



New South Wales

Legislative Assembly

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES (HANSARD)

**Fifty-Seventh Parliament
First Session**

Tuesday, 16 November 2021

Authorised by the Parliament of New South Wales

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 16 November 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

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY CHAMBER FILMING

The SPEAKER: I note for the benefit of members that approval has been given to a videographer and production assistant from a production company to film proceedings of the Chamber today at noon and during question time from the gallery and side doors. The purpose of the footage is to update an educational video resource of the Parliament.

Bills

CUSTOMER SERVICE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2021

Returned

The SPEAKER: I report receipt of a message from the Legislative Council returning the Customer Service Legislation Amendment Bill 2021 with amendments. I order that consideration of the Legislative Council's amendments be set down as an order of the day for a later hour of the sitting.

Business of the House

ROUTINE OF BUSINESS: WEEK COMMENCING 16 NOVEMBER 2021

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN: By leave: I move:

That, in addition to the resolution of 21 October 2021, the routine of business for the House for the sitting week commencing 16 November 2021 be further 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 16 November 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.

Motion agreed to.

Bills

PLASTIC REDUCTION AND CIRCULAR ECONOMY BILL 2021

Consideration in Detail

Consideration of the Legislative Council's amendments.

*Schedule of amendments referred to in message of 12 November 2021***No. 1 OPP No. 1 [c2021-154]**

Page 30, Schedule 1, clause 3. Insert after line 3—

- (e) plastic single-use bowls,
- (f) plastic single-use plates.

No. 2 OPP No. 1 [c2021-160]

Page 30, Schedule 1, proposed clause 3. Insert after line 4—

bowl excludes a bowl designed or intended to have a spill-proof lid whether separate or attached.

Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore) (12:05): On behalf of Mr Matt Kean: I move:

That the Legislative Council amendments be agreed to.

I am pleased to be before the House to move that the Legislative Council amendments be agreed to and to finalise this legislation, which will support a paradigm shift in the way in which products are made, used and disposed of in New South Wales. The Plastic Reduction and Circular Economy Bill 2021 will support the New South Wales Government's commitment to reduce plastic waste and to protect the New South Wales environment. It will enable the Government to prohibit problematic or unnecessary plastic items, to set design standards for items for environmental, human health or economic purposes, and to establish mandatory product stewardship requirements for brand owners of regulated products. It will help New South Wales transition towards a circular economy, where resources are valued and kept in the productive economy, while protecting jobs, the environment and our communities.

I acknowledge the Opposition and the Hon. Penny Sharpe for moving two constructive amendments, which the Government supports. These amendments add plastic single-use bowls and plastic single-use plates to clause 3 of the prohibited plastic items under schedule 1 to the bill. The amendments also clarify that the prohibition on the supply of plastic single-use bowls will not apply to a bowl designed or intended to have a spill-proof lid, whether separate or attached. Currently, there are no suitable and easily accessible alternatives available for single-use bowls used to contain liquids, such as soup. These types of bowls are generally designed for use with a spill-proof lid, unlike a standard picnic bowl. To address this issue, the New South Wales Government supported the prohibition of plastic single-use bowls so long as the definition of "bowl" excluded a bowl designed or intended to have a spill-proof lid, whether separate or attached. This definition has been included in the amendments. These amendments mean that plastic single-use bowls and plastic single-use plates will be prohibited from 1 November 2022.

The New South Wales Government will also consider whether any exemptions for printed paper plates and bowls are appropriate to account for the current lack of food-safe printed alternatives. This will be undertaken in consultation with the industry. Like the other single-use plastic items to be prohibited, plastic bowls and plates are significant contributors to the litter stream. As the Opposition noted in the other place, by adding single-use plastic plates and bowls we will more closely harmonise with other eastern States, making it easier for businesses and the community. Single-use plastic plates and bowls are also included in the list of problematic single-use plastics agreed by Federal, State and Territory environment Ministers in April of this year to be phased out.

The New South Wales Government has a strong track record of protecting our environment from plastic litter and improving our recycling rates through product stewardship. The New South Wales container deposit scheme, Return and Earn, is an example of a product stewardship scheme that is bringing together industry, government and the community to improve recycling and reduce litter. This legislation will aid achieving that goal, as will the amendments from the Opposition in the other place. Return and Earn is the largest plastic litter reduction initiative in the country. Beverage containers used to be among the most highly littered items in the State. Bottles, cans and cartons make up a large proportion of the litter on our streets, beaches and green spaces. Tackling the problem costs New South Wales millions of dollars every year. However, since the start of Return and Earn in 2017, the scheme has played an instrumental role in reducing drink container litter by an average of 40 per cent per annum.

Return and Earn is an effective way to drive community buy-in to recycling and product stewardship. It helps communities with their litter problem and ensures that individuals are rewarded for their efforts. There are currently 600 Return and Earn return points across New South Wales. Of these 600 locations, there are four types of return points: reverse vending machines, which include centres; automated depots; over-the-counter sites; and donation stations. Reverse vending machines are the most visible and allow community members to return smaller quantities of containers—up to 500—in any one transaction. Another important component of the Return and Earn scheme is the participation of schools and schoolchildren. Collecting containers is a great way for

students and the school community to reduce litter, to learn about sustainability and recycling, and to raise funds for school or community projects.

Return and Earn has collected more than six billion containers since it began and has paid more than \$600 million in container refunds to individuals, families and community groups. This has led to the recycling of more than 420,000 tonnes of material since the scheme began. The outstanding success of the Return and Earn scheme is abundantly clear from the strong demand and usage by the Government. During COVID-19 the public health orders meant that Return and Earn reverse vending machines were closed to limit movement to help curb the spread of COVID-19. Throughout this period a number of electorate offices and the Minister's office were contacted by community members who were concerned about the closure of the machines. This in itself shows the overwhelming support for and take-up of the scheme from our community.

Reducing plastic waste and protecting our environment are key priorities for this Government. We will continue to work with industry and the community on this important issue, as well as seizing the opportunities as we transition towards a more circular economy. This legislation is the next tranche of that work. We know that for too long many brand owners have been profiting from the sale of products without having to consider their impact on the environment or the cost of disposing of the products at the end of their life. This bill will support a paradigm shift in the way in which products are made, used and disposed of. It will help transition New South Wales towards a circular economy. While we acknowledge some brand owners have demonstrated leadership and innovation, and have considered the environmental impacts of their products across their full life cycle, we know that more work is needed.

The bill allows for product stewardship requirements to be established by regulation for brand owners of regulated products. This will help to shift the responsibility for products back onto the businesses that profit from their sale and will drive the transition to a more circular economy. The bill will drive better outcomes for our State and our environment. By making brand owners responsible for managing the whole life cycle of their products, we will ensure they have skin in the game to improve the environmental and economic outcomes of their products. This will motivate brand owners to assess the impacts of their products. They will now have to better consider how their products are made and disposed of, and their impacts on the environment. This will drive innovation so brand owners make better products for a circular economy.

In June this year the Government released the NSW Plastics Action Plan. The plan forms a key part of the Government's *NSW Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy 2041*, which is our plan to transition to a circular economy over the next 20 years. The Plastics Action Plan focuses on the management of plastic across its life cycle, from production and consumption to disposal and recycling. A key action under the Plastics Action Plan was the introduction of this legislation to reduce harmful plastics, including requirements to make producers and brand owners of plastic packaging more responsible for the impacts of plastics packaging. The Plastics Action Plan also commits to strengthening product stewardship for packaging brand owners who are not signatories to the Australian Packaging Covenant Organisation [APCO] in order to align with the 2025 National Packaging Targets.

Plastic packaging makes up nearly 30 per cent of all plastic used in New South Wales every year, with the most recent report from APCO finding only 16 per cent of this was recycled. This means that in 2019-20 more than 900,000 tonnes of plastic packaging went to landfill. This bill will level the playing field and ensure that all businesses who contribute to the packaging waste problem can be made responsible for managing this issue. Small businesses with annual turnover of less than \$5 million do not contribute significantly to the packaging problem so will be exempt from meeting these requirements. The New South Wales Government will also investigate product stewardship for brand owners of tobacco products to help manage the scourge of cigarette litter.

The people of New South Wales want our Government to take effective and responsible action on plastic waste. We know that the discussion paper that we released in 2020 received more than 16,000 responses and strong support for product stewardship schemes. Ninety-three per cent of community respondents believed that companies should be held more accountable for their plastic packaging. Environmental groups, councils and waste and recycling groups shared that sentiment. We listened, and the product stewardship provisions within the bill include the ability to set mandatory product stewardship targets and requirements, such as targets related to recycled content or recovery of a regulated product. This will help to ensure that brand owners will account for the environmental costs of their products, instead of treating those impacts as external to their business models, and it will help drive innovative changes towards more circular products and systems.

I acknowledge several people who have helped to deliver the bill. Firstly, I thank the Opposition and crossbench members for their support, particularly the Hon. Penny Sharpe in the other place. I thank Ms Cate Faehrmann, the Hon. Emma Hurst, Mr David Shoebridge and Mr Justin Field for their longstanding support for action on plastics and their contribution to the debate. The broad support for the bill across the Parliament

demonstrates the collective desire of our community to address the impacts of plastic and to drive New South Wales towards a circular economy.

I also acknowledge the assistance of the many people who have provided input into the bill. I thank the members of the expert reference group, which included representatives from the Boomerang Alliance, Physical Disability Australia, the Restaurant and Catering Industry Association, the Australian Packaging Covenant Organisation, the Australian Industry Group, the National Retail Association and the Australian Hotels Association. These experts all devoted a significant amount of time to considering all the issues involved and ensuring that the bill was fit for purpose. I thank the officials in the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment and the Environment Protection Authority who have contributed to the development of the bill, including Emily Yip, Justin Koek, Susan Read, Flynn Reyners, Larissa Grien, Jos Ellison, Mel Bromley, Suzie Wight, Rosa O'Connor and April Eisner. I also recognise the Minister's staff, particularly Christian Dunk and Dimitry Palmer, whose passion, dedication and commitment were instrumental in delivering this nation-leading reform.

Finally, and most importantly, I thank the members of our community, environmental organisations, schoolchildren, businesses and others that have campaigned for action on plastics. Whether it be through local awareness campaigns or submissions to government, these people have put in the time and effort over many years to create change. These are the people that are already making a difference to our environment through their own behaviours and their influence on the broader community. Their voices have been heard by the New South Wales Government and this Parliament, and they should be proud of what they have achieved. The bill represents a great milestone for the environment and an important step in how we address the harmful impacts of plastics and set our economy up for the future. I commend the Legislative Council's amendments to the House.

Ms KATE WASHINGTON (Port Stephens) (12:17): On behalf of the Opposition, I address the amendments moved by Labor in the upper House to the Plastic Reduction and Circular Economy Bill 2021. Alongside all of my Labor colleagues and, I am sure, all members in this place, I am pleased to finally see the Government moving in the right direction when it comes to protecting our environment from the harmful impacts of plastics. For the record, the Liberal-Nationals have been in government for almost 11 years now. For the Parliamentary Secretary to say many nice things today about what this reform will achieve is very frustrating for those members and communities who have been pushing for years for this Government to take action on plastics. It has taken almost 11 years for concrete action to have been taken.

We are pleased that this is finally happening, but I must say for the record that it should have happened a long time ago. The Parliamentary Secretary claims that this is nation-leading reform. New South Wales has come very last in the race towards reducing plastics in our environment when every other State and Territory in Australia—let alone internationally—has already moved to reduce plastics in the environment and has banned single-use plastic bags. Worldwide there are hundreds of countries that have already moved on this. New South Wales has been the environmental lagger when it comes to reducing plastics. It is galling to hear the Parliamentary Secretary say today that this legislation is nation-leading reform. I feel like I am living in a dystopian environment and it is only the beginning of the week.

Further I make the point that on four occasions the Labor Opposition introduced bills to the Parliament banning the use of single-use plastic bags in New South Wales. On two occasions the Government allowed the bills to lapse because it did not want to vote on them. On two occasions it could not avoid the vote, and on both occasions every Liberal and Nationals member of Parliament in this place voted against banning single-use plastic bags. That was two years ago in 2019. On the last occasion not only did every Liberal and Nationals member support the continuing use of single-use plastic bags—allowing millions and millions of them to continue to enter our environment through our landfills and waterways over the past two years until we are finally taking some action—but also on that occasion the Minister came to the House and said, "We cannot possibly support banning single-use plastic bags because I want to introduce a more comprehensive plastics plan." That is what he said and what all Government members voted for in support of his position to present a more comprehensive plastics plan.

When the bill finally came back and was presented to the Parliament, it was not comprehensive and it took Labor to move amendments to include single-use plastic bowls and plates in the list of items to be phased out. Then it started to look comprehensive and in line with the plans for reducing plastics in other States and Territories. All members on the Labor side have been pushing for action on plastics for a long time to reduce single-use plastic bags entering our waterways and landfills. The impact that has had on our native flora and fauna in the time since it could have been banned is something that the Government must wear. I thank the Minister for Energy and Environment for finally bringing a plan to this place. I particularly thank the Labor shadow Minister for the Environment, the Hon. Penny Sharpe, for pushing the Government to act on plastics.

I mention something that was raised during the second reading debate by a number of members, and that is the importance of supporting industry as we head towards a more circular economy. I have spoken to many

different innovators and operators working in the waste and waste reduction sectors. They are crying out for the Government to listen to them more because they have solutions. They say that the Government has not been listening. During the debate I heard members say that this is a step. I put on record that the Government must take another very important step to ensure that industry has the support it needs to allow us to reduce plastic waste in our environment and to head towards the circular economy that we all want to see. With those comments on the importance of the bill, particularly as amended by the upper House in accordance with the amendments moved by Labor, I commend the bill to the House.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Lee Evans): The question is that the Legislative Council amendments be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

CUSTOMER SERVICE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2021

Consideration in Detail

Consideration of the Legislative Council's amendments.

Schedule of amendments referred to in message of 12 November 2021

No. 1 GOVT No. 1 [c2021-187A]

Page 4, Schedule 1.4[2], lines 23 and 24. Omit all words on those lines. Insert instead—

the use of the information for the secondary purpose meets the following conditions—

- (i) the secondary purpose is to assist in a stage of an emergency,
- (ii) the use of the information is reasonably necessary to assist in the stage of the emergency,
- (iii) it is impracticable or unreasonable for the organisation to seek the consent of the individual to whom the information relates to the use of the information for the secondary purpose, or

No. 2 GOVT No. 2 [c2021-187A]

Page 4, Schedule 1.4[3], lines 28 and 29. Omit all words on those lines. Insert instead—

the disclosure of the information for the secondary purpose meets the following conditions—

- (i) the secondary purpose is to assist in a stage of an emergency,
- (ii) the disclosure of the information is reasonably necessary to assist in the stage of the emergency,
- (iii) it is impracticable or unreasonable for the organisation to seek the consent of the individual to whom the information relates to the disclosure of the information for the secondary purpose, or

No. 3 GOVT No. 3 [c2021-187A]

Page 4, Schedule 1.4. Insert after line 29—

[4] Schedule 1, clause 16

Insert after clause 15—

16 Use and disclosure of health information in emergencies

If health information is used or disclosed under clause 10(1)(b1) or 11(1)(b1)—

- (a) the organisation must not hold the information for longer than 18 months, unless extenuating circumstances apply or consent has been obtained, and
- (b) if the organisation is a law enforcement agency—the agency must not use the information for the purpose of prosecuting an offence.

No. 4 OPP No. 1 [c2021-146E]

Page 6, Schedule 1.8. Insert after line 39—

[1A] Section 12A Extended hours for dedicated live music and performance venues

Omit section 12A(1). Insert instead—

- (1) This section applies to a dedicated live music and performance venue.

[1B] Section 12A(2)

Omit "30". Insert instead "60".

No. 5 GOVT No. 1 [c2021-185]

Page 11, Schedule 1.12. Insert after line 3—

[1AA] Long title

Omit "high-risk". Insert instead "subject".

No. 6 **GOVT No. 2 [c2021-185]**

Page 11, Schedule 1.12. Insert after line 3—

[1AB] Section 3 Definitions

Omit section 3, definition of *ambulance forward commander*.

Insert instead—

ambulance forward commander means the NSW Ambulance commander at an incident or emergency site or an event who is responsible for the command of all NSW Ambulance personnel at the site or event.

No. 7 **GOVT No. 3 [c2021-185]**

Page 11, Schedule 1.12. Insert after line 7—

[1A] Section 3, definition of "high-risk festival"

Omit the definition.

[1B] Section 3

Insert in alphabetical order—

subject festival means a music festival that, under section 5, ILGA decides would be more appropriately delivered with an approved safety management plan.

[1C] Sections 5, heading, (1), (2) and (2)(e), 6(1), (2) and (4)(a), 7, 8(1) and (1)(a), 9(1), 10(1), (2)(a) and (5), definition of prescribed entity, paragraph (f) and 11(1) and (2)

Omit "high-risk", wherever occurring.

Insert instead "subject", respectively.

