year of high school, along with the pressures of finding my place as an artist and as a person, it seems fitting to reflect upon myself as I am now. I am quite happy with this work, something I don't say much. Despite being about to embark on great change in my life, it's exciting that I can find joy in representing who I am through something I love. Congratulations Caity on a great achievement, and thank you for sharing your personal insight which is so inspiring! Keep finding joy!"

DARREL SPARKE – AMPUTEES NSW & AMPUTEE AWARENESS WEEK

Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland)—As last week was National Amputee Awareness week, I was very pleased to speak with Darrel Sparke, President of Amputees NSW, about the important work being undertaken by Amputees NSW to provide grass roots support to anyone affected by limb difference. Amputees NSW provides a network and support to individuals, families, schools, allied health and broader community both before and after limb loss and limb difference. So many of us take mobility and dexterity for granted, but just a few minutes talking to an amputee is a lesson in resilience, persistence, determination and success. Whilst most of us are familiar with the sporting heroes of the amputee community through events such as the Paralympics and the Invictus Games, it is the everyday struggle, which goes unrecognised, where an organisation like Amputees NSW reminds us of all the heroes in our amputee community. Amputees NSW offers practical and innovative solutions, increasing awareness, inclusion and independence for a healthy, happy and productive lifestyle, through many activities including Amp Camp and peer support programs. Thanks to the inspirational mentors and peer supporters at Amputees NSW! If you can see it, you can be it!

GOODBYE TO CHINH'S CUISINE

Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland)—Chinh Lam announced recently that she would be closing Chinh's Cuisine, which she has operated for ten years to retire and take care of her husband, in a very sad day for Maitland. We have been so lucky to have Chinh share her passion for her culture and her excellent cooking skills with our community, producing excellent, high quality fresh and delicious health Vietnamese cuisine. It was actually the Member for Strathfield who first told me that I had to go to Chinh's as the food was some of the best Vietnamese food she has ever tasted (and to be fair there are many Vietnamese restaurants in her electorate!). And she was right! I fondly remember taking my team to Chinh's for our Christmas party a couple of years ago, and it was one of the loveliest Christmas parties we have ever enjoyed together. The food was delicious, the service generous and friendly, and for a moment, we were transported to Vietnam with tantalising smells and the beautiful lanterns lighting the verandah on a hot summer's evening. Thank you Mrs Chinh, for sharing your culture and your cuisine - we hope you enjoy your retirement.

WESTPAC RESCUE HELICOPTER – 10,000 FLIGHT HOURS FOR THE AW139

Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland)—The Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service commenced its operations from the Hunter in 1975 as the Wales Rescue Helicopter, with an all-volunteer crew of local surf lifesavers flying a Bell 47 during summer weekends. Since then the service has evolved to flying our skies and saving lives 24/7, 365 days a year. Today four AW139 helicopters operate from three bases at Newcastle, Tamworth and Lismore, servicing 1.5 million people from the Hawkesbury River, north to the Queensland border. In June this year, the Service achieved a milestone clocking up 10,000 flight hours for the AW139 fleet that were introduced in 2017. Every time a life is saved by the Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service, it's thanks to the generosity of community donations and corporate sponsors. Congratulations to all the crew, the administrative and flight control staff, and of course the volunteers and donors who make this service possible, saving lives in some of the most critical and remote areas of the state. Thank you for your service.

BURWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOL 150TH ANNIVERSARY

Ms JODI McKAY (Strathfield)—I bring to the attention of the House the 150th anniversary of Burwood Public School. Burwood Public School opened on Saturday 14 January 1871, by the Hon. James Byrnes MP and the Hon. Alexander Campbell MLC. The original school was a single building, with 139 students. In 1902, the school was renovated to keep up with the area's growing population, and the student body peaked at 2,008 students in 1924. Burwood Public School excelled from its earliest years, with many students accepted into high school, or training in the public service and banking. Today Burwood Public School has 500 students from Kindergarten to Year 6. The school represents Burwood's diverse community, with 90% of students from families which speak a language other than English. Unfortunately Burwood Public School was not able to mark this significant milestone because of COVID-19. I acknowledge the commitment of teachers and staff to providing quality education and supporting students in learning from home during the pandemic lockdown. Burwood Public School's 150 years of public education has shaped the Burwood community. I congratulate the school on this incredible achievement.

KARENA WYNN-MOYLAN

Ms TAMARA SMITH (Ballina)—Today I recognise the service to literature and the wider community of Karena Wynn-Moylan on the occasion of her winning Gold in the Hermes Creative Awards for the website she designed called The Narratives Library. The Narratives Library website is an online collection of recordings of authors reading short extracts from their works, collated into themes and topics. The recordings are linked to publishers' and authors' websites and placed in a permanent archive which is maintained and available to be

accessed by reviewers, educational institutions, book clubs and readers. The purpose of the website is to provide a more personal dimension to a reader's experience by allowing them to hear the author's interpretation of their work. Importantly the site has free access for both readers and authors, has no advertising and no relationship with publishing houses. As the pandemic pushes people into solitary pursuits such as reading, Karena's website enhances individuals' appreciation of written works, and provides a human connection that lockdowns are making increasingly rare. It is timely and humane and I congratulate Karena on devising such an empathetic and valuable initiative.

MARGARET JILL GRIBBLE

Ms TAMARA SMITH (Ballina)—Today I acknowledge the professional constancy and contribution to community literacy of the late Margaret Jill Gribble, who devoted much of her life to her role as the Ballina area librarian. Ms Gribble, aged 88, died under sad circumstances in June, prompting a flow of tributes to her memory. Ms Gribble became a Ballina area librarian in 1970, moved to Lismore library as deputy librarian in 1974 and later returned to Ballina until her retirement. An avid reader, Ms Gribble was very knowledgeable and always willing to support other people's learning. In retirement she kept in contact with Ballina library staff and maintained a keen interest in library and community activities. A founding member of the Friends of the Ballina Shire Libraries group, Ms Gribble remained an active member for almost 40 years, both in executive positions and as a committed worker. She wrote a book about the group, *History of the Friends* – a real labour of love. Ms Gribble was involved in planning the new library building in River Street, the current library site in Ballina. I applaud her lifetime of dedication to the library and to Ballina readers.

RECYCLE FOR SIGHT PROGRAM

Ms TAMARA SMITH (Ballina)—Today I recognise the extraordinary commitment of Nancy Stearman, who for 47 years collected sunglasses and spectacles to contribute to the Lions Club Recycle for Sight Program. 'Nan' began collecting glasses in 1974, to be sent to people around the world who needed them. She was a contributor to Lions Club charity work before women were allowed to join the Lions and became a member of the Brunswick-Mullumbimby Lions Club in the 1980s. She personally collected more than 1,000 pairs a year. During the time that the Australian program has been in operation, it has delivered more than seven million pairs of refurbished quality spectacles to men, women and children in need in developing nations from Africa to the Pacific Rim. Now retired, Nan was recently awarded the Lions Medical Research Foundation Professor Ian Frazer Humanitarian Award in recognition of the tremendous effort she has put into the project.