No. 8 **GOVT No. 4 [c2021-185]**

Page 11, Schedule 1.12. Insert after line 7—

[1D] Section 6 Contents of safety management plans

Omit section 6(2)(b). Insert instead—

(b) if the organiser has given ILGA notice, in the approved form and submitted using an approved electronic system, at least 90 days before the festival is to be held of the intention to hold the festival—at least 60 days before the festival is to be held, or

(c) within the shorter period decided by ILGA.

[1E] Section 6(5)

Insert after section 6(4)—

(5) In this section—

approved means approved by ILGA.

No. 9 **GOVT No. 5 [c2021-185]**

Page 11, Schedule 1.12. Insert after line 7—

[1F] Section 10(5)(g)

Insert after section 10(5)(f)—

(g) Ambulance Service of NSW.

No. 10 **OPP No. 13 [c2021-146E]**

Page 11. Insert after line 29—

[3] Section 20A

Insert after section 20—

20A Requirements relating to implementing outcomes of review of objectives of Act

(1) The Minister must ensure all reasonable steps are taken, by 30 June 2022, to implement the following recommendations under the Review of the operation of the Music Festivals Act 2019—

(a) recommendation 5,

(b) recommendation 10,

- (c) recommendation 12.
- (2) If a recommendation mentioned in subsection (1) has not been implemented by 30 June 2022, the Minister must, by 1 September 2022, prepare, and table in each House of Parliament, a report detailing the progress that has been made in implementing the recommendation.
- (3) In this section—
Review of the operation of the Music Festivals Act 2019 means the document of that title published by the NSW Government dated June 2020.

No. 11 GOVT No. 4 [c2021-187A]

Page 12, Schedule 1.14, lines 12 and 13. Omit all words on those lines. Insert instead—

information if—

- (a) the collection, use or disclosure of the information is reasonably necessary to assist in a stage of an emergency, and
- (b) the collection, use or disclosure is only for the purpose of assisting in the stage of the emergency, and
- (c) it is impracticable or unreasonable to seek the consent of the individual to whom the information relates to the collection, use or disclosure for the purpose of assisting in the stage of the emergency.

No. 12 GOVT No. 5 [c2021-187A]

Page 12, Schedule 1.14. Insert after line 18—

- (3) If personal information is collected, used or disclosed under this section—
 - (a) the public sector agency must not hold the information for longer than 18 months, unless extenuating circumstances apply or consent has been obtained, and
 - (b) if the public sector agency is a law enforcement agency—the agency must not use the information for the purpose of a prosecuting an offence.

No. 13 OPP No. 1 [c2021-186]

Page 13. Insert after line 41—

1.16A Road Rules 2014**Rule 179 Stopping in a loading zone**

Insert after rule 179(1)(c)(iii)—

Note— For example, a driver may stop in a loading zone to deliver music equipment at a venue.

Mr VICTOR DOMINELLO (Ryde—Minister for Customer Service, and Minister for Digital) (12:25): I move:

That the Legislative Council amendments be agreed to.

Amendments have been made in the other place to expand incentives for live music and performance venues across New South Wales. They allow these venues an extra hour of liquor trading on nights they schedule live music or other arts or creative events. The Government recently made separate regulatory amendments to refine the available incentives for live music and performance venues. We have expanded access to the existing incentives, which include 80 per cent reductions on annual licence fees, to all venues that received funding support as tier one and tier two venues through our Live Music Support Package. We have also introduced a new 80 per cent discount on fees where live music and performance venues wish to apply for permanent extensions to their trading hours, whether they are for one hour or even longer. This has created an ongoing, low-cost pathway for these venues to obtain extended hours to support their viability where nearby residents and businesses also have a chance to get involved and have a say through the licensing process.

I take this opportunity to thank the Live Music Office and the APRA AMCOS for their contributions as we have continued to look at and refine these incentives, and extend support to the industry. The Government strongly supports live music and performance venues, and wants to see them thrive as the State emerges further from COVID-19 restrictions. We have raised some concerns in the other place about the Opposition's amendments to provide a full extra hour of liquor trading across New South Wales without consulting affected communities or allowing potential liquor and gambling harm or policing impacts to be considered first. We do have reservations about cutting communities out of the process in this way and, while we will not oppose progressing with the amended bill today, we will carefully monitor the rollout of these additional changes.

We want to see this industry flourish, and a balanced approach to regulation that supports vibrant and engaged local communities where there are more opportunities for musicians and performers. To this end, we hope to see venues making use of these further extensions responsibly and engaging in a constructive way with residents and businesses about the benefits, as well as addressing any concerns about late-night noise or amenity impacts. The amended bill also introduces a range of changes to the Music Festivals Act that help to address the Government's response to the Music Festival Roundtable's review of the operation of that Act. Amendments have been made in the other place to remove all references to high-risk music festivals in the Act. Instead, these festivals will be referred to as subject music festivals to reflect that these festivals are subject to the requirement to have an approved safety management plan.

The Government put forward amendments that will allow safety management plans to be submitted to the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority 60 days before a music festival starts, provided the organiser notifies the authority early of their intentions to hold the festival. That sensible amendment to the bill aims to support good practice and give those well-organised operators that engage early an extra 30 days to develop and submit their safety management plans for approval. Amendments have also been made in the other place to require the Minister to table a progress report on the implementation of several recommendations in the Music Festival Roundtable's review of the Act. Those will add a further layer of accountability and transparency around the actions we are already taking to implement our response to the roundtable's review.

Other amendments to the Act include straightforward changes to correct the definition of "ambulance forward commander" and also to ensure that Ambulance NSW is listed as a prescribed entity that may formally request a health service provider briefing if needed. I conclude by referencing an article in *The Guardian* from November last year, which made reference to the reforms that the Government has undertaken in relation to the live music industry. It stated:

The live performance industry has described the overnight passage of the Liquor Amendment (24-hour Economy) Bill 2020 through the lower house of NSW state parliament as the biggest overhaul of legislation restricting the now Covid-19 ravaged industry in the state's history.

I am absolutely thrilled to be part of a government that has enacted the biggest overhaul in the State's history. The article goes on:

"It's a bucket list of a bucket list," said John Wardle, the policy director for the Live Music Office.

"No longer can the bureaucracy dictate what genre of music a venue is allowed to play, how many musicians are allowed to play, how many and what kind of instruments are allowed to be played, and what direction they can play in. The changes really are monumental."

Further, the Director of the Sydney Fringe Festival, Kerri Glasscock, said it was a "once-in-a-lifetime suite of changes" and that the fringe festival relies heavily on the "adaptive and temporary reuse of space, from shopfronts to warehouses to restaurants." Kerri Glasscock went on to say:

"NSW has for many years fallen short in supporting and clearing the way for cultural activity to be possible and it now leads the country in best practice so it's very exciting ... I think it will have a knock-on effect to other states in the future."

The bill is the product of years of research and negotiation between the government and the industry, and has drawn upon the more liberal live performance and liquor legislation found in almost every other state and territory in Australia.

I am also particularly passionate about the bill because of my stewardship of digital.nsw. In the not too distant future we will move to an increasingly more creative economy. Artificial intelligence and robotics will do a lot more work, but we must invest in our creative side because that is our absolute add-value proposition. If we can invest in the creatives, that gives us a very strong future in a world that is changing so much. I am so proud of the legislation because it really does futureproof our State given the way trends are moving. Beyond that, it is critical that we support the arts, and live music is a cornerstone of that, particularly in New South Wales. I commend the bill and the amendments to the House.

Ms YASMIN CATLEY (Swansea) (12:33): Further to the Minister's comments about the support that members in this place have for the live music industry, we really will work together to make sure the momentum continues. I know that the vintage of the Minister is the same as mine—we are groovers from the eighties.

Mr Anoulack Chanthivong: You are still groovy.

Ms YASMIN CATLEY: Yes, that is true. We are still groovy. Minister, did you hear that? It is now in *Hansard*. With the enormity of talent that we have in this country, we want to make sure that future generations have the same experience as we did. The Minister and I have visited many reputable sites up and down the coast and we have listened to extraordinary music from the eighties and nineties.

Mr Geoff Provest: You wouldn't have been of age, would you?

Ms YASMIN CATLEY: We are very young, the Minister and I. I look forward to working very closely with him. On behalf of the Labor Opposition, I speak to the Customer Service Legislation Amendment Bill 2021. I acknowledge the efforts of the Minister and his staff, who as always have been extraordinary to work with, for working with the Opposition and the crossbench to improve the bill. In my contribution to the second reading debate I raised several concerns the Opposition had with the bill. I am pleased that the Government has moved amendments to address those concerns, in particular about the changes to the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998 and the Health Records and Information Privacy Act 2002. The Opposition was not alone in its criticism of those proposed changes, with crossbench members also raising concerns.

The original bill allowed for information to be shared if it is reasonably necessary to respond to an emergency. Not only was there little oversight over how long that information could be kept by agencies, but it was also not consistent with recommendation 71 of the NSW Bushfire Inquiry, which called for the Government to design a person-centred approach to information collection at evacuation centres. That would allow for information to be shared between New South Wales government agencies. Importantly, the inquiry recommended that should be supported by an opt-in scheme enabling personal information to be shared. It is a positive outcome that the bill has been amended to state that information may only be shared without consent if it is reasonably necessary to assist in the stage of an emergency and if it is impracticable or unreasonable for the organisation to seek the consent of the individual to whom the information relates.

The use of the information is now more highly regulated, which Opposition members were very pleased to see, with the bill making clear that an organisation must not hold the information for longer than 18 months unless extenuating circumstances apply or consent has been obtained. It also makes clear that the information cannot be used by a law enforcement agency for the purpose of prosecuting an offence. I thank the Government for accepting those amendments, and I acknowledge Commissioner Fitzsimons for his counsel and consultation on those matters. I thank Minister Dominello for convening that consultation. The Labor Opposition is very pleased to have had those conversations.

Those commonsense changes will only improve the bill as a whole. I note that following stakeholder feedback the Minister has moved amendments in this House to remove changes to the Betting and Racing Act 1998 and to address an issue in schedule 1.16 to the bill that would have amended the Registered Clubs Act 1976 to require a club to specify its membership fee amount in its constitution. I thank Racing NSW CEO Peter V'landys, ClubsNSW CEO Joss Landis and their teams for consulting with the Labor Opposition and the Government to make sure that those very important amendments were achieved and for their continued advocacy for their important industries.

An amendment to the Community Land Management Act 2021 will incorporate the temporary regulation-making powers that allow community schemes to continue to function under COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, as currently contained in the Community Land Management Act 1989. I mention the work that the Labor Opposition did with crossbench members in the other place, in particular the Hon. Rod Roberts and Mr David Shoebridge. I also thank my colleagues the Hon. Mick Veitch; the Hon. Courtney Houssos, shadow Minister for Better Regulation and Innovation; and the Hon. John Graham, shadow Minister for the Night Time Economy and Music. In particular, I give the Hon. John Graham a shout-out for working to pass crucial amendments, as the Minister alluded to, to support the live music industry. They included extending trading hours for live music venues from 30 minutes to 60 minutes and allowing musicians to utilise loading zones to unpack their equipment.

There were some major wins to support the festival industry in this State, including removing high-risk terminology in reference to festivals along with the amendment to ensure that all reasonable steps are taken by 30 June 2022 for the Minister to implement recommendations 5, 10 and 12 of the review into the Music Festivals Act 2019. The live music industry has been through an horrific past 18 months. These amendments will help support the industry to recover, but we should aim higher than that. I have confidence in the Minister that he will do that and we will work together. In New South Wales the music industry has untapped potential for jobs growth and there is no reason we should not be exporting music from this State.

With the indulgence of the House—and I am sure the Minister will not mind—it would be remiss of me not to give a plug for the Parliamentary Friends of Music, which will celebrate Ausmusic T-shirt Day on Thursday at 1.30 p.m. on the steps of Parliament House. To really throw our support behind the live music industry, I ask all members to don their favourite T-shirt from an Australian music band or indeed an artist. Come on, Minister, I know you have Daryl Braithwaite in the bottom drawer. I look forward to the Minister getting that out and I also look forward to us standing there together and showing our solidarity with the Australian music industry. Once again, I thank the Minister and his staff and members of the crossbench for working with the Opposition to help improve the bill.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Lee Evans): The question is that the Legislative Council amendments be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

GAMING MACHINE TAX AMENDMENT (PROMOTIONAL PRIZES) BILL 2021

Second Reading Debate

Debate resumed from 10 November 2021.

Mr ANOULACK CHANTHIVONG (Macquarie Fields) (12:41): I lead for the Opposition in debate on the Gaming Machine Tax Amendment (Promotional Prizes) Bill 2021. The bill clarifies several definitions in the Gaming Machine Tax Act 2001 to ensure consistency across the State in applying tax collection practices on gaming machines. The bill is largely a housekeeping measure, and the Opposition will not oppose it. The changes provide certainty for gaming machine operators and potentially avoid future litigation about whether types of promotional prizes are considered legal bets that are liable for taxation purposes. With the significant changes in gaming technology, a bet can be placed using a range of monetary and non-monetary methods. Our laws require regular updating to provide certainty and consistency for taxpayers and our tax revenue system.

Whilst there exists some understanding between operators and the New South Wales Government on whether such bets are taxable, these amendments give certainty for all parties involved. Schedule 1 inserts the updated definitions of outgoings, promotional prizes, progressive jackpot prizes, winnings and revenue that now include the use of promotional prizes. These definitional changes inevitably influence State revenue from gaming machines. As reported in July this year, Crown casino had to pay back \$61 million in underpaid taxes after the Victorian royal commission found that incorrect deductions involving reward bonuses were provided to poker machine players. We want to avoid that situation in New South Wales.

Whilst the bill is relatively semantic in its nature, it provides me with the opportunity to pass some comments on the Liberal Government and its use of taxpayer money, given that we are debating taxation purposes of what is considered to be a bet. Let me start with some punter lingo: The odds of winning Powerball are between one in 76 million or one in 134 million; the odds of winning a million dollars in Lotto are one in eight million; and the odds of winning the top prize on the pokies are about one in 9.7 million. On any assessment, the odds of winning on these games of chance are somewhat astronomical. Yet they pale into insignificance compared with an everyday punter's odds in Sydney's west, south-west and regional areas of getting a fair go from this Liberal Government. If this Liberal Government was a casino and subject to inspection, it would surely lose its licence and if it was a bookmaker, it would surely be run off the track.

Sadly, no amount of regulation or legislation will improve the odds for the average punter when it comes to getting its fair share from this Government because, under this Government, the odds are always stacked towards the house. Tollway owners, developers, lobbyists and consultants always win the jackpot under this Government. For them, it is always pay day. But we know that for every winner there are always multiple losers, and in this State it is not hard to find them—toll users, elective surgery patients, kids in hot classrooms, people trying to crack the property market, TAFE students, commuters inconvenienced by numerous transport bungs and that does not include all those who live in non-Liberal seats and who, by default, miss out on Government spending in every budget.

There are losers everywhere under this Liberal Government. The "gamble responsibly" warning is well known in New South Wales; it is a pity that this Government does not heed its own warning when it comes to spending taxpayers' money. Perhaps recent investigations by the ICAC will be the catalyst for this Liberal Government to finally accept that it must also spend responsibly. I could go on ad nauseam about how this Government could raise the bar and spend responsibly, fairly and in the public interest. For example, it could heed its own department's advice and accept the data that lifts need to be installed at my local station in Macquarie Fields, or it could save billions of dollars in budget blowouts and build transport infrastructure locally. The door of this working-class economist is always open if the Government needs ideas.

Clarity and certainty are the themes of the bill before us at the moment. They are themes that I support, and the Opposition will not oppose this bill. My wish is that tax revenue that is collected under this bill is spent by the Liberal Government responsibly, fairly, and according to need and evidence. Public money and taxpayers' dollars are not the Liberal Government's political slush fund or personal piggy bank that it can raid without any sort of accountability.

Mr GEOFF PROVEST (Tweed) (12:46): I make a contribution to debate on the Gaming Machine Tax Amendment (Promotional Prizes) Bill 2021. The bill will strengthen the Gaming Machine Tax Act 2021 by introducing legislative amendments to provide clarity to taxpayers and clubs and confirm the legislative intent of

taxing all bets placed on gaming machines regardless of the method used to place the bets. I am probably the only person in this place who has managed licensed clubs and held gaming licences—for over 300 machines at one stage here in Sydney, at the famous Revesby Workers Club, and at the Tweed Heads Bowls Club in Tweed, which is a very large club. I begin my deliberations on this bill by applauding the club movement. It is always there in times of disaster. Towns out west—in Forbes and so on—are currently facing floods. I am sure the local clubs are stepping up to the plate and offering assistance and support wherever they can. Clubs are crucial. Whether in the city or in the regions, they are great places for our local community. I cannot forget hotels. I am pretty swayed towards clubs, but hotels also provide a valuable service.

The amendments modify a number of definitions relating to the tax liability on profits. The existing definitions have been in place since the Gaming Machine Tax Act was introduced. They need to be clarified so that there is no doubt for clubs and hotels about their tax liability. All clubs and hotels endeavour to do the right thing. Having been on the other side of the fence with the club movement, I know it is sometimes difficult to understand. The gaming market is intense. A lot of people are vying for the gaming tax dollar and there are a lot of incentives or inducements being placed out there. Clubs and hotels are very heavily regulated in New South Wales at the moment. I have often had concerns about online gaming, where you can get credits, inducements and a whole raft of things. Very little online money is taxed, as the operations are usually based overseas in exotic places like the Bahamas and the Caribbean. I think that is a chief concern.

The proposed amendments are focused on key definitions under section 3 of the Gaming Machine Tax Act. The first objective of the amendments is to clarify that tax has been and will continue to be payable on bets placed on gaming machines using promotional prizes, including reward schemes or any other marketing or promotional activities offered by venues. As members may know, many clubs and hotels across New South Wales offer player reward schemes or promotional prizes to encourage players to enjoy their time on gaming machines at their venues. Under some schemes, players can accrue bonus or reward points to play on gaming machines or to claim other prizes in the venue, including food or non-alcoholic beverages.

Those points are based on the player's spending or use of the venue services, including the use of gaming machines, and cannot be exchanged for cash. Bets that are made with bonus or reward points or other promotional prizes have always been treated as taxable by Liquor & Gaming NSW under the Gaming Machine Tax Act 2001. The bill confirms that long-established understanding of the law by Liquor & Gaming NSW, and clarifies the tax liability for those clubs and hotels that offer promotional prizes, including reward schemes, thereby improving the transparency and simplicity of our tax system. The bill seeks to make it easier for taxpayers to understand their taxation obligations.

The second objective of the bill is to clarify the point at which a bet is recognised as revenue and therefore taxable for the purposes of calculating tax liability. For the purposes of calculating tax liability on profits, which is broadly calculated as revenue less outgoings, a bet becomes taxable when it is placed on a machine, rather than when money is inserted into the machine. That is a valuable point. Over the years I have found that certain people—even in this place—use the definition of profit as opposed to what is taxable and so on. We will often hear, particularly in the other place, the claiming of large profits, which is not the case because that is gross income. In conjunction with the objective, the outgoings part of the tax calculation is also clarified in the bill to be recognised when a prize, including a progressive jackpot prize, is won from playing the machine.

Those amendments provide clarity for clubs and hotels when it may be unclear as to the point at which a bet is recognised as part of the calculation of gaming machine tax. They are also consistent with the longstanding tax treatment and collection practice by Liquor & Gaming NSW. Further, the proposed legislative amendments align certain technology and concepts commonly used in other gaming machine legislation, such as the Gaming Machines Act 2001, namely replacing "money invested" with "bets". That ensures a common understanding and interpretation of gaming machine legislation by taxpayers and the regulator.

Finally, the bill clarifies that the scope of revenue from a gaming machine in the Act has always included and will continue to include bets placed through non-cash means, such as stored value cards and digital wallets. That confirms that all bets placed on the machine, regardless of the payment method used, are taxable. The amendment seeks to ensure that clubs and hotels enjoy their tax liabilities in an industry that is likely to experience further technological developments in payment options and gaming machine functionality. Many years ago when I was managing licensed clubs, that "great" Treasurer of New South Wales Michael Egan, hailing from Cronulla, introduced a poker machine tax that would have devastated the club industry. The clubs formed a consortium with ClubsNSW, when Josh Landis was around and quite a few other dignitaries.

I have been outside this place standing on the other side of the fence holding a placard with the words, "Axe the tax"—and we should axe the tax now—because it was going to have a devastating effect not only in the Tweed but also across the State. I am sick and tired of certain people in positions of power in this place making comments about the club industry. We all love our local RSLs, workers clubs, bowls clubs, golf clubs and so on.

They are run by hardworking people trying to do the right thing. But they are continually under attack from certain elements of other political parties who make spurious comments about their behaviour. At the end of the day, they are the clubs we go to in times of need.

How many of us in this place have been at a club during a natural disaster? How many politicians have been at a club for a wedding, a community meeting, a wake and so on? Clubs are where we go. I stood in Michael Egan's office and he said, "You have a very good case, but I cannot do it because I'm getting pressure from others." Good on Michael Egan wherever he is; at least he had the guts to tell us the truth. Please leave our clubs alone. They have been doing a tremendous job and will continue to do so into the future with the intent of promoting community sports. As I said, clubs are the places we all go to; this is the Australian way. Leave our clubs alone. I commend the bill to the House.

Mr MARK COURE (Oatley) (12:55): As a former director of Oatley RSL & Community Club, and as vice president of the club a few years ago, it is an honour to speak to the amendments. The bill proposes amendments to deliver key clarifications to tax payable under the Gaming Machine Tax Act 2001. Clubs and hotels in New South Wales offer reward schemes and other promotional prizes that can be used to play on a gaming machine or to claim non-monetary prizes and rewards within the venue or with participating external retail outlets. Current definitions within the Act can be ambiguous, so clarifications are needed to provide greater certainty for taxpayers. The objectives of the bill are to clarify key definitions, ensuring that bets made with promotional prizes such as bonus or reward points across clubs and hotels in New South Wales are taxable, that the point at which a bet is made is when it is taxable and that bets placed through non-cash methods are also taxable.

In doing that, the bill confirms that all bets placed on a gaming machine are taxable in accordance with the original legislative intent of the Gaming Machine Tax Act 2001, which is how Liquor & Gaming NSW has understood and applied the Act since its commencement. The first amendment in the bill relates to the definitions of revenue from a gaming machine and profits more broadly. Since the commencement of the Gaming Machine Tax Act 2001, tax has been collected on revenue that a venue has been taken to have received from bets made with promotional prizes including bonuses and reward points. That approach is consistent with the tax treatment of similar loyalty benefits offered by New South Wales casinos and bets offered by wagering operators who are liable for the New South Wales point of consumption tax. Clarifying those definitions makes it clear that a bet placed using promotional prizes is part of revenue from a gaming machine and therefore part of the calculation of taxable profits.

Taxing the use of promotional prizes on gaming machines supports the Government's commitment to reduce gambling harm across the State by making it less financially attractive to venues to offer prizes which encourage more spending on machines. The gaming machine tax disincentivises the uptake and use of gaming machines by venues. That is consistent with the Office of Responsible Gambling's vision of working towards zero gambling harm across New South Wales and aligns with the measures taken by the Government to reduce the individual and social costs from harmful gambling. The measures include introducing strong gambling advertising restrictions, reducing the total number of gaming machine entitlements in coming years through forfeiture laws and capping the number of gaming machines allowed in high-risk areas, covering 20 per cent of the State plus the Fairfield local government area. In some places Hurstville is regarded as one of those high-risk areas.

The second amendment in the bill makes it clear that the point at which a bet is recognised as revenue and becomes taxable is when the player places a bet, rather than when money is inserted into the gaming machine. The amendment updates certain definitions, including the "revenue" definition, to align with terms used in other gaming machine legislation, such as the Gaming Machines Act 2001. That will assist in ensuring a common understanding and interpretation of legislation by taxpayers and the regulator. By clarifying and confirming longstanding tax collection practices, the amendments will also ensure that tax is calculated based on the value of the gaming machine's turnover meter, which increments when a bet is accepted by the machine. Aligning the legislation with the current approach to tax calculation will make it consistent with other Australian jurisdictions, which broadly define taxable gaming machine profits as the total amount wagered or bet less winnings paid or payable.

Finally, the bill seeks to clarify the scope of "revenue from a gaming machine" in the Act with respect to bets made by a player in a machine through non-cash means. For tax purposes, that ensures that regardless of the payment method used to fund a bet, all bets placed in a machine have been and will continue to be part of the revenue from a machine used to calculate tax liability. The amendments put forward provide certainty and assurance to taxpayers of their historical and future tax liabilities. I could talk further about the Gaming Machine Tax Amendment (Promotional Prizes) Bill 2021, which is only one of the many amending bills that I have spoken about today.

In conclusion, the bill proposes amendments to deliver key clarifications to tax payable under the Gaming Machines Act 2001. I mention some of the clubs in my area: Oatley RSL, Mortdale RSL, Penshurst RSL, South Hurstville RSL—a fine establishment—and, of course, Club Central Hurstville. Each of those clubs provides so much for the community. I am not superstitious but when it comes to election night I am. In the past 20 years, every time I have been on the ballot paper as a councillor and as a member of Parliament I have had our victory party at Oatley RSL. Earlier this year my son, little Sammy, was baptised, and we had a lunch at Oatley RSL. As a former director and vice president of Oatley RSL, I can confirm that it does a great job in the local community. It gives so much back to the community, not only on Anzac Day and Remembrance Day. For the benefit of the member for Terrigal, I note it is not only the meat raffles on a Friday night at Oatley RSL.

Mr Adam Crouch: They're pretty good.

Mr MARK COURE: They are pretty good. It does so much for the community and gives so much by way of community outreach. It provides venues for community clubs, groups and associations. Oatley Heritage and Historical Society and Oatley P&Cs also meet at the club. Mortdale RSL provides a base for Probus club lunches on a Wednesday afternoon. It is not only Probus and community groups that meet at Mortdale RSL. I also have branch meetings there. All our clubs do wonderful work in our community, including community outreach through a number of club grants announced each year. In particular, I acknowledge Club Central Hurstville. My predecessor in this place and current mayor of Georges River Council, Kevin Greene, is a good guy and a director of Club Central Hurstville. I speak to him regularly about some of the wonderful work the club does in the local community.

That is really just to put on record, in a quick minute or two, some of the wonderful stuff that our local clubs and our service clubs do and have done over many years. To the point raised by the member for Tweed, they do provide a strong backbone to the community. When there are natural disasters, those clubs open their doors. They are a base for many, many people. They are a local focal point that people come to. People love going to their clubs and supporting their clubs because they provide so much to the community. I put on record my thanks and appreciation to all our clubs—not just in my electorate but in electorates right across New South Wales.

Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal) (13:05): I speak in support of the Gaming Machine Tax Amendment (Promotional Prizes) Bill 2021. I note that the Treasurer has been in the Chamber for almost the entire debate. I acknowledge him bringing forward this amendment and also the excellent work done by his staff. I will also touch on the great work that clubs and organisations do on the Central Coast, with the time that I have. The Government recognises the importance of transparency and simplicity for New South Wales taxpayers. New South Wales club and hotel venues offer amazing promotional prizes, such as player reward schemes, under which bonus or reward points can be accrued by playing gaming machines. Player reward schemes have operated since at least the early 2000s and tax has been collected on revenue from those types of bets. The reward schemes, or any of those sorts of marketing promotional activities, can rapidly evolve, and legislation must keep up and provide clarity over time. That is why this amendment, albeit not large, is incredibly important.

The bill reinforces the Gaming Machine Tax Act 2001 by introducing legislative amendments that will provide greater clarity and certainty for taxpayers in the gaming industry by confirming past and current tax collection practices. In addition, gaming machine technology is developing at a rapid pace, and our taxation system must be robust and flexible enough to provide certainty for taxpayers. The Government continues to explore the use of technology such as a gaming card or other non-cash means to play on gaming machines, seeking to strengthen gaming machine exclusion measures to restrict problem gamblers.

I have spoken in this Chamber many times about the experience of problem gamblers and how important it is that protections are put in place to support not just the problem gambler but also their immediate family, and also their friends in some cases, in light of the effect it has on them. For example, digital wallets are accessible through a smart device—such as a mobile phone—and are becoming increasingly widespread due to the added convenience and security they offer. Almost no-one goes anywhere these days without their phone; with the QR code check-ins, it is basically mandatory to carry a phone. So it seems logical that a digital wallet becomes the next extension of that. The COVID-19 pandemic has proven that businesses are able to adapt and pivot quickly with their practices when confronted with new realities like social distancing and the QR codes that I just mentioned. On the Central Coast, it has become second nature. Everybody is used to QR codes now. Obviously, they have become synonymous with providing accurate and timely information quickly.

The proposed amendments in the bill seek to clarify the original legislative intent of the Gaming Machine Tax Act 2001, making clear the meaning of the law as has been understood by taxpayers and, of course, the regulator itself. This will ensure that betting on gaming machines with points earned under player reward schemes or any promotional prize used to play a machine will continue to be taxable for the purpose of gaming machine tax. The bill also clarifies that regardless of how a player accrued credits to play, the point at which a bet is recognised as taxable is when the bet is placed rather than when the money is inserted into the machine. That not

only confirms current and longstanding tax collection practices but also seeks that tax collection continues to be when the bet is placed on the gaming machine regardless of the method used to the place that it is bet. That means that revenue calculations are and will continue to be based on the value of the gaming machine's turnover meter.

Finally, the bill is aligned to other government initiatives. These changes will be relevant as the Government continues to work with industry stakeholders on potential cashless payment solutions for gaming machines, with companies like Aristocrat and also Wests in Newcastle committing to trialling the digital experiences for its patrons. I have had the pleasure of being at the Goulburn Soldiers Club with the Temporary Speaker who was previously in the chair, which is an outstanding location. In addition to that, the 39 clubs on the Central Coast make a truly outstanding effort for our region, providing so much support for everybody from one end of the Central Coast to the other, whether it be the Ettalong Diggers club, the Breakers Country Club, the fantastic club at Mingara, Diggers at The Entrance or the Doyalson RSL—

Ms Jodie Harrison: The Doylo.

Mr ADAM CROUCH: The renovations going on at the Doylo are outstanding. The member for Charlestown has obviously been to the Doylo as well. It is a spectacular club, which is reinvesting in its community. The community support is huge for our clubs and they get the same in return. The commitment from the clubs to our community is equally as incredible. The ClubGRANTS program is outstanding. Organisations from one end of the Central Coast to the other in all members' electorates have received financial support through that program. In times of natural disaster, we know that the clubs provide additional support to people. Whether it be the Doylo, the Breakers, the Davistown RSL, Gosford leagues club, they are all putting their hands up, wanting to be first to help our community on the Central Coast and surrounding areas, as well as donating to other regions in times of trouble.

I give a big shout-out to Paul Barnett at Mingara. I think I spend most of my life at Mingara. There is always an event going on there, and his team do an amazing job looking after their community. They have upgraded the club significantly, but that is nothing compared to the amount that organisations like the one at Mingara and others give back to our community. It is really important to acknowledge the great work that clubs do across New South Wales. I also give a shout-out to Phil Walker, who is the chair of clubs 39 on the Central Coast.

Mr Matt Kean: A great man.

Mr ADAM CROUCH: He is absolutely a great bloke. This year they are providing funding to RYSS. Every year ClubsNSW Central Coast, which has 39 clubs on the Central Coast, looks at an event or an organisation that would benefit from funding. I give a big shout-out to all the clubs on the Central Coast. I thank them for all the work they do. I acknowledge the Treasurer and his team for introducing the Gaming Machine Tax Amendment (Promotional Prizes) Bill 2021. It is an excellent piece of legislation. I commend the bill to the House.

Mr MATT KEAN (Hornsby—Treasurer, and Minister for Energy and Environment) (13:12): In reply: I thank all members for their contributions to debate on the Gaming Machine Tax Amendment (Promotional Prizes) Bill 2021. The bill represents a minor yet significant change to ensure that the original legislative intent of taxing all bets placed on a gaming machine is captured under the legislation. It clarifies, modifies and confirms longstanding tax collection processes. We collect taxes from promotional prizes such as reward points, and this amendment confirms that bets placed in this way have been, and will continue to be, taxable. I commend the bill to the House.

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

Motion agreed to.

Third Reading

Mr MATT KEAN: I move:

That this bill be now read a third time.

Motion agreed to.

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

Question Time

TRANSPORT PROCUREMENT

Mr CHRIS MINNS (Kogarah) (14:18): My question is directed to the Minister for Transport and Roads. The Government ended up paying 40 per cent to 50 per cent more than expected for major transport purchases

sent overseas, which negated all possible cost savings and also cost New South Wales thousands of jobs. Is that another example of the transport department being in utter chaos?

Mr ROB STOKES (Pittwater—Minister for Planning and Public Spaces, and Minister for Transport and Roads) (14:18): I thank the Leader of the Opposition for his question, although I do not accept its premise. As I said to the House last week, of course we look to prefer wherever possible, and in all of our procurement decisions, the best value for Australian taxpayers while doing everything we can to support local manufacturing and local jobs. That is what the Government does on all of its major procurement decisions. For example, there is the mini cat, which was created entirely in Port Macquarie; the ferries, with 70 per cent of materials sourced here in Australia, benefiting Australian companies; and the ongoing refit of various elements of the fleet, which is currently taking place in Port Macquarie, Newcastle and Sydney. We will always seek the best value for taxpayers that we can and at the same time ensure that we end up with safe and reliable equipment that operates efficiently and affordably and does everything it can to benefit the Australian families that rely on it.

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

NEW SOUTH WALES FLOODS

Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra) (14:20): My question is addressed to the Premier. Will the Premier update the House on the storms and floods affecting New South Wales?

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET (Epping—Premier) (14:20): That is a great question from the great member for Cootamundra. I thank her for the work she is doing on the ground. A widespread area of New South Wales is experiencing storms and flooding, with Forbes, Orange, Bathurst and the Blue Mountains being the localities of greatest impact. The scale of the disaster is significant, and our hearts go out to all the people currently affected. It is crucial our community knows that we will be there for them today and long after the floodwaters have receded, as we have been with every other flood in the past.