REPLANT BYRON ALLIANCE

Ms TAMARA SMITH (Ballina)—Today I congratulate the RePlant Byron Alliance on its campaign to encourage Byron Shire landholders to take tangible climate change action by drawing down carbon emissions through native revegetation and regenerative agriculture. RePlant Byron's goal is to work alongside other planting groups and private landholders to remove significant amounts of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere by boosting carbon sequestration through land use. It is actively working to tally tree planting across Byron Shire, calculate the carbon drawdown figures to measure their collective impact, increase demand for native revegetation and regenerative agriculture and support and promote the work of local regenerators, while increasing biodiversity, water quality and soil stability. RePlant Byron is an initiative of Zero Emissions Byron, part of its wide-ranging campaign to effect a transition to net zero carbon emissions. The group's purpose could not be more fitting for our times, as carbon emissions hasten climate change and the potential death of planet Earth.

RUTH KESTERMANN AND HOLDSWORTH COMMUNITY

Mr ALEX GREENWICH (Sydney)—On behalf of the Sydney electorate, I'd like to record the seven years of dedicated service of Holdsworth Community CEO Ruth Kestermann. During her time as CEO, Ruth made an extraordinary contribution to Holdsworth and the vulnerable communities the organisation supports. Ruth's strong, visionary leadership led service provision centred on personalised support and connection in the community and the home. Holdsworth Community's programs support healthy ageing, living with a disability and young families with education, activities, food delivery, community transport and one-on-one support through in-home visits. As Member for Sydney, I've valued Ruth's insight about local needs and witnessed her commitment to social equality and progressive solutions to address social isolation and housing affordability. In 2018 Ruth introduced Holdsworth's innovative HomeShare program, matching older people who are living alone with a person looking for affordable accommodation and companionship. Already a success, HomeShare showcases how mutually beneficial community-based solutions can be life-changing and life-enhancing. I welcome incoming CEO Jason Malone and look forward to seeing Holdsworth's important work continue. I congratulate and thank Ruth Kestermann for her commitment to supporting vulnerable people and her excellent leadership of Holdsworth Community.

EPIC-NSW

Mr ALEX GREENWICH (Sydney)—On behalf of the Sydney Electorate I wish to commend the exciting outcomes of the three-year EPIC-NSW study into the impact of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) on reducing HIV in a large population. The recent UNSW Kirby Institute research published in The Lancet shows historically low HIV transmission rates among almost 10,000 high-risk gay and bisexual men using the HIV prevention medication PrEP. This is an exciting development in the longstanding and innovative work to address HIV/AIDS since the beginning of the pandemic, and an important reminder that HIV/AIDS is not over. I commend the NSW government for funding this research and all those involved in the project. ACON and HIV/AIDS consumer groups helped make sure that there was strong community understanding and engagement. This outcome reinforces the strong partnerships between government, health professions, researchers and affected communities to prevent the spread of HIV. I hope that this collaboration and strong alliances between government, health professions and affected communities will continue to prevent HIV infection and ensure the best support for those with the virus.

JOHN MANT

Mr ALEX GREENWICH (Sydney)—On behalf of the Sydney Electorate I wish to put on record the significant lifetime contribution of John Mant. John Mant had a lifelong commitment to public service, social justice, democracy and good government, making significant contributions to the law, politics, urban planning and public administration. John became active in political reform and found a passion for urban development that gave priority to the people in a place, contributing to the national vision under Whitlam and Uren. His planning and public administration career took him to Adelaide, Perth, Melbourne, overseas and back in Sydney. This included as ICAC Commissioner, running an inquiry into the NSW Department of Housing and reworking the NSW Local Government Act to strengthen councils, and give them powers beyond rubbish collection. Most recently John served as a councillor for the City of Sydney with the Clover Moore Independent Team between 2012 and 2016, helping maintain stable corruption-free local government that planned for the future and did not leave anyone behind. We owe much today to this drive and effort, and I hope John's life serves as a model for others to make a positive difference.

FRONTLINE HEALTH WORKERS

Mr ALEX GREENWICH (Sydney)—On behalf of the Sydney electorate, I wish to put on record our gratitude for the extraordinary work of frontline health workers. During the pandemic, we've seen huge pressures on hospitals and health care workers, from paramedics through to nurses, doctors, ward staff, cleaners and call centre staff. As COVID case numbers have risen, we've been protected and cared for by thousands of people who put themselves at risk to do their job. We've seen media reports of the pressures in hospital emergency departments and intensive care units, with staff wearing uncomfortable PPE for hours, with beds full and surge capacity stretched. We've seen how they've cared for people very ill and dying while family and friends couldn't be there in person. Sadly some of those workers have also fallen ill with COVID or been forced to isolate, and they've been shut down under stay-at-home orders like everyone else when not at work. Many constituents have expressed their thanks and appreciation for the work and care shown by frontline health workers and I add my voice to theirs to say thank you so much.

MARIA VAN DEN BOOGAARD

Mr MATT KEAN (Hornsby—Treasurer, and Minister for Energy and Environment)—Today I would like to acknowledge Maria van den Boogaard who celebrated her 100th birthday in July. Maria, who has 7 children, 17 grandchildren, 27 great grandchildren and 4 great-great grandchildren, lives independently and can even use her mobile phone to send a text. Born in Holland she was one of ten siblings who lived through the bombing of Rotterdam during the Second World War. She married, having her first four children in Holland but with a lack of work they made the big move to South Africa. With three more children born in South Africa she would be known for her love of sewing, playing the piano and encouraging them all to get the most out of life. Moving to Australia in the 1980s, she joined the Lions Club of Hornsby in 2000 using her skills and hobbies to raise money for charity. Joining her daughter Pauline and husband Ted to continue the amazing work of the Hornsby Lions. I would like to wish Maria a very happy 100th birthday. Thank you for all you have done for the Hornsby community.

BROOKLYN GAMMA PIE COMPETITION

Mr MATT KEAN (Hornsby—Treasurer, and Minister for Energy and Environment)—Today I would like to acknowledge Bob Davis and his efforts to organise the Gramma Pie competition to Brooklyn. Held in June they had over twenty entrants, including from local bakeries Pie in the Sky, Bite Me, and Top of the Ridge. Competition was tough, with chief judge Bob putting together a panel with over 200 years of gramma pie tasting

between them. They also had the help of Rod Taylor, head of security, helping collect all the pies. Sharing first place was Karen Arnold and Venette Forsyth with Jane and Ally Imrie taking 2nd place and Monna Donnelly coming in 3rd. While Top of the Ridge took out the best professional pie. It sounded like a wonderful community event and I would like to congratulate all the winners along with Bob Davis for his work bringing this competition to life. He has committed to this becoming an annual event and I look forward to the 2022 competition!