The SES has received over 1,796 requests for assistance since the disaster began last week, including over 30 flood rescues. It has fielded over 3,000 calls to the State operations centre. There are 12 current flood warnings and a final flood watch is in place for the Gwydir, Castlereagh and Macquarie rivers. More urgently, the New South Wales SES has issued a flood evacuation order for those residing in the low-lying areas of Forbes. The Lachlan River at Forbes Iron Bridge is expected to reach the major flood level tomorrow morning, similar to the 2016 flood. I am advised that 800 residences will be impacted. That is an incredibly difficult thing to hear for the people of Forbes and those who live along the Lachlan River. I stress that our community has seen off those challenges before and will do so again. We will ensure that our frontline workers are on the ground and, importantly, that they have the resources needed to combat the crisis.

Over 300 SES volunteers are currently deployed statewide in over 47 strike teams, with over 200 in the Lachlan River area alone. Those volunteers are working with close to 200 community volunteers who have raised their hands to assist by creating sandbags, by doorknocking and with general preparation. I thank those volunteers for their selfless and tireless service. The Cell on Wheels located at Forbes has been activated, and rapid damage impact assessment teams are on standby in Forbes. Those teams are supported by the RFS, which has two helicopters deployed at Forbes, along with one strike team assisting with sandbagging. I also thank Fire and Rescue NSW, which has a liaison officer at Forbes and one truck assisting, along with drone capabilities.

Our Government has been committed to ensuring that our emergency response services have the resources they need over the long term. We have committed an additional \$39 million to contribute to another record State Emergency Service budget of \$240.3 million in the 2021-22 budget. That equates to a 20 per cent increase from last year's budget. That record funding will give our State additional capability. It includes \$4.8 million to gather flood intelligence and analysis, with the aim of minimising the impacts of flooding on the community, including updating local flood plans as part of the Hawkesbury-Nepean Valley Flood Risk Management Strategy; and state-of-the-art rescue vehicles. In the 2020-21 financial year the fleet replacement program delivered 133 new vehicles, vessels and trailers to New South Wales SES units. That record funding also ensures we keep our SES strong, supporting over 10,000 volunteers and, importantly, over 300 salaried staff located across the State.

I thank the emergency services Minister for the work that he is doing and for the support and advice he is providing to me and the Deputy Premier. I also thank local members, like the member for Cootamundra, for their work in supporting their local communities. Most importantly, I implore the House and the community to continue working together to keep each other safe, to watch out for each other and, importantly, to share those key messages. Never drive, walk or ride through floodwater. It is incredibly dangerous for those who do and for the first responders who come to their aid. Know the risks and make sure there is an emergency plan in place. Stay

up to date with the latest emergency information by following the SES online and listening to ABC local radio. For particular help during floods and storms, call the SES on 132 500; if it is life threatening, call 000.

Once again, I extend the appreciation of the House to all the SES workers, and particularly those men and women volunteering their own time to provide support for those communities. As I said, this will be a very difficult time for those local areas, but the New South Wales Government remains committed to providing all the necessary support to get those communities through this difficult time.

INNER WEST LIGHT RAIL CLOSURE

Ms JO HAYLEN (Summer Hill) (14:25): My question is directed to the Minister for Transport and Roads. Small business owners like Messi Sahow from Cafe Calibre rely on customers who catch the now shut-down inner west light rail. Will businesses like Cafe Calibre now be left without compensation and customers for up to a year and a half simply because of the Government's light rail fail, or is this another example of the transport department being in utter chaos?

Mr ROB STOKES (Pittwater—Minister for Planning and Public Spaces, and Minister for Transport and Roads) (14:25): I am picking up on a theme in the questions asked so far. Once again, I am not going to accept the premise because we operate an extraordinarily complex transport system right across the State, whether that is the road network or the public transport network, and from time to time issues arise that we have to deal with. The very best thing I can do for the constituents of the member for Summer Hill—who I accept have been absolutely inconvenienced by what has transpired due to the problems bedevilling the light rail at this stage—is to ensure that those trams are back on the tracks as quickly as I can. I will provide my undivided attention to ensuring those trams are back up and running on the L1 track and that a suitable fix is determined as quickly as possible.

I was on the phone this morning to the chief operating officer of Sydney Trains, who had a long discussion with contractors and with the manufacturer last night to determine the best way possible to effect a permanent fix. They are still looking at whether temporary fixes might be appropriate, but we can learn from the experience of Birmingham, which, sadly, removed its entire fleet of 21 light rail vehicles from the tracks between Wolverhampton and Birmingham this weekend due to issues similar to those that are facing our light rail fleet on the L1 line. The benefit is we have the advantage of looking at what Birmingham has been looking at in terms of productionising a solution to the similar issue faced there. In answer to the member for Summer Hill, the best thing I can do for her community is to ensure that we determine a fix as quickly as possible and get those trams back on the tracks.

REGIONAL ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT

Mr GURMESH SINGH (Coffs Harbour) (14:28): My question is addressed to the Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional New South Wales, and Minister for Regional Transport and Roads. Will the Deputy Premier update the House on how the New South Wales Government is investing in major road projects in regional New South Wales?

Mr PAUL TOOLE (Bathurst—Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional Transport and Roads, and Minister for Regional New South Wales) (14:28): I thank the member for Coffs Harbour for his question. That is how to do it. That is how to actually find out what is happening around the State.

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

Mr PAUL TOOLE: Before I talk about the Government's investment in roads and bypasses, I reiterate the Premier's comments about the flooding across the Central West. I know that this Government is committed to supporting those communities that are impacted by the flooding right now. When I was in Forbes yesterday, I had the opportunity to see those floodwaters rising in the Lachlan River. We know by midnight tonight it will be at its peak in the community of Forbes. It will impact 800 homes; that is 1,800 people who will need to evacuate from their homes. This impacts on them right now, and we want to make sure that we keep them safe.

The community of Forbes also knows that the New South Wales Government will be there to support them in the recovery phase. Water is slow moving. It impacts on towns like Forbes tonight and for many days and weeks and months ahead, but over the next week it will be communities further downstream like Condobolin that will be impacted by the floodwaters. I thank the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, who briefed us this morning. I also thank the SES commissioner Carlene York for providing the latest advice on the situation.

The Liberal-Nationals Government is investing in road infrastructure like never before. It drives productivity and unlocks opportunity in the bush. Yesterday I was in Parkes and I turned the very first sod on the Parkes bypass. This is another game-changing project for regional New South Wales. Locals have been campaigning for this project for decades, and it is this Government that is delivering on projects like the Parkes

bypass. The project is supported by the Federal Government with an investment of \$187 million. It is going to create around 350 jobs in that local area. It will be the biggest infrastructure project ever to be delivered in the Parkes community. It is a 10½ kilometre bypass, which means it will take heavy vehicles—and about 1,200 of them go through the centre of town every year—out of the centre of Parkes every year. It means we will now be able to give those local roads back to the local community.

On top of that, we have also hit the halfway mark of our investment into the Newell Highway. It is a \$228 million commitment to put in 40 overtaking lanes on the Newell Highway. Again, this is supporting the freight movements we are seeing on the Newell. The Newell itself will see a 12 per cent increase in freight movements. We are not only building for now; we are also building for the future. Last week in this place, I mentioned the Muswellbrook bypass. That is powering ahead, with the initial concept design now being released. We opened the Albion Park Rail bypass 12 months ahead of schedule. That is going to make it safer for motorists heading down south for holidays during the Christmas period.

Construction is now underway on the Coffs Harbour bypass, and I know that the member for Coffs Harbour is very excited about that project. It is the missing link in the Pacific Highway. The member for Coffs Harbour has been a tireless campaigner for this particular project. He has been fighting to get real outcomes, and that is what you get under a Liberal-Nationals government. Last year we opened the Scone bypass. We continue our plans for our bypass projects in Singleton and Moruya. Each of these projects create hundreds of jobs and they improve the lives of local residents each and every day. It takes heavy vehicles off local roads and, again, it makes the jobs of our truck drivers easier and safer.

Ms Trish Doyle: Why don't you tunnel under Bathurst?

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

Mr PAUL TOOLE: The Opposition might be familiar with bypasses. What the Labor Party has done—and the Leader of the Opposition has done this—is actually bypassed regional New South Wales. It has gone back to the good old days of Labor when "NSW" stood for "Newcastle, Sydney and Wollongong". The member for Strathfield had a go and stood up for the people of regional New South Wales, but the Labor Party hung up on her the same way it hung up on the people of regional New South Wales. It is the Liberals and The Nationals in government that will continue to build the roads and make the investment that goes into our communities to make a difference to the lives of people in our areas. It is our investment that creates jobs. It drives productivity, and it is making a difference in regional New South Wales.

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

ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING

Ms PRUE CAR (Londonderry) (14:33): My question is directed to the Minister for Transport and Roads. Documents from the Minister's own department make clear that it has a \$7.25 billion funding black hole for major transport projects and election commitments, which will lead to projects needing to be cancelled. Is this another example of the transport department in utter chaos?

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

Mr ROB STOKES (Pittwater—Minister for Planning and Public Spaces, and Minister for Transport and Roads) (14:34): If they keep asking me questions, we are going to need some more water bottles at the table. I thank the member for Londonderry for her question, but once again I obviously do not accept its premise. This is a helpful opportunity for me to outline to Opposition members how the budget process works. I accept that it is complex, but let me helpfully explain it to them.

Ms Prue Car: That's the answer, is it? It's hard.

The SPEAKER: Order! The Minister is answering the question seriously. Members will listen to the answer.

Mr ROB STOKES: I accept the interjection by the member for Londonderry. Yes, it is hard, but I can help Opposition members by explaining it to them so that they can understand it.

The SPEAKER: I call the member for Blue Mountains to order for the third time. She will leave the Chamber if she continues to interject.

Mr ROB STOKES: When you are dealing with a \$72 billion infrastructure program you will fund things over time. I will use a metaphor that might help members of the Opposition because it will be helpful for them to understand this stuff if they are ever to occupy the Treasury bench.

Mr Dominic Perrottet: That won't happen.

Mr ROB STOKES: But that will not happen, as the Premier mentions. For example, many members may have had an opportunity to build a new home. The first thing they would do is not to cut a cheque. They will speak to the architect or the building designer. They might get a quantity surveyor in. They will go through a council process, get an approval—

Ms Prue Car: Oh, right! Thank you, oh wise one!

The SPEAKER: Order! Members will remain quiet.

Mr ROB STOKES: I once again note the interjection of the member for Londonderry. This is not about me being wise; it is about me sharing that wisdom with members opposite. Any procurement process will involve different stages where you work up the proposal that you are seeking funding for, and then you will progressively fund it. That is what the infrastructure pipeline is: It is about going through various gateways to determine the costs and benefits in relation to government commitments. It is to go through a planning process and go through a procurement process to make investment decisions and to fund those projects over time. It may well be that a project is up to its business case stage, at which point we will go through and look at the various costs and benefits of that project, which will then inform an investment decision. That does not mean that we will put the entire budget envelope in that first year when we are going through the business case. That is how a proper infrastructure pipeline works.

If members opposite would like a briefing on how this works, I am more than happy to set that up for them. But it is important to recognise that when you set up an infrastructure pipeline you will fund projects and commitments over time. That is exactly what members do on this side of the House, and that is why we have been so successful in bringing so many transport, health and education infrastructure projects into being. It is because we follow appropriate processes and make funding decisions and allocations at the appropriate time.

ECONOMIC POLICY

Mr PETER SIDGREAVES (Camden) (14:37): My question is addressed to the Treasurer, and the Minister for Energy and Environment. Will the Minister update the House on how the New South Wales Government's economic policies are setting New South Wales up for the future, and whether there are any alternative policies?

Mr MATT KEAN (Hornsby—Treasurer, and Minister for Energy and Environment) (14:37): I thank the dynamic member for Camden for his question. It is great to see the great work he is doing for his community and the good people of south-western Sydney. However, I regret to update both the member and the House that there are still no alternative policies from the policy-free zone opposite. It has been 166 days and we have not yet seen a single policy from the Leader of the Opposition. He came to the job with great fanfare. He said he had to overthrow the previous Leader of the Opposition because she did not have a plan and he said he would have this 100-day plan. Here we are at day 166 and it is crickets—but I digress.

Members on this side of the House have a positive plan to build a better and more prosperous future for everyone in New South Wales. That is why we have announced our COVID-19 Economic Recovery Strategy to support those cohorts within the economy that have done it so tough during this pandemic and help them bounce back better. Whether it is the arts and entertainment sector, the hospitality sector or young people in our economy, we have got a plan to support our economy and bounce back better. That is on the back of our plan to support people during those difficult times. Our JobSaver scheme was about helping people get through the worst pandemic and the worst economic downturn since the Great Depression.

But it is not just those measures. Since the Premier took the top job he has announced the biggest hydrogen policy in the nation to make sure that New South Wales wins the race to supply these changing markets with the clean energy they are going to need—and guess what? We will make a lot of money doing so. What we will also do is futureproof regions like the Hunter. I note the member for Wallsend is in the Chamber. I thank her for her advocacy on this important initiative. I also acknowledge the member for South Coast and those people in the Illawarra who understand the importance of diversifying the economy in the face of changing global markets.

But you cannot create hydrogen without cheap, reliable and clean electricity. That is why this Government has the biggest renewable energy policy in the nation. Our energy infrastructure road map will deliver not only cheap and reliable energy but also clean energy. It will help drive down power bills to the tune of about \$130 per annum for families and, on average, about \$430 per annum for businesses. This is about delivering clean energy that is also going to lower bills for households and businesses. As BlueScope stated, this will lead to the next industrial revolution in our country. It will be a manufacturing boom as businesses get the benefits of that cheap, clean energy so they can sell their products into those markets that are demanding cheap and clean products.

It is not just about our energy policy, which will see \$32 billion of private sector capital largely going to the bush, creating thousands of jobs and underwriting our prosperity into the future. It is also our infrastructure pipeline, with around \$100 billion worth of infrastructure that we will build in New South Wales to improve the productivity of this State. This is what a government with positive plans looks like. It stands in stark contrast to members opposite.

I was asked by the member for Camden whether there were any alternative policies. There are no alternative policies, but there was an idea. As members know, I like to keep up to speed with the Leader of the Opposition's Twitter feed. I saw a radical idea put forward by him this week to ban privatisations in New South Wales. I was genuinely shocked because I seem to recall that when the Leader of the Opposition was chief of staff to John Robertson he was the architect of the privatisation of the State's prisons. I could not believe that the Leader of the Opposition would say one thing and do another. Is it like when he said in his maiden speech that he would take on the unions and is now a wholly owned subsidiary of them? Is it like when he told the member for Strathfield that she had his unwavering support? Members know how that worked out. The Leader of the Opposition is all spin and no substance and cannot be trusted to deliver a plan for this State. *[Time expired.]*

TRANSPORT FOR NSW

Mr CHRIS MINNS (Kogarah) (14:43): My question is directed to the Minister for Transport and Roads. Justice Monica Schmidt described the actions of senior transport officials as "disturbing" after they withheld information from police in a murder investigation. His department impeded police investigations and fired the person who tried to help. Is this another example of the transport department being in utter chaos?

Mr ROB STOKES (Pittwater—Minister for Planning and Public Spaces, and Minister for Transport and Roads) (14:43): I thank the Leader of the Opposition for his question. It is a good question. It is my expectation that transport officials will cooperate fully with police and their investigations. I understand this matter is now the subject of investigation, so it is probably not appropriate that I make any further statement, other than to say that my expectation would be that transport officials would at all times meet their obligations under law. It would be appalling if a subsequent investigation were to find that were not the case. I take on board the admonition contained in the question from the Leader of the Opposition and again reiterate to the House my expectation is that all transport officials, at whatever level, obey all of their requirements under law and ensure that they provide a safe work place.

Mr Chris Minns: Point of order: I appreciate the Minister is engaging with the question seriously, but I did ask a specific question: Is this evidence that the department is in utter chaos? Will the Minister answer that?

The SPEAKER: The Minister is being relevant to the question.

Mr ROB STOKES: I have been doing my level best to make sure I provide a very relevant answer to the question. The link that the Leader of the Opposition is seeking to make to the broader Transport portfolio, I think is stretching it a bit. I have answered very specifically about the instance he has raised with me. If he would like to ask other questions on the Transport portfolio—I notice that a number of his colleagues have done so today—I will be happy to answer them as well.

HEALTH SERVICES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Mr JAMES GRIFFIN (Manly) (14:45): My question is addressed to the Minister for Health and Medical Research. Will the Minister update the House on how the New South Wales Government's strong economic management is delivering holistic, integrated and innovative health services into the future for the people of New South Wales?

Mr BRAD HAZZARD (Wakehurst—Minister for Health and Medical Research) (14:45): I thank the member for Manly for his question and acknowledge the hard work that he does as the Parliamentary Secretary for Health and Veterans, along with the member for Cootamundra, the Parliamentary Secretary for Regional Health. We were in long meetings yesterday discussing a lot of issues about the way NSW Health is moving forward to look after the community during this pandemic, but also to look at the work that needs to be done across New South Wales in some of the opportunities that we have to continue to improve health for our residents. I particularly thank the member for Manly for the work he is doing on Bear Cottage. The whole House thanks him for the work that he has done to make sure that we will have a facility for teenagers and young adults to have appropriate palliative care with their families.

Before I go into the details of the economic capacity of New South Wales, as reflected through all of the health initiatives, I bring the House up to date with COVID-19. There were 212 new cases of COVID-19 in the past 24 hours to 8.00 p.m. last night—that takes the cases in New South Wales to 78,577. Those 212 new cases were out of 67,893 COVID-19 tests. Sadly, NSW Health reported the deaths of two men in that 24-hour period.

I stress that there is still an ongoing issue for COVID-19 and it will continue for quite some time before it becomes what we would consider to be endemic in our community. There are currently 210 COVID-19 cases admitted to hospital in New South Wales, with 32 people in intensive care—16 of whom are on ventilation. It is certainly important that we ensure that COVID-19 is well addressed, but also that the broader health system is built even better and bigger than what the New South Wales Government has managed to do in the last now 10 years.

There is no question that the COVID-19 pandemic has put the spotlight on health and if it were not for the sound economic management of the Government over the past decade we would not have been able to build all of the facilities that we have built across the State, nor would we have been able to employ the number of staff that we have in the last decade—and I will address those points in more detail in a moment. COVID-19 has required a one-in-100-year response and if we did not have the available economic underpinning capacity there would have been major limitations, as has occurred in other jurisdictions around the world. The total budget in 2021-22 is \$30.2 billion. That consists of \$27.1 billion in recurrent money and \$3.1 billion invested in capital works in this one year alone. We compare that to when the Liberal-Nationals came into government in March 2011. At that stage the budget was \$15.5 billion. It is a dramatic increase—more than a 75 per cent increase in the recurrent budget.

The former Labor Government found it challenging to manage the budget so there was very limited work in renewal of infrastructure during that period. In the past two years in addition to the usual budget there has been a big focus on the additional requirements around COVID-19. The current budget has \$1.1 billion in additional expenditure for the entire health system to manage the continuing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. That builds on \$3 billion, which has been allocated in the past two years to the pandemic. That money has been crucial to do all of the work that has been necessary, and I include there the \$1.1 billion for this year to address issues such as the continuing need for personal protective equipment. There is \$340 million in the current budget for more personal protective equipment and the associated warehousing costs. [*Extension of time*]

The House might be interested to know that when the pandemic broke out we had only one warehouse of personal protective equipment. With the additional funds that the Government has provided we now have 10 warehouses of personal protective equipment. There are ample supplies, no matter what happens, and there is still a concern that we may need it at some point if things do not go as well as we hope they will. There was another \$261.3 million in the budget this year for COVID-19 vaccine distribution; another \$200 million for pop-up clinics, testing and contact tracing; and \$145.4 million for returning travellers in quarantine who required medical assistance. In addition, there is an additional \$80 million to continue additional elective surgery. Members would recall during the height of the pandemic, on two different occasions we had to slow down elective surgery, particularly category C and parts of category B. As a result we are now putting additional money in to make sure that we can address the additional elective surgery that needs to be undertaken.

There was a further \$30 million in the budget for enhanced cleaning within the health facilities. I thank all the cleaners. They do not get thanked enough. I thank the nurses—and I will do it again. I thank the nurses, the doctors, the public health team, Dr Kerry Chant, Dr Marianne Gale, Dr Jeremy McAnulty, Dr Christine Selvey, and all of the public health team. But, I thank the cleaners. They have been the people at the forefront. I thank the Health Services Union and Gerard Hayes for declaring a special day last year to acknowledge the cleaners for their work. I thank each and every one of them. They were right there, right where the germs were, right where the virus was, and they continued to work. I thank them very much. We appreciate everything they and the entire health community have done to keep us safe.

NET ZERO EMISSIONS

Dr JOE McGIRR (Wagga Wagga) (14:53): My question is directed to the Minister for Energy and Environment. Given concerns expressed to me by my community that government documentation is out of date or irrelevant, what will the Minister be doing to ensure and assist local councils work with their communities to achieve net zero emissions, not just for the council but for the community as a whole?

Mr MATT KEAN (Hornsby—Treasurer, and Minister for Energy and Environment) (14:53): I thank the outstanding member for Wagga Wagga for his question. Getting to net zero emissions is going to require action from across all levels of government as well as from businesses and the local community. New South Wales was one of the first jurisdictions in the world to commit to reaching net zero emissions by 2050. We now have a clear commitment and plan to halve our emissions by 2030. We are on track to meet those commitments in a way that grows the economy, creates jobs and lowers electricity bills. Our Net Zero Plan is expected to attract \$37 billion in private investment, support more than 9,000 jobs and lower electricity bills on average by \$130 per annum.

New South Wales councils and the communities they represent will play a critical role in the shift to net zero emissions. The Government has committed to working with councils to reach our shared decarbonisation

goals. The New South Wales Government provides a full-service offering to support councils as we work towards net zero emissions through localised delivery and capacity-building programs. Through the Sustainability Advantage program the Government completed a net zero pathways pilot with 36 organisations, including a number of councils. During the pilot each council worked with a specialist consultant to develop a net zero pathway report that outlined the energy efficiency, renewable energy and carbon offset initiatives they could implement to achieve the goal of net zero emissions. The pathway reports were used by councils to formally establish decarbonisation goals, prioritise the implementation of emissions reduction projects and build an understanding of how best to respond to the risks and opportunities associated with climate change.

The New South Wales Government will continue to support councils to develop pathways to decarbonise common community facilities like aquatics centres and wastewater processing plants. We are also helping councils to reduce the emissions associated with their vehicle fleets. Under the NSW Electric Vehicle Strategy the Government has committed \$105 million to support fleet managers like local councils to upgrade to electric vehicles [EVs]. Recently I wrote to each local mayor, including the mayor of Wagga Wagga, to outline the details of that program and I invited the councils to consider participating in the competitive process to upgrade their council fleet. In addition to that—for the benefit of the member for Wagga Wagga—we will also be building the charging infrastructure at regional councils and all councils to be able to run those electric vehicles.

Further, on the waste management front we are helping local governments to jointly procure waste services at scale. That will underpin investment in new infrastructure, remove barriers to entry for investors, increase competition in the waste services sector, and put downward pressure on costs for councils and households. Improved waste management will also help to clean up waste streams, allowing the emissions associated with food and organics waste to be captured and used productively. The Government has committed \$16 million towards a new joint procurement facilitation service to make it easier for local government to collectively procure waste services and reduce emissions. For the benefit of the member for Wagga Wagga, we are putting in place an incentives scheme to encourage councils that are generating methane out of landfill to be able to use that as gas and to provide that into the network.

Also for the benefit of the member for Wagga Wagga, the New South Wales Government has undertaken work with the Wagga Wagga council, which has taken part in the Sustainability Advantage program since 2019. Recently it participated in the Net Zero Emissions Leadership Accelerator Program, which was designed to develop the capacity of leaders in New South Wales to drive and deliver net zero emissions. In April 2021 Wagga Wagga council committed to a corporate target for net zero emissions by 2040 and a community target for net zero emissions by 2050. Through the Sustainability Advantage program, the council is working with consultancy firm 100% Renewables to develop a net zero strategy that will assist it to reach its corporate target. That work includes reviewing opportunities for onsite renewable energy, reducing waste and landfill emissions, sustainable procurement guidance and advice for carbon offsetting, which is expected to be completed by February 2022.

By reducing emissions, local councils can help to increase the resilience of their communities and act as a catalyst for New South Wales to meet its net zero emissions goals. The New South Wales Government will continue to support local councils and the communities they represent to help achieve those important goals. I welcome any feedback from any members in the Chamber and from local councils and communities across the State on ways to further support their work to grow their local economies while reducing emissions. Finally, if we are going to get to net zero by 2050 we all must lead, whether it be State Government, Federal Government or local councils. We want to put in place policies that will not only allow for the Government to do its bit, but also allow for the private sector and for individuals to do their bit. We have been working constructively and in a multi-partisan way to achieve those goals, which are above politics and which are in the interests of our State and indeed our nation. I look forward to continuing to work with the member for Wagga Wagga in achieving those important goals.

PARKS AND PUBLIC SPACES

Mr KEVIN CONOLLY (Riverstone) (14:58): I address my question to the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces, and Minister for Transport and Roads. Will the Minister update the House on how the New South Wales Government is ensuring that everyone in Greater Sydney has access to great parks and public spaces as the city grows?

Mr Dominic Perrottet: Don't reject the premise of this question.

Mr ROB STOKES (Pittwater—Minister for Planning and Public Spaces, and Minister for Transport and Roads) (14:59): I begin by thanking the Premier for his interjection. I note that while in the recent contest I may not have ended up with the premiership, I did end up with all the questions and all the portfolios too, so it really worked out for everybody. I thank the member for Riverstone for his question and also for his great advocacy on behalf of his community for the infrastructure that his community needs. We know that

Riverstone is a growing part of this metropolis and it faces all the challenges that growth brings with it—the need for all sorts of infrastructure but also recognising that parklands are just as important a piece of social infrastructure, environmental infrastructure and indeed economic infrastructure as is all the other infrastructure that growing communities need.

This morning the member and I had the great pleasure of announcing that Sydney's north-west will enjoy more parkland, with 25 hectares being added to lands already existing within Rouse Hill Regional Park. Through our 50-year vision to create a city within a park, we are so happy that we are expanding that much-loved park by more than one-third. That means more green open space for residents and visitors to Sydney's north-west and another great park for the people of New South Wales. The expansions to the land adjacent to Rouse Hill Regional Park will add another gem to Western Sydney Parklands' crown and will also provide western Sydney with a fourth great parkland alongside Parramatta Park, Fernhill Estate and Western Sydney Parklands. The expanded park will be a sanctuary for residents in the growing communities of The Hills and Blacktown, which is one of Sydney's fastest growing areas.

As we plan for growth, we recognise that planning for parkland is just as important as are all the other infrastructures that are so vital to support lifestyles in growing parts of the city, and indeed the State. The lockdowns have emphasised just how vital parks and open spaces are, not only for the environment and recreation but also for our mental health and wellbeing. With park visitation up by 45 per cent since before the pandemic, Sydney—and indeed New South Wales—has fallen back in love with its backyard. That is why, as part of our economic recovery, we announced—and I am very grateful to the new Treasurer for his investment—there is an additional \$50 million for new open spaces in Greater Sydney and across New South Wales.

For the past few months local parks and swimming spots were the only places where we could find reprieve from the indoors. It is not only about green spaces; it is also about blue spaces. The pandemic showed us that we need more natural swimming spots, particularly in western Sydney, which is why we have allocated more than \$16 million to create new swimming and kayaking locations around our lakes, rivers and harbour. The program could see new swimming spots open up in the Parramatta, Georges or Nepean rivers, Penrith Lakes or along the harbour. It will help to realise many projects and build upon the work that councils and the community have been planning for, as well as the Parramatta River Catchment Group, which has been working to make Parramatta River clean and swimmable.

The pandemic also highlighted that our children need better facilities to enjoy nature and adventure play. For many people in the Chamber, nature play would have been considered normal play while growing up, a part of everyday life—riding bikes, climbing trees, surfing, swimming, bushwalking, camping and all the things associated with the great outdoors. But for many kids these days nature play is a novelty. Life for many kids revolves around too many screens and not enough outdoors and fresh air. That is why we have allocated more than \$16 million to create more skate parks, bike tracks, water play and nature play like the amazing Ian Potter Children's WILD PLAY Garden at Centennial Park. That program is designed to get kids out of the house, away from screens and into the great outdoors.

The silver lining from the pandemic has been the community's discovery of new public spaces they did not know existed. Given that many of us have found a new appreciation for walking and cycling along trails, we have allocated \$16.7 million for places to roam, which should see the creation of trails and new connections to existing trails. We are also encouraging the creation of community gardens for people to come together and share. Greater Sydney offers some of the most beautiful rivers, lakes and bushland environments, and our Open Spaces Program means everyone can discover more of our backyard's hidden gems as well as all of our great towns and settlements right across New South Wales. As we emerge from lockdown, our Government is capitalising on the learnings and opportunities of the pandemic. Life will not look exactly as it did before, but it is our hope that it will look even better.

Documents

NSW LAW REFORM COMMISSION

Reports

The CLERK: In accordance with section 13 of the Law Reform Commission Act 1967, I announce receipt of the report of the NSW Law Reform Commission for the year ended 30 June 2021, received out of session on 15 November 2021 and authorised to be printed.

SURVEILLANCE DEVICES ACT 2007**Reports**

The CLERK: In accordance with section 46 of the Surveillance Devices Act 2007, I announce receipt of the report by the Attorney General pursuant to section 45 of the Surveillance Devices Act 2007 for the period ended 30 June 2021, received out of session on 15 November 2021 and authorised to be printed.

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

Mr DAVID LAYZELL: As Chair: I table the report of the Legislation Review Committee entitled *Legislation Review Digest No. 37/57*, dated 16 November 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. 36/57*.

*Business of the House***DAYS AND HOURS OF SITTINGS FOR YEAR 2022**

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla—Attorney General, and Minister for Prevention of Domestic and Sexual Violence) (15:04): I move:

That unless otherwise ordered the House meet during the 2022 Autumn and Spring sittings as follows:

Autumn Sittings:

February 15, 16, 17, 22, 23, 24; March 22, 23, 24, 29, 30, 31; May 10, 11, 12, 17, 18, 19; and June 7, 8, 9, 21, 22, 23.

Spring Sittings:

August 9, 10, 11; September 13, 14, 15, 20, 21, 22; October 11, 12, 13, 18, 19, 20; November 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17, and 22, 23, 24 as a reserve week.

For the benefit of members, I indicate that these are the same dates as those circulated last week.

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

Motion agreed to.*Petitions***PETITIONS RECEIVED**

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

Wamberal and Terrigal Beaches

Petition requesting the Legislative Assembly investigate all possible solutions to ensure ongoing beach amenity, including rejecting a seawall, for the future of Wamberal and Terrigal beaches, received from **Ms Liesl Tesch**.

RESPONSES TO PETITIONS

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

The Hon. Matt Kean—Ausgrid Vegetation Management—lodged 12 October 2021 (Mr Tim Crakanthorp)

The Hon. Matt Kean—Small Business COVID-19 Support Grant—lodged 12 October 2021 (Mr Alex Greenwich)

The Hon. Mark Speakman—Daylight Saving—lodged 12 October 2021 (Mrs Helen Dalton)

The Hon. Rob Stokes—Dogs on Sydney Ferries—lodged 12 October 2021 (Ms Felicity Wilson)

The Hon. Rob Stokes—Riverwood Commuter Car Park Compulsory Acquisition—lodged 12 October 2021 (Mr Jihad Dib)

*Business of the House***WITHDRAWAL OF BUSINESS**

The SPEAKER: I understand the member for Lismore has indicated her intention to withdraw remotely a matter from the *Business Paper*. We have a technical problem. I apologise to the member for Lismore. I cannot hear her but I can see her nodding. I am happy for the Deputy Opposition Whip to communicate that item on behalf of the member for Lismore. We will confirm that with the member for Lismore. I call the Deputy Opposition Whip on behalf of the member for Lismore to indicate which item the member for Lismore was attempting to communicate.

Mr DAVID MEHAN: By leave: On behalf of Janelle Saffin: I withdraw written question No. 6788, Urgent reopening of BreastScreen NSW clinics, directed to the Minister for Health and Medical Research.

The SPEAKER: The written question is withdrawn.

*Bills***TATTOO PARLOURS AMENDMENT (STATUTORY REVIEW) BILL 2021****Second Reading Debate**

Debate resumed from 10 November 2021.

Mr PAUL SCULLY (Wollongong) (15:09): As the shadow Minister representing the shadow Minister for Police, I contribute to debate on the Tattoo Parlours Amendment (Statutory Review) Bill 2021.

Mr Jihad Dib: Don't show them your tatt.

Mr PAUL SCULLY: I am without tattoos—no sleeves, no nothing. The bill will amend the Tattoo Parlours Act 2012 and the Tattoo Parlours Regulation 2013 to give effect to the recommendations of the statutory review of the Act. At the outset I indicate that Labor will not oppose the bill. I extend through the Minister to his office my appreciation of the brief provided on this matter. The Tattoo Parlours Act provides a legislative framework for the probity, assessment and licensing of body art tattooists and operators of tattoo parlours. It also provides police powers to ensure that the tattoo and body art industry is regulated effectively.

Tattooing in New South Wales is regulated and backyard tattooing is unlawful. Body art tattooing businesses and tattoo artists who operate in New South Wales have to be licensed with NSW Fair Trading. A body art tattooing procedure is a tattooing procedure performed for decorative purposes. A body art tattooing business is a business which carries out body art tattooing procedures. If you are a self-employed individual who runs a body art tattooing business and performs tattooing procedures on the premises, you do not need a separate tattooists licence. If you hold an operator's licence as a nominated premises manager, then you are not considered to be a self-employed individual and you need a tattooists licence to perform tattooing procedures. If you operate from more than one location, you must have a separate operating licence for each location.