HILL'S MEN'S SHED MARKETS

Mr RAY WILLIAMS (Castle Hill)—I would like to take this opportunity to recognise the Hill's Men's Shed, within the suburb of Castle Hill. Established in 2009, the club, like all men's sheds, provides an opportunity for men to discuss their health. Usually reserved and reticent, men's sheds give men the chance to ask for help, check in on each other, or simply have a chat over a nice cup of tea. Working on projects gives the men a chance to increase their comradery, and to that end the 100 or so members of the Hill's Men's Shed have started selling some of their handmade creations at their 'mini markets'. The markets will also have a craft stall and sell baked goods, jams and other great gift ideas. I'd like to thank the whole club for all they are doing for the improvement of men's mental health, and especially Geoff Spranger.

BOX HILL RIDING FOR THE DISABLED

Mr RAY WILLIAMS (Castle Hill)—I recently had the opportunity to recognise Riding for the Disabled in Box Hill for the tremendous work they do in the community and would like to provide an update. Jan Pike and Karen O'Neill of the organisation have since been rightly recognised with an OAM in the Queen's Birthday Honours List. Jan has seen the workings of the RDA from both sides, being both a participant and a coach. Jan represented Australia in Equestrian at three Paralympic Games between 2000 and 2008, and she won a silver and bronze medal at Athens. She has been an RDA member for 4 decades and was NSW Volunteer of the Year in 2019. Karen has been a volunteer coach with the organisation for nearly 40 years and was President of the Centre for 10 of these. Both women are true inspirations to the community and my heartfelt thanks and congratulations go to both of them. I'd like to also recognise the whole Centre, and I know that there is a great team behind these 2 women, without whom they wouldn't have been able to achieve their magnificent accolade.

CAMILLA SCHIPPA AND WEAR THE CHANGE

Mr JAMIE PARKER (Balmain)—Today I bring to the attention of the House the success of the most recent Wear the Change event which was an ethical fashion styling challenge held during Refugee Week 2021 (June 21-25). This event was organised by The Social Outfit and the funds raised by this challenge will go towards their non-profit community programs supporting women from refugee and new migrant backgrounds with training and employment pathways in the fashion industry. I would like to congratulate those who participated in this year's event and celebrate the fact that the fundraising goal was met. Thank you to CEO Camilla Schippa and her wonderful team at The Social Outfit.

BRONTE MARSHALL – WORLD'S GREATEST SHAVE

Mr ADAM MARSHALL (Northern Tablelands—Minister for Agriculture and Western New South Wales)—I recognise Moree's Bronte Marshall for her part in the World's Greatest Shave, a fund-raising project to help beat blood cancer. For Bronte this meant shaving her beautiful locks. When asked the question, why would she shave her gorgeous long hair? Bronte replied, "people who are diagnosed with Leukaemia don't have a choice when they lose their hair." Her goal was to raise \$3,000 but with the generosity of the community Bronte contributed \$12,000 to the World's Greatest Shave. Bronte appreciates the donations that will go towards research and emotional and practical support for families facing blood cancer, remembering that every day approximately 47 Australians are diagnosed and an Australian loses their life to blood cancer every two hours. I congratulate Bronte on her fund-raising efforts for research into Leukaemia and her commitment to this worthy charity.

FREE COFFEE DAY

Ms MELANIE GIBBONS (Holsworthy)—I would like to acknowledge Jamaica Blue at Liverpool Hospital for putting on a 'Free Coffee Day' on 15 September 2021. The café provided all Liverpool Hospital frontline workers and support staff with a complimentary coffee during the whole day to say thank you for all of their hard work and dedication during this COVID-19 outbreak. This gesture was to show the gratitude and appreciation of the local community for all of the hardworking staff in the hospital who work tirelessly to keep the community safe and protected. Jamaica Blue offered free coffees to nurses, doctors, administration staff and hospital cleaners, as they all play a crucial role in providing the necessary support and assistance to those who are suffering with the virus. It is heart-warming to see the local community coming together like this to help give back to the frontline workers. I commend Jamaica Blue Liverpool Hospital for this kind initiative and thank all of the frontline workers who continue to work so hard for us all.

ST CHRISTOPHER'S HOLSWORTHY

Ms MELANIE GIBBONS (Holsworthy)—Today I would like to acknowledge the Year 6 students and teachers of St Christopher's Holsworthy, whom I recently met with over Zoom. Every year I visit the Year 6 class at the school to discuss State Government and all things Parliament. Due to remote learning, this year I was invited to talk to the students via Zoom. It was great to still be able to interact with them all and answer their questions about how different levels of Parliament work and some general questions about what is going on in the Holsworthy electorate. I got a chance to discuss the students experience with remote learning and how they were finding it – they all agreed that it was challenging at times but enjoyed still being able to see each other. It was also great to hear that they were excited to get back to school soon. Mr Speaker, once again I would like to thank the students and teachers in Year 6 at St Christopher's Primary School Holsworthy for inviting me to talk to them about my role in the community – it is always a pleasure. Thank you.

ROY COWLEY – RETIRING ARMIDALE BARBER

Mr ADAM MARSHALL (Northern Tablelands—Minister for Agriculture and Western New South Wales)—I recognise Roy Cowley, barber extraordinaire for more than 70 years and five generations of Armidale patrons. Roy has loved his work and considers it the best job in the world because of the fellowship that goes with it. Many a client has saved money going to a therapist by having his hair trimmed while Roy gave a compassionate listening ear. Children sit quietly feeling the kindness and patience that Roy has given to all who have graced his barber's chair. The community will miss Roy and wish him all the best in his retirement with his wife Lillian. I congratulate Roy for running a successful business for an impressive seven decades. I commend Roy on his courtesy and kindness which, in effect, has operated as a community service by way of his impact on so many lives.

TOBY OSMOND – GALLERY DIRECTOR

Mr ADAM MARSHALL (Northern Tablelands—Minister for Agriculture and Western New South Wales)—I recognise Toby Osmond, Gallery Director at the Moree Yaama Ganu Gallery, a not-for-profit Aboriginal art gallery and café, providing economic, social and cultural benefits to Aboriginal people. As a member of the Indigenous Art Code, the Yaama Ganu Gallery ensures the promotion of fair and ethical trade in works of art by Indigenous artists. The Gallery is beautifully presented and includes the Café Gali which offers meals and the promotion of Indigenous foods and recipes. Toby and his team's achievements at Yaama Ganu have advanced the understanding of Aboriginal artistic achievements for the Moree community and tourism. I congratulate Toby for many successful exhibits since 2011 and the artistic exposure of known and novice Aboriginal artists throughout Australia. I commend Toby for his ongoing commitment to Yaama Ganu Gallery and Café Gali, the training of staff, and keeping Yaama Ganu viable during the COVID pandemic.

CWA WOY WOY

Ms LIESL TESCH (Gosford)—I would like to send extended gratitude to the women of the CWA in Woy Woy for the ongoing efforts to look after our community in all sorts of shapes and forms during the current lockdown. From radio reports and weekly 'recipe of the week' updates, to positive inspirational social media posts, making bags to be filled by product supplied by the Gosford city Rotary to support art and creativity for our most vulnerable members of our community who participate in Coast Shelter, you have contributed so much! Thanks to Woy Woy CWA we have a 'street library' and a new 'big sister' street library and so many more people feeling warm, happy, cared for and connected across our community. Huge gratitude goes to CWA's contribution to Elsie's Retreat and the number of quilts and bereavement bags that have been very generously donated. The fabulous women of the Central Coast community are very generous and do not sit idle.

DR HEATHER BURROW - UNIVERSITY OF NEW ENGLAND

Mr ADAM MARSHALL (Northern Tablelands—Minister for Agriculture and Western New South Wales)—I recognise Dr Heather Burrow, University of New England professorial research fellow, who initiated a ground-breaking multi-nation study which has demonstrated that breeding strong tick resistance into all cattle breeds by using the cattle genome can be a real solution to cattle ticks. It is estimated that cattle ticks costs the Australian cattle industry \$175 million per year in lost productivity. I congratulate Dr Burrow on the success of her research which will have an impact internationally on eradicating this global pest. I commend Heather on her investigative research into the use of genomic technologies as a viable solution to the infestation of cattle ticks.

DANNY KERR

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla—Attorney General, and Minister for Prevention of Domestic and Sexual Violence)—I congratulate Woollooware resident Danny Kerr, who has recently signed with Rome based Water Polo club SC Tuscolano for the 2021/22 Italian Serie A2 season. Danny is studying for a Bachelor

of Commerce at the Australian Catholic University and will attend the Rome campus while playing water polo. Danny will also have the opportunity to train with some of the world's top players in the first division with Lazio, which will undoubtedly result in a few bruises and knocks. This hard work and dedication are in preparation for Danny's push to qualify for the 2024 Olympics in Paris. Danny's achievements are a credit to himself, the Cronulla Sharks Water Polo Club and his coach, Vedran Cirkovic. I wish Danny safe travels and all the best in his training in Rome and his preparations for the Olympics.

FOODBANK NSW

Mr EDMOND ATALLA (Mount Druitt)—I wish to recognise the organisation Foodbank NSW, from Glendenning in the Mt Druitt electorate, for their ongoing food relief services during the pandemic. Never has there been a more urgent need for food relief services to be provided, when the vulnerability of our communities has increased tremendously. Foodbank, together with their charity partners, have seen a 300% increase in demand for their services and since the end of July, have shipped out the equivalent of 600,000 meals per week. I take this opportunity to recognise, CEO, John Robertson, his staff and all the volunteers who have tirelessly met this challenge and who have selflessly assisted so many in need at this most challenging time.

MICHAEL ATTEYA – ST BISHOP COPTIC ORTHODOX COLLEGE

Mr EDMOND ATALLA (Mount Druitt)—I wish to recognise Mr Michael Atteya, Principal of St Bishop Coptic Orthodox College, in my electorate, on being announced in the top 50 most improved schools in the NAPLAN Tests by the Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority. I understand that the school has improved each year for the past five years, even during the most challenging of times with remote learning and a diverse cultural community. The students' success is an inspiring example of how teachers, parents and the school community can work together to great achievement. I applaud Mr Atteya and his staff on this outstanding achievement.

DEADLY CONNECTIONS

Ms JENNY LEONG (Newtown)—I draw the attention of this House to the incredible work of Deadly Connections for their tireless work during the Sydney lockdown and beyond to provide much needed support to those most in need. Deadly Connections are a small but committed team working to address intergenerational disadvantage, grief, loss and trauma by providing holistic, culturally responsive interventions and services to First Nations people and communities, particularly those who have been impacted by the child protection and/or justice systems. Headed up by Co-Founders Carly Stanley and Keenan Mundine, the team pivoted during the Sydney lockdown to directly deliver food hampers, cooked meals, phones, laptops, and Wi-Fi dongles to First Nations families in isolation - in addition to their ongoing program of work. They teamed up with local cafes to produce as many cooked meals as they could and delivered them to those most in need. We commend the vital work of Deadly Connections during lockdown and beyond in providing much needed support and advocacy to so many in our local community - and thank them for their leadership and determination.

PARRAMATTA PROFESSIONALS FORUM

Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect)—On Friday 14th May 2021, I had the pleasure to attend the Launch of the Parramatta Professionals Forum. The Forum has been made a reality through the partnership of Campion College Australia, McAuley Hawach Lawyers and Blueprint Property. These local institutions, which include a tertiary college, a law firm and a real estate agency, created the forum to provide a space for public debate. By providing a space for debate, the Forum hopes to deepen ties between likeminded professionals in Western Sydney and create a dialogue between the community and Local, State and Federal Government. I was fortunate to participate in the Launch as the guest speaker. It was wonderful to see community leaders engage and discuss important issues that affect us all. It was also a great opportunity to meet with professionals of the Western Sydney Community. I would like to thank Yvette Nehme, Director of Development, Campion College Australia, Steven McAuley, Principal Solicitor, McAuley Hawach Lawyers, and Marlyn Loulach, Office Support Manager, Blueprint Property, for their combined effort to launch the Parramatta Professionals Forum. It will be fantastic to see many important debates and discussions take place in Parramatta as a result of this Forum.

COMMUNITY HUBS – PRAIRIEVALE PUBLIC SCHOOL

Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect)—On Friday 18th June 2021, it was wonderful to visit Prairievale Public School as part of the National Community Hubs Program. Community Hubs acts as a gateway for women and their children to connect with schools and existing services. Migrant women face many obstacles. Community Hubs have recognised these challenges and help provide soft entry and engagement programs to assist women in accessing support for themselves and their children to transition into school. It was lovely to meet with mothers and their children for the Crafty Kids Program. This program allows migrant mothers who have preschool aged children to attend Prairievale Public School and engage in arts and crafts. It is a great way for mothers and their

children to become familiar with the school environment and to meet other mothers with similar stories. Community Hubs offers an array of other educational and social programs which helps welcome mothers into the school community. I would like to thank Principal Rebecca Challenor, Prairievale Public School, for allowing your school to be part of this important initiative. I also thank Natasha Warda, Hub Leader, and all staff at Community Hubs for their outstanding work that changes lives.