It is an offence to do body art tattooing procedures for a fee or reward or to operate a body art tattooing business without an appropriate licence; heavy penalties apply. In New South Wales and the ACT it is unlawful to get a tattoo for a person under the age of 18 without the written consent of the person's parent or guardian. Surprisingly, given the banter in the Chamber earlier, there are more people in the community with a tattoo than we may realise. I am not one of them, as I can reassure everyone. However, there are some great tattooing businesses in Wollongong. There are 14.5 per cent of Australians who have at least one tattoo. Interestingly enough, there are slightly more men than women who have tattoos: 16.4 per cent of men and 13.6 per cent of women. Generally a tattooing ranges in cost from about \$150 for a small one to \$1,500 for a large one. It is a large sector. Australians nationally spend approximately \$93 million a year on tattoos through almost 1,000 businesses. I am advised that more than 2,000 work in the sector, approximately 700 of whom work in New South Wales.

As I said earlier, the bill will amend the Tattoo Parlours Act 2012 and the Tattoo Parlours Regulation 2013 in response to the 11 recommendations of the statutory review of the Act, which was published in July 2020. Public consultation for the review was conducted from 5 June 2017 until 29 August 2017. I know from people who are involved in the industry that they were wondering why there was a large gap and when the overall report and recommendations from the review would be received. They came out in July. A total of 17 submissions were received from stakeholders, including the Australian Tattooists Guild, the NSW Licensed Tattooists and the NSW Police Force. The respondents were able to specifically request that their submissions not be published. Four submissions were requested not to be published. A number of submissions discussed the negative impact the regulatory regime has had on licensees.

One stakeholder commented that the scheme places New South Wales tattooists at a competitive disadvantage compared with unlicensed operators and those from other jurisdictions due to the quantum of fees and the operational requirements associated with the Act. A number of the other submissions noted concerns about the growing number of backyard tattooists since the industry was first regulated. Stakeholders indicated that backyard tattooing is often advertised via social media and is likely driven by individuals who originally were refused a tattooists licence, or those who did not apply, suspecting that they would be refused.

Mr David Elliott: Crooks.

Mr PAUL SCULLY: They are the findings of the statutory review, Minister. A number of the submissions also raised concerns regarding the regulation of tattooists visiting from overseas, which is touched on in the bill. I also note that the Government has claimed that it has reduced criminal infiltration of the tattoo industry. But, interestingly, in the 2020-21 financial year the NSW Police Force recorded a total of 136 offences committed within the tattoo industry, whereas in 2011-13 there were 27 offences. Nonetheless, the changes in the bill provide that membership of a prescribed criminal organisation is mandatory grounds for refusal of a licence.

The bill consolidates all responsibilities into the office of the Commissioner of Police, bans unlicensed industry advertising—going back to the earlier issue of backyard tattooing—makes licence applications and renewals subject to clear disqualifying offences and grants powers to obtain information and records for those offences. The bill provides an exemption for visiting international tattooists to operate temporarily in New South Wales on a visiting tattooist permit scheme. As I said earlier, that was one of the issues raised by stakeholders in the review of the Act. In his second reading speech the Minister said:

Industry stakeholders raised concerns that under the current Act, international artists are only permitted to perform at large-scale commercial trade shows that are exempt from licensing provisions. Section 26A of division 5A now makes it clear that once a visiting tattooist permit has been issued to an international applicant, they can perform as an individual tattooist, and are not restricted to a trade show.

He went on to note:

The new section 26B provides that applicants for a visiting tattooist permit must be aged at least 18 years and not be Australian by citizenship or permanent residential status. That means interstate tattooists are not eligible for the permit.

That is an important part of the industry that was raised a number of times in submissions. The bill also changes the name of the Act and regulation from tattoo "parlour" to "industry." In part that is in recognition of the growth of the sector and the growing professionalisation of the number of tattooists who are involved. In considering the bill, I have had the opportunity to speak with representatives of the industry, including those from Professional Tattooing Association of Australia, and New South Wales and Queensland licensed tattooists groups. They note that fundamentally they do not have any substantive issues with the bill as it is currently drafted, but are keen to be critically involved in the listing and finalisation of the final offences, which the Minister indicated will occur by regulation after consultation between the Government and industry. It is important that the industry is involved so that we do not end up with any undue consequences such as offences being included that would unnecessarily exclude some tattooists from the sector.

In contributing to debate on this bill, it is important that we reflect on the fact that a lot of the tattooists who are entering the industry are artists and legitimate small business owners who want to go about their business in a way that not only seeks to professionalise and improve their industry and its reputation but also recognises their role as important artists. I point to the Rand Family Tattoo store in Windang in the Wollongong electorate that currently has three generations of the same family in the tattooing industry. A Welsh migrant came out and set up his shop. His son now does much of the work in the business and is involved in lobbying to continue to professionalise the industry. His daughters are now apprenticing and learning their craft, so it continues through the generations. As I said at the outset, Labor is not opposed to the bill. I commend the bill to the House.

Ms JENNY LEONG (Newtown) (15:19:0): On behalf of The Greens, I oppose the Tattoo Parlours Amendment (Statutory Review) Bill 2021. We have consistently opposed the scheme and have serious concerns about the attempt to impose these restrictive measures and red tape on the tattoo industry with a primary focus on organised crime rather than appropriate laws for the thousands of artists working in the industry. It is clearly wrongheaded and the wrong direction to be taking, which is no surprise given the current Liberal-Nationals Government approach. We express our disappointment that the Opposition is sadly not playing its role as an opposition when it comes to this bill.

Moving the responsibility for this scheme to police instead of customer service is a troubling but inevitable step from the New South Wales Government, which appears to always want to solve everything with a law-and-order agenda as opposed to addressing the issues at hand. It is clear the Government always intended for the scheme to be an adjunct to policing rather than to provide clarity and support for tattoo artists and their patrons.

The bill creates a regulation-making power to prescribe criminal organisations for the purposes of granting tattoo licences. In the Minister's second reading speech, he gave the following justification for that:

Just this month, New South Wales police arrested two high-ranking outlaw motorcycle gang members in relation to a fire at a tattoo parlour in Sydney's west in June 2021. This exemplifies the danger to community safety and damage to the integrity of the industry that the involvement of criminal groups presents. Therefore, this bill will enable the regulation to prescribe criminal groups or gangs, based on the advice of the commissioner, to disqualify their members from applying for a licence under the Act.

The fact that an outlaw motorcycle gang is already committing an offence and that arson is also an offence appears to have passed the Minister by when he attempted to justify in his second reading speech why we need the bill. The bill also seeks to prohibit the advertising of body art tattooing businesses or procedures without an appropriate licence, and includes powers for authorised officers to investigate and prosecute offences. The Greens support the final key amendment that allows international tattooists to operate in New South Wales by implementing a new visiting tattooist permit scheme, which they can currently get only if appearing at trade shows.

We oppose the rest of the bill as we have consistently opposed this scheme. It is clearly yet another example of overreach where we see the police Minister and the NSW Police Force attempting to move into a space—I note that the Minister is shaking his head, which is no surprise—without recognising that there are thousands of tattooed artists working in New South Wales who are not in any way connected with organised crime or outlawed gangs. The Minister is attempting to taint an entire industry and profession from a desire to give the NSW Police Force more powers to do more things to punish people. The Greens do not support the bill.

The SPEAKER: I clarify that the audio problem we had before was at the member's end. I acknowledge that our IT department in Parliament House is doing its job.

Mr DAVID ELLIOTT (Baulkham Hills—Minister for Police and Emergency Services) (15:23): In reply: I appreciate the support of members of this House, and I thank the member for Wollongong for contributing to debate on this important legislation. I also thank the member for Newtown for her misguided comments. We have listened to the concerns from the law-abiding industry regarding the existing arrangements for regulating tattoo parlours; in particular, the requests for greater business opportunities and cleaning up the backyard practices. We have also considered the needs of a sole regulator, and we believe the amendments and additions proposed by the bill strike the right balance. The bill gives effect to the legislative recommendations in the statutory review by providing that the name of the Act and regulation are changed; that a scheme is put in place for international visiting tattooists; that a single authorising agency is the sole regulator—being the NSW Police Force; and that it is an offence to advertise tattooing procedures without a licence, with powers to enforce it.

Furthermore, the bill provides transparent criteria for tattoo licence applications as well as providing for the regulations to prescribe grounds for disqualification. The bill ensures that applicants are not subject to multiple regulators and multiple checks, which have been time-consuming. It will ask for a single point of application in issuance, renewal and review. It reduces red tape and aligns with the principles of the Tell Government Once provisions that this Government is committed to. The bill is about the balance between providing opportunities for a mainstream business while overseeing that a high-risk industry which remains attractive to criminal elements is not left unregulated. I am pleased to support the work of the NSW Police Force. I thank the member for Wollongong and the New South Wales shadow Minister, the Hon. Walt Secord in the other place, for their considered and mature approach to the legislation. I am sorry that The Greens misunderstood it. They did not read it and it is obvious that they did not consult with the industry, which particularly likes it.

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

Motion agreed to.

Third Reading

Mr DAVID ELLIOTT: I move:

That this bill be now read a third time.

Motion agreed to.

CRIMES LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (LOSS OF FOETUS) BILL 2021

Second Reading Debate

Debate resumed from 10 November 2021.

Mr MICHAEL DALEY (Maroubra) (15:25): I lead for the Opposition in the second reading debate to the Crimes Legislation Amendment (Loss of Foetus) Bill 2021. I acknowledge the shadow Minister for Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, the member for Charlestown. The Opposition has an equal lead with the Government on this bill and I thank her and the member for Coogee for doing a lot of work when the bill was dropped on us

last week without much notice. Without being critical of the Attorney-General, we did not really know it was coming and so we spent a lot of time last week talking to a great many stakeholders. I thank all of those stakeholders. The member for Charlestown will address who those stakeholders were and the concerns they had when she speaks to the bill after me.

The Opposition does not oppose the legislation. The bill represents the latest legislative iteration of what might loosely be called Zoe's law. Over the past decade none of those attempts to deal with the subject matter, which the bill deals with, have come to any legislative fruition. The bill is fundamentally different to those earlier iterations of legislation in several ways. It is because of those fundamental changes that the Opposition finds itself encouraged by the overwhelming majority of stakeholders who we have spoken to that have posed previous iterations to this law. Currently in New South Wales under the Crimes Act "grievous bodily harm" is defined in section 4 as:

- (a) the destruction (other than in the course of a medical procedure or a termination of a pregnancy in accordance with the *Abortion Law Reform Act 2019*) of the foetus of a pregnant woman, whether or not the woman suffers any other harm, and
- (b) any permanent or serious disfiguring of the person, and
- (c) any grievous bodily disease (in which case a reference to the infliction of grievous bodily harm includes a reference to causing a person to contract a grievous bodily disease).

There are several provisions in the Crimes Act that deal with examples of grievous bodily harm, such as the mental requisite to commit grievous bodily harm; grievous bodily harm with recklessness; or the various methods that one might inflict grievous bodily harm, whether it is by poison or other means. The maximum penalty that can be imposed under the Crimes Act for each of those provisions ranges from two to 25 years' imprisonment. It is important to keep those penalty provisions in mind.

Currently in New South Wales the destruction of a fetus is recognised at law as grievous bodily harm to the pregnant person. There have been several families in New South Wales and other Australian States and Territories who have suffered this sort of loss in previous years, most commonly as a result of dangerous driving and also from other violent acts. Given that and the current law, the Attorney General was at pains to point out in his second reading speech that the loss of a fetus in all circumstances is harrowing and to lose a fetus as a result of another person's criminal offending is profoundly distressing for parents, victims, families and the wider community. The Opposition concurs wholeheartedly with that sentiment.

The bill introduces two new offences into the Crimes Act that are going to operate in tandem with the grievous bodily harm provisions of the Crimes Act. The two new offences relate to the loss of a fetus due to criminal acts. The new offences at new sections 54A and 54B can be charged against an alleged offender when a fetus has reached the gestational age of at least 20 weeks or, in circumstances where the gestational age cannot be determined, 400 grams in weight. I note that is consistent with the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act. The first provision entitled "Offence of causing loss of a foetus" is new section 54A and will be available to the prosecution when grievous bodily harm to a pregnant person causes the loss of a fetus.

That new provision will have an additional maximum penalty that is three years higher than is currently available for the same conduct under existing laws, and that will be open to the courts. When I mentioned earlier that some of the provisions have maximum penalties of two to 25 years, that will also be open to the court. Tacking that three years on to a sentence, which is available to the court to impose for the substantive provision of grievous bodily harm, is not used often in New South Wales or in Australia. That means that for the additional three years to be tacked on, the prosecution will have to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that the substantive grievous bodily harm provision operates and was proven in the first place.

The second offence at new section 54B is analogous to new section 54A. It is entitled "Offence of causing loss of a foetus (death of a pregnant woman)" and will operate in similar terms to the offence at new section 54A. It will be available to prosecutors to charge a homicide offence such as murder or manslaughter where a pregnant person is killed and the fetus is lost as a result of the conduct. It too will have an additional maximum penalty of three years' imprisonment. The Criminal Procedure Act will also be amended to allow the name of a fetus that has been lost to the third-party criminal act to be named and included on the initiating process, otherwise known in criminal matters as the indictment of the criminal charge. Currently, the law does not allow that. In the circumstances where grievous bodily harm is caused to a pregnant person and the fetus is lost, the indictment only recognises the name of the pregnant person and not the name of the fetus, if one exists. This will not be compulsory, otherwise we would not have supported it, but it will be open to the pregnant person whose fetus has been lost—if they so desire and if they progress to the stage of a name having been chosen for the fetus—to include the name on the indictment.

The Crimes Sentencing Procedure Act 1999 will also be amended to allow for immediate family members of the pregnant person whose fetus was lost to make a victim impact statement. Those statements have been one

of the features of the law in recent times and they assist the courts in sentencing. Victims and victims groups have indicated that when they proffer a victim impact statement to the court, it assists them to get over the crime that they have suffered. This provision will allow for immediate family members to make a victim impact statement. Currently, under the Motor Accidents Injuries Act there are heads of damage—or heads of payment, if you like—that a person who is injured in a motor vehicle accident can claim from the negligent driver at fault. That legislation will be expanded to allow for a pregnant person to claim the funeral costs of a fetus if it was lost as a result of a motor vehicle accident. I know that some stakeholders raised that as a strange and anomalous provision, but when I looked at the Motor Accidents Injuries Act 2017 it was readily apparent that there are already a number of subjects or expenses for which an injured person can claim. This just adds the funeral expenses of the fetus to that list. Most significantly, the bill provides new substantive provisions to the Act that:

Proposed sections 54A and 54B do not apply to—

- (a) the termination of a pregnancy under the Abortion Law Reform Act 2019, or
- (b) an act or omission of a pregnant woman that results in the loss of the woman's foetus.

Therefore, the bill will not affect a pregnant person's ability to obtain a lawful abortion under reforms introduced by the Abortion Law Reform Act 2019. In that vein, the bill does not—and the Attorney General makes this clear—displace the "born alive" rule, and therefore does not recognise foetal personhood. At the moment in New South Wales the "born alive" rule means that a fetus has no legal status until it has been born, has been separated from its mother and has taken its first breath. At that point it obtains its own separate and distinct independent legal identity. This bill will not affect that rule. As I said at the outset, the Opposition does not oppose the bill.

Ms MELANIE GIBBONS (Holsworthy) (15:37): I support the Crimes Legislation Amendment (Loss of Foetus) Bill 2021. I congratulate the New South Wales Government on this bill and thank the Hon. Mark Speakman, SC, MP, the Attorney General, and Minister for Prevention of Domestic and Sexual Violence, for introducing it to the House. The bill has been a long time coming. I am pleased to see a bill that all members can agree on, and one which will make a difference to so many families into the future. The bill introduces some very important reforms in our State—as I said, reforms that have been a long time coming. I can only imagine being pregnant and having an accident or an altercation that meant I lost my unborn child and not being able to grieve for it as a child, as a part of the family, but instead just as part of me. I do not think that would be helpful to the grieving process.

The hopes and dreams for the future that go with being pregnant, and the responsibility that others need to take if they kill an unborn child, should be acknowledged. The proposed changes represent important and significant reforms to the law in New South Wales that will better support families who lose an unborn child as a result of third-party criminal acts. Losing a fetus at any stage during pregnancy is incredibly tough and troubling for any parent or family. However, losing a fetus as a result of another person's criminal act is extremely distressing for parents, their families and the community. Unfortunately, many families in New South Wales, and across the country, have had to go through the terrible experience of losing a fetus—or an unborn child—at the hands of a third-party criminal offence, with the majority of these incidents having happened as a result of reckless or dangerous driving.

Under the existing legislation, the loss of a fetus is recognised as grievous bodily harm to the pregnant woman only. The loss of the fetus is not recognised as a separate criminal charge and does not result in a higher penalty. This needs to be reformed as, under the current legislation, families are unable to address the significant loss of losing an unborn child. This includes providing a victim impact statement, which is an extremely vital aspect of the sentencing process and the grieving process. The bill seeks to reform this and strengthen the law so that the loss of a fetus due to a third person's actions is recognised as a separate criminal act. The proposed amendments will also provide improved support and recognition for victims and their families who have suffered the loss of a fetus at the hands of another person's criminal act.