COMMUNITY HUBS – SMITHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOL

Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect)—On Friday 18th June 2021, it was wonderful to visit Smithfield Public School as part of the National Community Hubs Program. Community Hubs acts as a gateway for women and their children to connect with schools and existing services. Migrant women face many challenges including having limited access to services, experiencing language barriers and at times being isolated from the community. It was wonderful to meet women from Iraq and Assyria as they attended their English class, one of the many great programs that Community Hubs offers. I was fortunate to speak with the women participating and discuss their hopes for the future. These women have many goals including becoming teachers, beauty therapists and more. It was inspiring to see how enthusiastic they were to improve their English language. We have a wonderfully vibrant migrant population in the Electorate of Prospect, and it was fantastic to see our migrant community connect with local schools. I would like to thank Principal Jodi Harris, Smithfield Public School for allowing your school to take part in this initiative. I also thank Sulaf Hamid, Hub Leader, and all staff at Community Hubs for their outstanding work that changes lives.

NOOPURA NRITYANJALI SCHOOL OF DANCE

Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect)—On Saturday 19th June 2021, I was pleased to attend the Noopura Nrityanjali School of Dance Anniversary as the Chief Guest. The event was held at Greystanes Community Centre and I was joined by Guests of Honour, Sandip and Rupesh Nagadiya, Directors, Centrum Finance Solutions. Noopura Nrityanjali School of Dance is a local dance school operating in Westmead and Blacktown led by Sindhu Saptharushi Jois. Sindhu offers a range of dance styles to all age groups. Noopura Nrityanjali School of Dance focuses on subcontinental dance styles like Bollywood and specialised regional styles like Bharatanatyam from Tamil Nadu. It is fantastic to see a dance school in Western Sydney that represent our wonderfully diverse and vibrant multicultural community. As I have mentioned before, we have a significant sub-continent community in the Electorate of Prospect. I am appreciative of Noopura Nrityanjali School of Dance which allows members of our community to express themselves, to connect with their own traditions or learn about other cultures. I would like to thank Sindhu Saptharushi Jois for her efforts in running this fantastic dance school. I also thank Sindhu for inviting me to the special occasion of the School's Anniversary.

BEATS: BUSINESS EXCELLENCE AWARDS TWEED SHIRE

Ms JANELLE SAFFIN (Lismore)—The annual BEATS: Business Excellence Awards Tweed Shire 2021 were held at the Regent Cinema and Arts Precinct in Murwillumbah on August 6, 2021. Hosted together by the Kingscliff, Murwillumbah and Tweed Chambers of Commerce the BEATS are always a great opportunity to celebrate our wonderful local businesses. I would like to place on the parliamentary record my congratulations to all the finalists and winners of the BEATS from the Lismore Electorate. The winners of the BEATS from the Lismore Electorate in various categories were:

Tourism & Visitor Experience – Ursula Thompson of Mavis's Kitchen and Cabins, Uki.

Outstanding Employee - Kristy Robinson of Smile Street Dental and Implant Centre, Murwillumbah.

Outstanding Community Organisation – Diane Robertson of Wollumbin Family Support Inc. Murwillumbah.

I also want to thank the Murwillumbah District Business Chamber of Commerce Executive President Nick Moran, Vice President James Perrin and Treasurer Phillip Hepburn for their ongoing support and hard work for local businesses. These wonderful businesses have excelled this year in difficult times, showing great resilience and stoicism. After a difficult couple of years through floods, drought, bushfires and now COVID-19 it is fitting to acknowledge in Parliament all our local businesses.

LISMORE ELECTORATE CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE

Ms JANELLE SAFFIN (Lismore)—I would like to place on the parliamentary record my appreciation for Chambers of Commerce across the Lismore Electorate for the incredible job they have done throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Our local chambers have provided critical support, advocacy, connection and information for local businesses in these difficult times. I would like to thank the Lismore Chamber of Commerce and Industry – President Ellen Kronen, the Kyogle and District Chamber of Commerce – President Mandy Boocock, the Nimbin Chamber of Commerce – President Diana Roberts, the Murwillumbah District Business

Chamber – President Nick Moran and the Tenterfield Chamber of Tourism, Industry and Business – President Kristen Lovett for their hard work and commitment. I would also like to acknowledge the work of our Regional Business NSW Representatives Jane Lavery - Regional Manager, Northern Rivers and Joe Townsend – Regional Manager, New England and North West who have been coordinating regional engagement with businesses and advocacy on behalf of our local businesses. The work of our local Chambers of Commerce and Regional Business NSW Representatives helps decision makers keep their ears to the ground on key policy issues that matter to local small businesses. I once again thank them all for their work.

LISMORE BUSINESS AWARDS

Ms JANELLE SAFFIN (Lismore)—The Lismore Business Awards were held this year via Zoom. I thank emcee Jane Lavery - Regional Manager Business NSW Northern Rivers, President Ellen Kronen - Lismore Chamber of Commerce and Industry and major sponsor Simon Mumford - the Lismore App. The awards celebrate our wonderful local businesses. I congratulate all the winners and finalists of the awards. The winners were:

Retail and Personal Services - Lazuli and Co

Trade, Construction & Manufacturing - Simply Clean

Business & Professional Services – Connect Business Solutions

Health, Care & Wellness Industries - Summit Sport and Fitness Centre

Agriculture & Primary Industries - Five Sixty Farms

Outstanding Dining and Hospitality - The Pickled Herd

Outstanding Employee - Brad Ambridge, Armsign, Angela Bontea, CASPA Services Ltd

Outstanding Young Business Leader (35 and under) - Levi Loughlin, Herne's Security

Outstanding Business Leader (36 and over) - Hayley Brown, Warrior Refrigeration/Horne's Gas & Plumbing

Employer of Choice – Lazuli and Co

Outstanding Community Organisation – Friends of the Koala

Outstanding Start Up - Hanging Rock Flower

Excellence in Micro Business (less than 5 employees) – Lazuli and Co

Excellence in Small Business (5-20 employees) – Simply Clean

Excellence in Business (21+ employees) - Summit Sport and Fitness Centre

KYOGLE BUSINESS AWARDS

Ms JANELLE SAFFIN (Lismore)—I was pleased to attend the Kyogle Business Awards to congratulate the winners and finalists. I thank the Kyogle and District Chamber of Commerce for their hard work and commitment to supporting Kyogle businesses. I also acknowledge emcee Jane Lavery, Business NSW Regional Manager Northern Rivers, Kyogle Chamber President Mandy Boocock and Vice President Sandra Binney. The winners were as follows:

Agriculture & Primary Industries - Hickey Food Services

Retail & Personal Services - The Farmer's Plate Trade

Construction & Manufacturing - Tyres & More Kyogle

Business & Professional Services - Wild Honey Creative

Tourism & Visitor Experience - The Farmer's Plate Health

Care & Wellness Industries - Kyogle Boxfit

Regional Categories Outstanding Employee - Jade Lamond, Connect Business Solutions

Outstanding Young Business Leader - Lachlan Crawter, Tyres & More Kyogle

Outstanding Business Leader - Louise Roy, Tiger Designz & Business

Consulting Employer of Choice - Connect Business Solutions

Outstanding Start-Up - Ascent Dance

Outstanding Community Organisation - Kyogle Junior Rugby League

Excellence in Micro Business (Joint Winners) - Scarborough's and Wild Honey Creative

Excellence in Small Business - The Farmer's Plate

Excellence in Business - Connect Business Solutions

Business of the Year - The Farmer's Plate

THE GLEN

Mr DAVID HARRIS (Wyong)—Ngaimpe Aboriginal Corporation set up The Glen in 1994 and during NAIDOC week 2021 The Glen celebrated 27 years of operation. Since opening it has been an example of the Koori spirit and the human spirit. I commend The Glen on achieving this milestone. The Glen is the only male-specific Central Coast Drug and Alcohol Rehabilitation Centre providing opportunities for drug and alcohol rehabilitation for Indigenous and non-Indigenous men over the age of 18. The Glen has helped many of its clients who have experienced problems in the past and are committed to keeping them out of the criminal justice system. Participants in the programs have also helped the community by participating in events such as:

Clean up Australia Day

Graffiti Clean-up week

Also during the Central Coast floods, The Glen participated in helping those in the community that needed assistance. I congratulate The Glen on their 27 years of operation and their success.

SEAN CLANCY

Mr DAVID HARRIS (Wyong)—Congratulations and well done to local Jilliby Resident Sean Clancy who recently raised funds for the Prostate Cancer Foundation. The Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia was formed in Sydney in 1996. The Foundation is committed to reducing the impact of prostate cancer on Australian men, their partners and families, recognising the diversity of the Australian community by promoting and funding world leading, innovative research into prostate cancer. Sean number 3 fundraiser in Australia has raised more than \$30,000 for Dry July. What a great effort Sean. Sean was diagnosed with prostate cancer in April 2020 and then after surgery and treatment in June 2020 was pronounced cancer free.

IRIS FOUNDATION

Mr DAVID HARRIS (Wyong)—The Iris Foundation primarily works on the Central Coast to help reduce the risk of suicide by facilitating, supporting awareness campaigns, programs, sponsorships and partnerships which brings support in many areas of the community. The Iris Foundation was founded in 2006 by Bev Baldwin and Dawn Hooper which grew from a small-scale fundraiser. The Iris Foundation promotes three Key factors: Resilience, Hope, Connections. In July this year the Iris Foundation celebrated its 15th year Anniversary supporting the Central Coast through services and programs such as: Because We Care, Cool Connections for School students in years 5 and 6, and the Hope Family Cottage. I would like to thank the Iris Foundation on their 15th year Anniversary and congratulate them for their dedication and assistance to the most vulnerable in our community.

CENTRAL COAST HOCKEY

Mr DAVID HARRIS (Wyong)—I congratulate the Central Coast Hockey Association for recently initiating "An All Ability Program" with a vision to see all hockey associations following their lead, allowing players to represent the local area and compete. The Central Coast Hockey association is located in Wyong and has 800 members ranging from 3-83. On July 31st a "Come and Try session" an hour-long activity session that introduced participants to basic hockey drills and skills. It was then followed by a six-week season which will then determine if it will be officially run alongside the summer hockey program. I wish The Central Coast Hockey Association all the best with their new program.

PETER KILMURRAY OAM

Mr TIM CRAKANTHORP (Newcastle)—Congratulations to Peter Kilmurray who was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia in this year's Queen's Birthday Honours. Peter has been recognised for his contribution to surf lifesaving, having volunteered with the organisation for over 50 years all along the New South Wales coast. His dedication began in 1964, and he has patrolled on the mid-North Coast, in Sydney, the Hunter and Shoalhaven region, and is currently at Redhead. He also served as President of Cooks Hill Surf Lifesaving from 2000 to 2002 and is the Hunter Surf Lifesaving's Honorary Solicitor. Additionally, Peter spent 23 years on

the board of the Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service. It was here that I saw first-hand his strong work ethic and dedication to community service. Congratulation again, Peter. We are very lucky you landed in the Hunter.

ISABEL BLACK GARCIA

Mr TIM CRAKANTHORP (Newcastle)—Congratulations to Isabel Black Garcia, who was selected as a finalist in this year's Young Archies. Isabel was one of 10 finalists in the 9 to 12-years category, impressing the judges with a portrait of her brother, Diego, which was hung in the Art Gallery of NSW. Her eye-catching work involved oil pastels, water pencils and crayons on a newspaper and magazine collage background, illustrating Diego and things that he loves – turtles, burgers and the colour blue. Isabel's imagination was well and truly on display through her use of different utensils, vibrant design and creative communication of the brief; an image of someone she loves. This may have been the first time Isabel had her work in an art gallery, but I suspect it won't be the last.

JOHN MCLEOD

Mr TIM CRAKANTHORP (Newcastle)—Congratulations to John McLeod for who has been awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia in this year's Queen's Birthday Honours. John is a familiar face around Newcastle, and particularly our waterways, through decades of commitment to rowing through the University of Newcastle, Central Districts Rowing Association and Newcastle Rowing Club. He has served in a variety of roles over the years, including several committee positions, coaching, and volunteering at events. Off the water John has also been a member of the Apex service club, the Hunter Sporting Hall of Fame Committee, Carrington Community Council, the Throsby Creek Government Agencies Committee, the Port of Newcastle Community Liaison Group and Technical Advisory Consultative Committee, and on the Newcastle High School P and C. As part of the Throsby Creek committee I have worked with John on several initiatives to protect the environment and create a safer atmosphere for rowers by improving water quality, biodiversity and the health of the ecosystem, as well as decreasing the effects of flooding and the impact of pollutants, and I can personally attest to his dedication. Congratulations John, your commitment to the waterways of Newcastle is to be commended.