The "offence of causing loss of a foetus" will be introduced as a new offence to the Crimes Act 1900 under this bill. This offence can be charged when grievous bodily harm is occasioned to a pregnant woman that results in the loss of a fetus. This criminal act will carry a maximum sentence that is three years higher than what is currently applicable under the existing legislation. "Offence of causing loss of a foetus (death of pregnant woman)" will also be introduced as a new offence in the bill. This offence can be charged when a pregnant woman is killed as a result of a homicide offence and the fetus is also lost as a result of the act. It will also carry a maximum of three years imprisonment, along with the penalty for the homicide offence against the pregnant woman. The insertion of these offences into the Crimes Act will ensure that pregnant women and their unborn children are appropriately protected under the law if this tragic event happens. Ensuring that harsher penalties are guaranteed is a step in the right direction.

The bill introduces amendments to the Crimes (Sentencing Procedure) Act 1999 to ensure that the eligibility of making victim impact statements is extended to the immediate family members of a pregnant woman who has lost a fetus as a result of a criminal offence. This will give them the opportunity to express before the courts the impact that their loss has had. The statements may be read out or tendered in court, and are taken into account by the courts when sentencing offenders. The proposals in the bill will also ensure that relevant family members are entitled to claim funeral costs for an unborn baby that is lost as a result of a motor accident under the Motor Accident Injuries Act 2017. Currently these benefits are only available "if the death of a person results from a motor accident". This reform will guarantee that the entitlement is extended to the funeral costs for a fetus that is lost as a result of a motor vehicle accident.

Further to this, the amendment will also provide the mother with entitlements for any income loss, treatment—including grief counselling—and any care expenses for any injuries that are sustained from an accident. This essential amendment acknowledges the suffering and grief that parents and their families experience in this terrible situation. It also means that families are not financially burdened with funeral costs, should they wish to hold one, during what would be such a difficult time. It is important to note that each amendment has been considered and developed in consultation with the views of various stakeholders and the wider community. It was vital that the New South Wales Government heard these views in order to implement the most appropriate and necessary amendments and changes to reflect these opinions.

The Government is also in the process of constructing an administrative payment scheme separate to the bill. The scheme will seek to provide a bereavement payment to families who lose a fetus as a result of another person's criminal act. That will provide families with the opportunity to access support services available during such a difficult and distressing time. The New South Wales Government is committed to addressing the gaps in the law to ensure parents and family members are protected if that tragic event occurs.

The wider community's view is that it is essential to recognise under criminal law the loss of a fetus due to the criminal act of another. The bill does exactly that by introducing two brand-new, standalone criminal offences under the Crimes Act. It ensures there is independent recognition of the severity of that event. Further, the amendment in schedule 3 will allow for the name of the unborn child to be included in the formal charge of any offence that relates to harm against the pregnant woman that has resulted in the loss of the unborn child. Together, those reforms will allow for better and more appropriate recognition of the harm that is caused when an unborn child is lost as a result of a third-party criminal act. Those reforms recognise that the loss of an unborn child is a significant trauma for a pregnant woman and for family members.

The loss of an unborn child should be specifically described in a criminal charge, and the unborn child should be named. The bill will provide a means to do that. The Crimes Legislation Amendment (Loss of Foetus) Bill 2021 is an important reform introduced by this Government. I acknowledge the families who have advocated for this reform over the past several years, I thank the community for their ongoing engagement with the reform and I thank expert legal, medical and academic stakeholders for their submissions. I also thank the mothers who have come forward and have been so open about their own experience with this terrible tragedy. They have displayed immense courage. Through sharing their stories we have been able to make the crucial changes that will hopefully ease the pain for others.

The criminal law may not ever fully rectify what has happened in those tragic circumstances, but it seeks to improve the criminal justice system to ensure that it is more effective and provides harsher sentences to address those serious crimes. The bill does not shift recognition of the harm and damage that the mother has experienced as the primary victim of the criminal act; however, it does make sure that the severe consequences she and other family members experience when a fetus is lost as a result of a third-party criminal act will be recognised by the courts as an independent crime. The amendments in the bill are extremely necessary. I am pleased to see that, as a result of consultation with relevant stakeholders and the wider community, the identified gaps in the law are addressed through the amendments. I am pleased to support the reforms, and I commend the bill to the House.

Ms JENNY LEONG (Newtown) (15:46): I speak to the Crimes Legislation Amendment (Loss of Foetus) Bill 2021 on behalf of The Greens. First of all, I make it clear that The Greens absolutely recognise that the loss of a fetus is an incredibly traumatic experience for any person and their family. We acknowledge the pain of any person who finds themselves in that situation, and we agree that if there is criminal conduct that leads to the loss of a fetus, the person responsible needs to be held appropriately to account. The need to support women and people in that situation is something all of us in the Chamber agree on, but the grieving process is one thing and the risk of criminalising a pregnant person for a miscarriage is another thing. That is why The Greens do not support the bill. We recognise the trauma of that circumstance and situation, but we do not agree that the bill is necessary. Therefore, we cannot support it.

We already have adequate provisions in the Crimes Act to deal with the loss of a fetus. The bill poses an unacceptable risk to the bodily autonomy of a person who is pregnant, and it sets a dangerous and unacceptable

standard in terms of establishing fetal personhood under New South Wales law. While the bill certainly is an improvement on earlier bills of its kind—let us call a spade a spade; we are talking about fetal personhood bills brought to the other place by the likes of Reverend the Hon. Fred Nile—The Greens, along with many legal experts, remain extremely concerned about the impact of this type of legislation. We believe it is wholly unnecessary.

As a result of those concerns and in consultation with experts in the field, including close work with the Women's Legal Service and reviewing their submission into the draft bill circulated earlier, I foreshadow that The Greens will move amendments to the bill in the other place to try to make the bill better, but we still intend to oppose it. As the Women's Legal Service set out in recent discussions, the bill is not necessary. The organisation said, "Current law already acknowledges the loss of a fetus as grievous bodily harm to the person who is pregnant. The Campbell Review in 2021 found the current law is sufficient. We believe there needs to be greater community education about the existing law so this is better understood." Currently, serious harm against or the destruction of a fetus can already be prosecuted under grievous bodily harm offences against the pregnant woman. Intentionally causing grievous bodily harm is an offence under section 33 of the Crimes Act 1900, which carries a maximum penalty of 25 years in prison, while recklessly causing grievous bodily harm is an offence under section 35 of the Act, which carries a maximum of 10 years behind bars.

If damage to or destruction of a fetus is already provided for under the law, why is the bill necessary? Every time a bill of this kind is presented to this place or to the other place, the experts are clear that it sets a dangerous standard, that there have been attempts in America to use this kind of legislation against a person who was pregnant in the case of a miscarriage, and that there are real consequences and risks that such legislation will undermine a pregnant person's bodily autonomy. Why is it necessary to upend accepted legal doctrine and move into the realm of establishing fetal personhood at all, when our current laws already deal with situations like that?

Fundamentally, The Greens are extremely concerned that the bill creates legal personhood of a fetus. We note that the "born alive" rule, whereby a baby is not given personhood until the moment they are born alive and take their first breath, is entrenched in legal doctrine. Whilst the bill does not expressly legislate for legal personhood of a fetus—unlike previous attempts at that kind of legislation by the likes of Reverend the Hon. Fred Nile—it does make changes to the Crimes Act that would operate as if there are two victims if a criminal offence results in the destruction or loss of a fetus, one being the person who is pregnant and one being a fetus that is at least at 20 weeks of gestation. That fetus has not been born and has not taken its first breath, so how can it be considered the victim of a crime, unless it has personhood under the bill? That is a massive concern and contradiction, and one that could very well lead to a fetus being expressly granted personhood somewhere down the line.

We note that the Attorney General has gone to great pains to assert that the legislation does not amount to fetal personhood, but it is extremely difficult to understand how that would be the case. We ask the Attorney General, in his reply, to explain in detail how the bill does not create legal personhood of the fetus. In consultation with the Women's Legal Service, serious concerns were expressed about the potential impact of the legislation on a person who is pregnant. We note that proposed sections 54A (6) (b) and 54B (5) (b) make an attempt to allay those concerns by stating that the bill does not apply to "an act or omission of a pregnant woman that results in the loss of the woman's foetus". In his second reading speech the Attorney General noted that the bill only applies to "the loss of a foetus as a result of a third-party criminal act" and "These reforms do not in any way intend to criminalise either of these circumstances." However, there is no reference in the legislation to those provisions only applying to a third-party criminal act. The Greens are concerned about the lack of clarity. We ask the Attorney General to clarify how the bill does not capture unlawful acts by a person who is pregnant, and where that is set out in the bill.

The Greens also hold serious concerns about the use of the terms "pregnant woman" and "the woman's foetus" throughout the bill, which is not inclusive of the trans and gender-diverse community. Trans people exist, and it is not acceptable that such narrow language in the legislation simply erases them. We note that terminology employed in the Abortion Law Reform Act 2019 referred to a "person who is pregnant". That would be much more appropriate language, and we hope the Attorney General will see that and amend it before the bill moves to the other place. Finally, we raise concerns on behalf of the Women's Legal Service in regards to the proposal in the bill to allow family members of a pregnant person who has lost a fetus to make a victim impact statement. In its submission to the consultation on the exposure draft of the bill, the Women's Legal Service stated:

16. If a person who is pregnant loses their foetus due to an offence, they may already give a victim impact statement in relation to the harm and loss they have suffered, which can include particulars of the impact on their immediate family. Family victims can also currently provide a victim impact statement, for example, when a person who was pregnant has died and the foetus was destroyed. We fear unintended consequences if family victims were permitted to provide victim impact statements beyond existing provisions. For example, the proposed amendments may mean that a family victim decides to only talk about the impact of the loss of the foetus

without reference to the surviving person who was pregnant. We do not believe that this is appropriate as it implies legal personhood of the foetus even if this is not explicitly stated and it is likely to be further traumatising for the person.

17. If the destruction of a foetus occurs as a result of a domestic or family violence related assault, it could also be very distressing if members of the offender's family were permitted to provide a statement, which may be possible given the scope of the definition of "member of the primary victim's immediate family" ...

Let us take a moment to consider where the bill came from. This issue has been championed by Fred Nile and the Christian Democratic Party, a party hell-bent on controlling women's bodies. So you will forgive us if we do not trust that that is not what this bill has been designed to do. The Attorney General and the Liberal-Nationals Government should not cave in to pressure from anti-choice, anti-women forces in this Parliament: There is no justification and no need for that. The time of doing deals with Fred Nile to get other legislation through has long passed.

Experts have made it clear that we do not need these laws; they are not necessary nor appropriate. Injury must always be interpreted as the injury to the pregnant person. Fetal personhood laws also risk undermining the hard-won struggle for the decriminalisation of abortion in New South Wales. The vocal advocates of this reform did not get their way when it came to the decriminalisation of abortion, so now they are trying whatever they can to further control our bodies. Using the tragic circumstances of a person who has experienced such a personal loss as a way to advance this is truly, truly remarkable. The Greens oppose the concept of giving personhood status to a fetus and, therefore, we oppose this bill.

Ms JODIE HARRISON (Charlestown) (15:56): The loss of a fetus at any stage of a pregnancy is a heartbreaking experience; there is no doubt about that. This pain is only compounded when that fetus is lost through the criminal actions of a third party, and the desire to recognise the gravity of this loss at law is an understandable one. At the outset, I offer my deepest and sincerest condolences to Brodie Donegan and to all those who have been in a similar situation. I spoke with Brodie on the phone and sought her view on the Crimes Legislation Amendment (Loss of Foetus) Bill 2021, and I thank her for her measured approach.

This bill is for an Act to amend the Crimes Act to create new offences in relation to causing the loss of a fetus of a pregnant woman and to make consequential amendments to other Acts. In developing the Labor Opposition's position on this bill, the shadow Attorney General, the member for Coogee and I consulted with key stakeholders, particularly stakeholders who have had concerns with previous iterations of Zoe's law before this bill. I thank them for their very thoughtful, considered feedback, and I certainly thank them for the quick turnaround in which they provided that feedback. We spoke to Family Planning NSW, which also worked with Women's Health NSW and the Women's Electoral Lobby, to develop a position. We spoke with Our Bodies Our Choices, Rape & Domestic Violence Services Australia, the Australian Medical Association (NSW) and Women's Legal Service NSW. Labor's position on this bill is based on that consultation.

At present, the law in New South Wales recognises the destruction of a fetus as grievous bodily harm done to the pregnant person. In 2005 the definition of "grievous bodily harm" in the Crimes Act 1900 was amended to include "the destruction (other than in the course of a medical procedure) ... of the fetus of a pregnant woman, whether or not the woman suffers any other harm". This offence carries a maximum prison sentence of 25 years. In 2010 the Hon. Michael Campbell, QC, conducted a review of the law surrounding criminal incidents involving the death of an unborn child and found that there was no need for reform. Nevertheless, this bill, in various iterations, has been before Parliament in some form or another for a decade because there is a strong view from people who have experienced the loss of a fetus in this way that the act has been insufficiently recognised when it comes to the way that the law is applied. It has also consistently met with opposition from groups concerned with its potential impact on reproductive rights.

The bill introduces two new offences into the Crimes Act. It creates an offence in proposed section 54A, "offence of causing loss of a fetus", which a person will be charged with when grievous bodily harm has been caused to a pregnant person, causing the loss of the fetus. The bill points to prosecuting third parties involved in a criminal act that causes the death of a fetus. I note that the legislation states that the offence of causing loss of a fetus does not apply to an act or omission of a pregnant woman that results in the loss of a woman's fetus. Women's advocates we have spoken to are seeking stronger protections and clarification ensuring pregnant people committing unlawful acts cannot be prosecuted for the death of a fetus they are carrying under any circumstances. I note that in the United States there is currently a move towards prosecuting women for miscarriages, particularly low-income women, women of colour, and drug-using women. To me, this is abhorrent, and I ask that the Attorney General in his reply further clarifies the provisions of the bill in this regard.

The proposed section 54B "offence of causing loss of a fetus (death of pregnant woman)" means that a person can be charged with a homicide offence where the pregnant person is killed and the fetus is lost as a result of that conduct. A person can be charged with the new offences when a fetus has reached the gestational age of at least 20 weeks or, when a gestational age cannot be reliably determined, 400 grams in body mass. These new

offences will also carry an additional maximum penalty of three years' imprisonment. In our discussions with Family Planning NSW, it suggested that it would have been ideal if the new offences were aligned with the Abortion Law Reform Act 2019, which allows abortion at up to 22 weeks. This would have avoided any overlap in the provisions of the two bills. I seek comment from the Attorney General in his reply as to why 20 weeks was determined and not the 22-week position. I also note that in this his second reading speech the Attorney General referred to registration of stillbirth, and I seek further clarification on that as well.

Beyond the Crimes Act, this bill introduces changes to several other Acts. Firstly, the Criminal Procedure Act, which will allow the name of the fetus to be included on the initiating process or the indictment of the criminal charge. The law as it stands does not allow this. I note that it will not be compulsory—the victim may request that the fetus' name not be included. The Crimes (Sentencing Procedure) Act will also be amended to allow for immediate family members of the pregnant person whose fetus was lost to make a victim impact statement. This is a concern for some stakeholders, and rightly so. Family Planning NSW has stated that "This poses concerning issues in some circumstances and consideration should be given to whether anyone other than the pregnant person is suitable to make such a statement."

In particular, significant sensitivities exist when a pregnant person has lost a fetus through circumstances such as domestic violence. Will family members of the offender be allowed to make a victim impact statement in such circumstances? Obviously a woman in these circumstances has already experienced a huge amount of trauma and to allow the family of the offender to make a victim impact statement is highly likely to exacerbate this trauma. I am hopeful that the Attorney General has a view on this and I ask for his clarification in his reply. The Motor Accident Injuries Act will be amended to allow for a pregnant person to claim funeral costs for a fetus lost as a result of a motor accident. Crucially, the bill provides that proposed sections 54A and 54B do not apply to:

- (a) the termination of the pregnancy under the *Abortion Law Reform Act 2019*, or
- (b) an act or omission of the pregnant woman that results in the loss of the woman's fetus.

In his second reading speech the Attorney General affirmed that this provision ensures that the bill does not impact the ability to obtain a lawful abortion. There is a delicate balancing act here. The bill is aimed at properly recognising the harm done when a fetus is lost through the criminal action of another person. I note that in his second reading speech the Attorney General very specifically stated that the bill does not in any way affect a woman's ability to obtain a lawful abortion in New South Wales. Two years ago this place dealt with decriminalising abortion, and we finally agreed to recognise abortion as a medical procedure. The Abortion Law Reform Act ensures termination of a pregnancy is rightly treated as a health issue rather than a criminal issue, and establishes a health-centred approach for abortion that supports a woman's right to health, including reproductive health and autonomy. It also provides clarity and safety for health practitioners providing abortions.

I note there are concerns about whether the bill creates fetal personhood and whether the "born alive" rule is impacted. In his second reading speech the Attorney General stated that the bill does not replace the born alive rule. However, given where we have come from over the last decade in relation to this type of legislation there is a reasonable concern. I note that the bill creates the offence as an injury against the pregnant person, and that this goes to dealing with the issue of fetal personhood. The born alive rule deems legal personhood to apply to an infant born independently of its mother after it has taken its first breath. It is a critical issue in this debate. I ask the Attorney General to further clarify how this bill does not create fetal personhood.