JUSTIN GARLICK

Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra)—Congratulations are in order to Justin Garlick, a student at Hennessy Catholic College, who was recently awarded a Youth Community Service Award for exceptional service or engagement with their local community, or to Australia in general. Justin received a trophy and certificate of commendation from the Governor of NSW, the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC QC, and was one of 25 students who participated in the presentation via Zoom with the Governor. Justin has been recognised for his leadership during his HSC year showing tremendous commitment and maturity. Justin, RICE House Captain, led over 120 students from years 7 to 12 and is a key organiser and participant in all extracurricular activities across sporting, fundraising, religious and pastoral care, education, and community service activities. Justin is a founder of the Student Wellbeing Action Group and has a personal focus on mental health and leadership development. Congratulations Justin on this well-deserved award, I'm sure I will be hearing great things of you in the future.

BREAKFAST RADIO

Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra)—A shout out to 2LF AM and Rocc FM radio for all the support they have shown to the community during the Covid-19 pandemic in 2021. Over the past few weeks when two of our LGAs were in lockdown, Cowra and Hilltops, I would catch up with the radio team to help deliver the community updates around Covid numbers, venues of concern and stay at home orders. Getting this message across to the communities was particularly important for the aging members that rely on the "wireless" for their news. 2LF and Rocc reach audiences in Young, Harden, Boorowa, Temora, Quandialla, Wombat, Cowra, Cootamundra, and Grenfell to name a few. Richard Spence from the Breakfast Crunch and Dave Quigley from the Big Breakfast were very accommodating, fitting me in for interviews. Our local radio stations play such an important role in keeping our communities up to date with funeral notices, important birthdays, and events happening in our towns and villages. This along with the advertising for local business is what binds the community together. Thank you Rich and Quigs for always welcoming me on to your shows.

GRENFELL DEBUTANTE BALL

Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra)—I extend my congratulations to 12 ladies from Grenfell who on 29 May 2021 made their debut. The Grenfell Debutante Ball hosted by the Anglican Church saw 12 local ladies sign up to be debutantes. Caprhyse Lawler partnered Hugo Fenton, Imogen Brenner accompanied by Jack Knight, Megan Wilson partnered Dylan Mehrton, Caleb Haddin accompanied Faith White, Jayde Hundy and partner Ben Hurst Strange, Olivia Berry partnered Tyler Byron, George Mitton accompanied Georgi Brenner, Lily Holmes partnered Jaxon Greenaway, Tatianna Hazell accompanied by Jaxon Stock, Holly Gilbert partnered Adam

Hewen, Oliver Taylor accompanied Mackenzie Brenner and Niamh Mitton partnered Riley Cartwright on the night. Across the Cootamundra Electorate I thoroughly enjoy attending debutante ball to watch young women being formally introduced into society. Debutante balls remain a strong tradition in rural areas and have over the years become something really unique. Congratulations once again to the 12 ladies on your debut you all looked absolutely gorgeous.

HENRY LAWSON HIGH SCHOOL

Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra)—I extend a huge congratulations to the newly appointed 2022 School Captains of The Henry Lawson High School. The 2022 School Captains for The Henry Lawson High School are Lily Holmes and Oliver Taylor and the 2022 Vice Captains are Niamh Mitton and Oscar Schaefer. A leadership position at school provides a wonderful opportunity for students to take an active role in their school community and work with others to achieve the best possible outcomes. School leaders are essential ambassadors who represent the school values and mottos. Being a school leader is a wonderful opportunity for students to strengthen their skills and knowledge to then be able to apply these to their everyday life and future endeavours. There are many duties involved with being a school leader in the Cootamundra Electorate including public speaking, active involvement in all school activities, and encouraging their peers to get involved with all aspects of school life. All school leaders should be very honoured to have been awarded with such a high responsibility. Congratulations once again to Lily, Oliver, Niamh and Oscar and I can't wait to meet you all during your leadership roles.

BRENDAN JACKSON

Ms JODIE HARRISON (Charlestown)—As parents have faced the challenge of home-schooling once again, and teachers and students had to re-adapt to online learning, it was great to see the creativity and energy people have applied to overcoming these difficulties. New Lambton South Public School kindergarten teacher Brendan Jackson was able to keep his class engaged with a series of funny videos. He dressed up as Princess Anna from the Disney movie Frozen, nineties pop superstars the Backstreet Boys and even channelled Olivia Newton-John with an aerobics-themed video. Mr Jackson started making these videos, which include parodies of songs sung in a way only Mr Jackson could manage, during the first lockdown in 2020 and started making them again when we re-entered lockdown. What a fantastic, innovative way to keep our youngest school students engaged and entertained—and what a fantastic way of reminding these kids that, even if things are new and confusing, their teacher is still the same old goofball. I would like to acknowledge Mr Jackson's creativity and thank him and teachers all over the electorate for contributing so much to our community over the course of the pandemic.

MERCIA BUCK – FREEMAN OF LAKE MACQUARIE

Ms JODIE HARRISON (Charlestown)—Charlestown-based performance and arts advocate Ms Mercia Buck OAM has been nominated for Lake Macquarie Freeman of the City in July, for her lifetime of dedication and service to performing arts. Ms Buck has dedicated herself to a lifetime of performance, teaching, lecturing and arts administration, founding the Lake Macquarie Music Society, Opera Hunter and the Lake Macquarie Eisteddfod. Established in 1980, Lake Macquarie Music Society has been led by Mercia ever since. She played a leading role in the formation of Opera Hunter in 1986 and served as its president. As a Lake Macquarie City Councillor between 1991 and 2008, she worked on several Council committees and helped to establish the Lake Macquarie Performing Arts Centre. Mercia left very big shoes for me to fill when I followed her as a Labor North Ward Councillor in 2008. Mercia's award of Freeman of the City importantly recognises the performing arts industry in Lake Macquarie City. Since 1985, eight eminent people since have been recognised with the award Freeman of the City—individuals who have provided the highest level of service to Lake Macquarie, Australia or humanity. Mercia is a very deserving recipient.

CONNOR WINK

Ms JODIE HARRISON (Charlestown)—One of the things I have missed most about pre-pandemic life is live music. Over the course of lockdown in the Charlestown electorate, we've had the next-best thing: performances by singer-songwriter, multi-instrumentalist and Charlestown local Connor Wink. Connor Wink is a blind musician who displayed an interest in music from an early age. Connor was performing driveway concerts during lockdown, which he made available on his Facebook page, and performed a livestream concert for Lake Macquarie City Council. Connor's playlist for that performance included covers of classic rock and pop artists, including the Bee Gees, Michael Jackson, Crowded House, Elvis Presley and Stevie Wonder. He names his biggest musical influences as the Bee Gees and Cher, and was even lucky enough to meet Cher several times: first backstage at a performance in Las Vegas in 2010, and again at the Newcastle Entertainment Centre in 2018. Connor spends several months a year busking for a range of charities, raising money for a range of worthy causes.

I look forward to following Connor as he develops as an artist, and I thank him for bringing a bit more beauty into the world during lockdown.

BRYCE HAM

Ms JODIE HARRISON (Charlestown)—Throughout 2021, the Twitter account COVIDBaseAU became an important resource for many Australians trying to understand the pandemic. Once they were able to get vaccinated, the operators of the account revealed themselves to be three high school students from Melbourne. Thankfully for many residents of the Hunter, we've had a local source for all things data-driven which have come out of COVID—young Charlestown electorate resident Bryce Ham. Bryce, an eighteen-year-old public transport enthusiast and avid follower of COVID-19 statistics, has been keeping Charlestown locals up to date with detailed, accessible and easily understood COVID-19 analyses which he has shared through his Twitter account and his website. Mostly self-taught, Bryce has spent twenty to thirty minutes each morning manually uploading information into his website to help illustrate how cases, testing and vaccination are trending in the Hunter. Bryce is heading into his HSC exam period and is hoping to get into university to use his skills to help shape cities as an urban planner. I wish him all the best for his studies, and I can't wait to see what comes next for this brilliant young local.

DARREN BLANCH ART

Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS (Dubbo)—I would like to acknowledge Wellington artist Darren Blanch, whose artwork has been selected for a world charity auction in the USA. A visually impaired graphic artist, Darren has overcome anxiety to launch himself fully into the art scene and is a member of Wellington Arts. Honoured that one of his artworks was chosen for this opportunity, Darren's piece entitled "Nothing to Say", is one of only 20 pieces by visually impaired artists selected for the 2022 Glaucoma Research Foundation of USA's auction. In past years the auctions have raised upwards of \$500,000 for the foundation. Darren is now working with a writer from Coonabarabran on a graphic novel collaboration, which he will be illustrating. The novel is about a disabled person in rural NSW, and will be released in print and online with audio, screen reading, and graphic description in late 2022. Congratulations Darren. I am looking forward to hearing how the auction goes and checking out the novel when it's released.

GEMMA CAMPION ROTARY RURAL INSPIRATIONAL WOMAN OF THE YEAR

Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS (Dubbo)—I would like to take this time to congratulate Dubbo woman Gemma Campion, who was named as the 2021 Rotary Rural Inspirational Woman of the Year. 25-year-old Gemma was announced the winner at virtual ceremony on Sunday, September 19. Diagnosed with scoliosis at 16, Gemma discovered there was limited support in Australia for people with Scoliosis and contacted the New York based founder of Curvy Girls. Essentially the Australian Curvy Girls branch was born from that moment and Gemma has been recognised for efforts in supporting others going through the same diagnosis as her by establishing the support group. She has spent countless hours getting the group up and running. Even fundraising enough for herself and seven others to travel to New York for the Curvy Girls Annual Conference, so they could meet other people from the around the world who have scoliosis. Gemma feels her greatest achievement is the success of the support group, and the joy it has brought to members. Congratulations Gemma! Keep up the amazing work.

IZZY KELLY

Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS (Dubbo)—I want to take a moment to recognise 9-year-old Izzy Kelly from Dubbo. During the lockdown, Izzy was worried about elderly people feeling lonely and isolated ... so she decided to put her crafting skills to good use. Izzy made 50 cards and delivered them into mailboxes at a local retirement village. Izzy said she felt excited and brave when she delivered the cards, and hoped they'd make people smile during a challenging and lonely time. This isn't the first time Izzy's used her craft skills to help others ... after the 2019-20 bushfires she sewed over 100 pouches for rescued joeys. In March she was our youngest finalist in the 2021 NSW Women of the Year 'One to Watch' Awards, and it's clear that experience gave her even more inspiration to keep giving back. Great work Izzy, and I can't wait to see your next project!

AUSMUMPRENEUR AWARDS

Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS (Dubbo)—I want to congratulate six Dubbo electorate women who were finalists in the recent 2021 AusMumpreneur Awards. The awards recognise women who are fulfilling their entrepreneurial dreams while balancing motherhood. Dubbo's Louise Matheson does just that! A bit over two years ago she started her own business – The Administration Agency – and now she supports other growing regional businesses! Louise claimed the Virtual Assistant Business of the Year Award. Mudgee's Peta Ryan was awarded bronze in the Emerging AusMumpreneur category. Dubbo 'mumpreneurs' Errin Williamson and Tenelle Bond were finalists in the regional business category, while Kristie Harris of Indifferent Avocado was a

finalist in the fashion design and people's choice customer service categories. Amee Dennis of Quentin Park Alpacas and Studio Gallery at Tomingley was a finalist in the handmade business, product design and rural and remote business categories. It's really no surprise to see our region is home to so many amazing mumpreneurs – well done, and congratulations to each one of you.

CLEAN4SHORE PROGRAM – KINCUMBER HIGH SCHOOL

Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal)—In June this year the student group from Kincumber High School, participated in the Clean4Shore program dragging twelve oyster trays and eleven baskets from the mangroves of Kincumber Broadwater. The mangroves at Davistown adjacent to the large local club also had issues with 130 beer bottles removed from the mangroves adjacent to the rowing club storage area. The club officials were advised of the find. The mangroves adjacent to the grassed area of the same club had dozens of "balls". Football, soccer, netball and tennis balls were collected by the students and those in good condition were recycled back to the High School. Sixteen very full bags of rubbish plus treated pine were also hauled out by the students. The nest site required a bit of "trudging" through the shallow tidal water behind South Kincumber channel. More Oyster trays and baskets were again removed as well as 5 bags of small litter and marine ply. Nearly 500kilos of rubbish all up was loaded up and taken to the local tip. Lunch was supplied by Clean4shore to complete a great productive morning on the water. Well done Kincumber High School Students and supporting teacher, Megan.

MARK HUGHES FOUNDATION

Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal)—In mid-June this year the University of Newcastle received a philanthropic commitment of \$7.5m over five years from the Mark Hughes Foundation (MHF) to establish a dedicated brain cancer team in Newcastle. The gift will allow the College of Health Medicine and Wellbeing to take brain cancer research to the next level, building on the work of others, including MHF partners at the Hunter Medical Research Institute (HMRI) and the Brain Cancer Group. This year, the Mark Hughes Foundation (MHF) had "The Big Three" trek with trekkers walking 150km from NRL Headquarters in Sydney, through the Central Coast and on to McDonald Jones Stadium in Newcastle across three days raising funds and awareness for Foundation. Many Central Coast residents participated in all of or part of the trek as well as donating to this worthy cause. The Mark Hughes Foundation was established by Mark and his wife Kirralee in 2014 after Mark was diagnosed with high grade brain cancer. It has garnered enormous support from across Australia. In less than 8 years they have raised more than \$20m to support Mark and many others in their fight against brain cancer.

**The House adjourned, pursuant to resolution, at 20:13 until
Wednesday 13 October 2021 at 9:30.**