I join with my colleagues in supporting the bill. While I understand there are some justified concerns about the impact the bill may have I am satisfied that, on balance, enough protections are in place to ensure that there will be no impact on reproductive health rights. I understand that members of the other place may have amendments to move, although I am certainly not indicating any from the Opposition. Amendments that would cause me deep concern would include any amendments which would result in providing personhood of a fetus; language which is not medically based and puts at risk the born alive rule; prosecution of a person for causing the death of their own fetus—accidentally, criminally, intentionally or unintentionally; or prosecution of health workers for causing the death of a fetus in the course of provision of health care. I believe the Attorney General when he says that the Government's intention with this bill is to better recognise the loss of a fetus as a result of a third-party criminal act.

Overall, I think the bill has walked the fine line of providing a clear penalty at law for criminal acts resulting in such a loss during pregnancy experienced by a person who desperately wants to increase their family and the rights of a person to have autonomy over their own body. It is an area where only a couple of years ago we made a big step forward and we cannot go backwards. Again, I thank all of the groups with which the shadow Attorney General and I consulted on the bill, particularly for sharing their thoughts in a very short period of time. I thank the brave people who have shared their stories on this issue over decades. I know that this legislation will not take

away their loss, but I hope their grief is lessened just that little bit because of the impact their experience has made for others in the future.

Mr PETER SIDGREAVES (Camden) (16:06): I am pleased to support the important Crimes Legislation Amendment (Loss of Foetus) Bill 2021. The bill will introduce two new standalone criminal offences that will ensure better recognition will be given to the harm caused by the loss of an unborn child, due to a third party act, to the pregnant woman, her family and the wider community. The bill reflects the New South Wales Government's commitment to ensure that these reforms become a reality, after extensive consultation with legal stakeholders, medical experts, advocacy groups and the wider community of New South Wales. Currently the law in New South Wales, like several other Australian jurisdictions, treats the destruction of a fetus as a type of grievous bodily harm suffered by the pregnant woman. However, it is not always guaranteed that the loss of the fetus will be directly referenced within the criminal charge itself and can often be classified as part of a myriad of injuries to the pregnant woman. The new offences will ensure that the loss of an unborn child will be at the forefront of these crimes and included in the details of the formal charges against an accused. Those offences will provide important and more independent recognition of this loss and exceptional harm within the criminal law.

The bill proposes two new standalone criminal offences to be introduced to the Crimes Act 1900 to address two very serious circumstances when a fetus is lost: first, when an act or omission of another person against a pregnant woman causes the loss of a fetus and the pregnant woman survives; and second, when an act or omission of another person causes the loss of a fetus and the pregnant woman dies as a result of unlawful conduct. These offences will build on conduct that is already criminalised in New South Wales but will improve the way the criminal law recognises the loss of an unborn child, without undermining how the harm caused to the pregnant woman can also be criminalised. The bill will create a standalone offence of causing the loss of a fetus, which will apply to a wide range of criminal acts and carry a maximum penalty of five to 28 years' imprisonment depending on the type of act, such as dangerous driving or grievous bodily harm with intent to the pregnant woman. The combined maximum sentence for this offence and the existing criminal offence will be three years higher than currently available for this conduct under existing law.

The bill will also create an offence of "causing loss of a foetus (death of pregnant woman)" which can be charged with a homicide offence—such as murder, manslaughter, or dangerous driving occasioning death—where the fetus is lost and the pregnant woman is killed due to a third-party criminal act. This offence will carry a maximum penalty of three years' imprisonment and apply in addition to the maximum penalty for the homicide offence. These offences will be available to be charged when a fetus has reached a gestational age of at least 20 weeks. If it is not possible to reliably establish a period of gestation, the fetus must have a body mass of at least 400 grams. This is consistent with the gestational time periods for a stillbirth provided by section 4 of the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act 1995. Importantly, these new offences will not in any way criminalise a woman for her behaviour that may cause the loss of her fetus, nor will they affect a person's ability to obtain a lawful abortion. This is made explicitly clear at proposed sections 54A (6) and 54B (5). These offences are created to address the criminal behaviour of a third party that causes the loss of a fetus of a woman, either through physical violence or as a result of culpable driving, and to better support impacted families.

In the past several years in New South Wales alone there have been several tragic cases involving pregnant women losing their unborn child as a result of the criminal actions of third parties. Most but not all of these cases have involved dangerous driving by the third party. These distressing incidents have led to increased community interest in whether the criminal law in New South Wales gives adequate recognition to circumstances where a third-party criminal act causes the loss of a fetus. These amendments will ensure that the criminal law better supports families who tragically lose an unborn child as a result of third-party criminal acts. The Crimes Legislation Amendment (Loss of Foetus) Bill 2021 provides an important suite of reforms to address gaps in the law that have been identified for many years. I am very pleased to support this important reform moved by the New South Wales Government. I commend the bill to the House.

Mr RYAN PARK (Keira) (16:12): I also support the Crimes Legislation Amendment (Loss of Foetus) Bill 2021. From the outset I thank the shadow Attorney General, the shadow Minister for Women, and the shadow Minister for Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, for leading for the Opposition in debate on the bill and for their engagement with a number of stakeholders. That is very important. This has always been a challenging piece of legislation. In fact, it was during my first term in this place that the first iteration of this bill was introduced. Unfortunately, back then I could not support it. It was a decision I still find very difficult, just because of some of the provisions in the bill. I note that this legislation has been around for a long time. I also note that it is not an easy piece of legislation.

The bill has come about because of a tragedy. As all members in this Chamber read their speeches in debate on this bill they think of Brodie Donegan, who lost her baby girl, Zoe, on Christmas Day 2009 when a drug-affected driver crashed into her. No-one could begin to think they understand the pain and suffering that family

has been through. I hope today is the start of some form of healing for her tireless advocacy in this space. It is something that I note the member for Charlestown and the member for Maroubra acknowledged, and I am sure many other members will do as well.

The current law in New South Wales recognises the destruction of a fetus as grievous bodily harm to the pregnant person. The bill represents the latest in a number of attempts over the past decade or so—certainly since I have been in Parliament—to change the law about the killing of a fetus in New South Wales. It has become known as Zoe's law because it is an opportunity for us to remember Zoe, but also Brodie and her tireless advocacy and the fact that the former member for The Entrance introduced the first version of this bill. I did not support the bill then, but this bill is an improvement on that piece of legislation.

The bill introduces two new offences into the Crimes Act relating to the loss of a fetus due to criminal acts. As has been discussed, the new offences can be charged when a fetus has reached the gestational age of at least 20 weeks or 400 grams in weight. A number of members have talked about a range of different provisions in the bill. I will not repeat those but there are some things I want to emphasise because I think they are particularly important. The Criminal Procedure Act 1986 will also be amended to allow the name of the fetus lost to a third-party criminal act to be included on the initiating process of the indictment of the criminal charge. Currently the law does not allow this. I think that is an important reform and should not be underestimated as part of the changes that are being brought before the House today. It will not be compulsory and the pregnant person may request that the fetus' name not be included on the indictment. In my view this is an improvement to the legislation.

I focus on the changes to the Crimes (Sentencing Procedure) Act 1999, which will also be amended to allow for the immediate family members of the pregnant person whose fetus was lost to make a victim impact statement. Any of us, as legislators, who have spoken to people about victim impact statements know how powerful they are. They make a huge difference to families who have been victims of criminal activity. I have spoken to a number of people who have made these statements. It makes a difference. This is an important change, which should not be underestimated. Most significantly the bill provides that new sections 54A and 54B do not apply to the termination of a pregnancy under the Abortion Law Reform Act 2019, or an act or omission of the pregnant woman that results in the loss of the woman's fetus. Therefore, the bill will not affect a pregnant person's ability to obtain a lawful abortion under reforms introduced by the Abortion Law Reform Act 2019.

This is important to me and is one of the reasons I could not support previous legislation, even though I found it very difficult not to. It was challenging for me to vote the way I did at that time, but I needed to make sure that we were not inadvertently doing something that would prevent women from having access to an abortion. I hope that the bill brings some form of comfort for Brodie and her family. It will never, ever make up for the loss and what the family has been through. I do not think any of us would ever say that. I admire her tenacity, her courage and her advocacy. I think she has taught all of us a lot. In the deepest, darkest days of grief she has managed to be a champion and an advocate for her unborn baby.

I also acknowledge and thank the two shadow Ministers who have had discussions with Family Planning NSW, Rape & Domestic Violence Services Australia, the Australian Medical Association and others about the bill. I am sure that the legislation will be an improvement and I hope it delivers what it is meant to—namely, an acknowledgement that when someone is killed in this way a level of criminal activity is connected to the act. I hope we can continue to have this debate in the respectful way it deserves, no matter how long it lasts. I thank members for their time. I commend the bill to the House.

Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal) (16:19): The foundations of the Crimes Legislation Amendment (Loss of Foetus) Bill 2021 were laid on Christmas Day 2009 when Brodie Donegan lost her baby girl, Zoe. She was 32 weeks pregnant at the time when she was struck by a drunk driver. Obviously Zoe did not survive. I start by commending Brodie for her unwavering advocacy for more than a decade to see this legislation delivered in New South Wales to hopefully ensure that what Brodie went through will not be repeated in the future by any other parent. Losing a child is the worst possible pain that any family can experience. From the beginning, I acknowledge the incredible advocacy, steadfastness, compassion and passion that Brodie has brought to the debate over many years.

Again, the foundations of the bill were laid on that tragic Christmas Day in 2009. Not one Central Coast resident does not understand the ramifications of that day and what it caused Brodie and her family with the loss of Zoe. I am pleased that a piece of legislation has now come to the Parliament, which has been greeted by all sides, to provide protection for unborn children when they are the victims of a crime. I concentrate my contribution around the amendment to the Crimes (Sentencing Procedure) Act 1999, which covers victim impact statements. It also gives me an opportunity to acknowledge the speech by the member for Holsworthy. As she said, as a mother of two, she could not begin to understand how hard it would for a parent to cope with losing an unborn child but also not be able to acknowledge the loss of the child formally in criminal proceedings.

As Brodie articulated in her speeches to many people, the fact that her daughter was not acknowledged in what had happened was a cause of huge pain and grief that has continued for the family long after it should have subsided to some degree. The member for Holsworthy articulated that very well. Her speech was followed by that of my colleague the member for Camden. I acknowledge the Attorney General and his work. The Attorney General made it clear that the bill was a long time coming and was incredibly complex and nuanced, but we had to make sure that we got it right. Both sides of the House have agreed to pass the bill. We have heard from the member for Keira, who said how difficult it was not to support the bill in its original form. It is good to see that the outcome is much more positive now, with agreement from both sides of the House. I acknowledge the Attorney General and all the incredible work that has gone on to bring the Crimes Legislation Amendment (Loss of a Foetus) Bill 2021—colloquially known to all of us on the Central Coast, and always will be, as Zoe's law—to the House.

I welcome the opportunity to talk about the bill, given the significance of its foundations being on the Central Coast. In particular, I speak about the amendments to section 26 and section 28 of the Crimes (Sentencing Procedure) Act 1999 concerning the important victim impact statements. Victim impact statements play an important part in the criminal justice process. A victim impact statement is a written or spoken statement that may be provided to a court following conviction for a particular offence for the purposes of the sentencing proceedings. Of course, there were no victim impact statements following the loss of Zoe in that tragic incident. The purpose of a victim impact statement is to describe the impact the crime has had on those affected by it, including the harm suffered by the primary victim or members of the primary victim's immediate family, as a direct result. A primary victim in relation to an offence means a person against whom the offence was committed, or a person who was a witness to particular types of offences and who suffered personal harm as a direct result of that offence. A primary victim must be a legal person, meaning a person born alive.

Often providing or reading aloud a victim impact statement is the only forum by which a victim or, in some cases, their immediate family can share their experience in a way that is not confined by the procedures of a trial. Where there is no trial because an offender has pled guilty to an offence, it is the only time that a victim can address the court directly. Division 2 in part 3 of the Crimes (Sentencing Procedure) Act 1999 contains the provisions that regulate the preparation and receipt of victim impact statements. Currently, if the primary victim of the crime is still alive, only that person may make a victim impact statement. The statement may include particulars of any personal harm that the primary victim or members of the primary victim's immediate family have suffered as a direct result of an offence, including any personal injury, emotional suffering or distress, harm to relationships with other persons and any economic loss or harm that arises.

When the primary victim has died as a result of a crime—for example, in a murder, manslaughter or dangerous driving causing death case—members of the primary victim's immediate family are family victims and can provide a victim impact statement. When a pregnant woman has tragically lost her unborn child as a result of a third-party criminal act, the Crimes (Sentencing Procedure) Act applies with the effect that, if she survives the offence, she is the primary victim of that crime and may give a victim impact statement in relation to the harm she has suffered and the impact the loss of her unborn child has had on her and her family. If the pregnant woman has died as a result of the offence, her close family members are family victims in relation to her death and may also provide a statement to the court about the impact that the loss of her life has had on them.

Those statements may include details about the loss of the unborn child, as that would form part of the circumstances of the pregnant woman's death. However, family victims cannot always provide a victim impact statement when an unborn child has been lost. Schedule 2 to the bill addresses that by amending section 26 of the Crimes (Sentencing Procedure) Act to extend the definition of "family victim" to include those people who were members of the pregnant woman's immediate family at the time the offence was committed against her, during which her unborn child was lost, whether or not she passed away. That would include, for example, the pregnant woman's spouse. The bill also amends section 28 of the Crimes (Sentencing Procedure) Act so that family members can provide a victim impact statement when an unborn child is lost as a result of a third-party criminal offence, irrespective of whether the pregnant woman survives the offence or has died as a result.

This means that in the sentencing proceedings for any offence in which a fetus has been lost as a result of a crime, immediate family members will all be eligible to provide a victim impact statement to the court concerning the effect the loss of the unborn child has had on them, recognising that the loss of an unborn child caused by a third-party criminal act can have a wideranging impact on family members. This is a unique loss, and the criminal justice system should provide the opportunity for those people to also share how such a grievous offence has impacted their lives. In conclusion, I acknowledge that the bill has its foundations on Christmas Day 2009 with the tragic loss of Zoe. I am pleased to support the bill, which will make the victim impact statement regime more inclusive in circumstances where an unborn child has been lost as a result of a third-party criminal offence against a pregnant woman, thus ensuring better recognition of the impact that such a devastating crime can have on families and the wider community.

I pay tribute to Brodie and acknowledge her tireless advocacy over a decade, which has ensured that Zoe's law is implemented in a way that is just for the victims of those sorts of crimes. Again, I congratulate and acknowledge the work that has been done by the Attorney General and his entire team on this very complex piece of legislation. As we have seen many times in this place, it is important that we get legislation right. Sometimes that means going back to the drawing board a few times, but the outcome here is that we have delivered an excellent amending bill. I commend the Crimes Legislation Amendment (Loss of Foetus) Bill 2021 to the House.

Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect) (16:29): I contribute to debate on the Crimes Legislation Amendment (Loss of Foetus) Bill 2021, which was introduced by Attorney General Mark Speakman. Currently in New South Wales the law defines the loss of a fetus by a third party as grievous bodily harm to the pregnant woman. That means when an unborn child is lost due to the criminal behaviour of another, including by personal violence or driving offences, the fetus is only included as an injury to the pregnant woman. There are no current provisions to guarantee that the loss of a fetus will be included in the details of the criminal charge, nor is there a guarantee that a higher penalty will be imposed during sentencing to recognise the criminality of the harm caused to the unborn child. Essentially, it fails to recognise the physical, emotional and mental trauma that the loss of the fetus has on the pregnant woman as well as on loved ones and family members.

The failure of our New South Wales criminal justice system to acknowledge the loss of a fetus due to a criminal act and the failure to recognise the significant trauma and harm caused to the pregnant woman and her immediate family have been criticised for the better part of a decade. Attempts have been made by parliamentarians, including Reverend the Hon. Fred Nile, to introduce legislation to Parliament to strengthen criminal law by acknowledging the loss of a fetus during a criminal act. Those attempts at legislative reform became commonly known as Zoe's law. Those previous attempts failed for various reasons, including fears that the legislation would be expanded to encompass abortion rights and women's reproductive health.

The legislation should have been put in place years ago, but the issue was hijacked by other interests and by people whose agenda had nothing to do with what it really should have been about: justice for a mother who lost a loved child, the impact that had on her family, and the impact that such criminal behaviour has on other victims of those crimes. Today I am pleased that the Attorney General has put that issue back on the agenda so it cannot be hijacked by other groups with their own sectional interests, no matter what they are. It must be about victims' rights and bringing justice to those whose criminal behaviour has caused the death of an unborn child.

The object of the bill is to strengthen criminal law to better recognise the loss of a fetus as a harm suffered by a pregnant woman and her immediate family, to empower family members by including their contributions in the judicial process and to further support the pregnant woman and her family by extending statutory benefits for funeral expenses. The bill makes four key amendments to criminal law in New South Wales. First, the bill amends the Crimes Act 1900 by inserting new sections 54A and 54B to create offences in relation to causing the loss of a fetus. New section 54A stipulates that an offence is committed if a person's act or omission physically causes grievous bodily harm to a pregnant woman and that act or omission also causes the loss of a fetus of the pregnant woman. There is no requirement under new section 54A for the defendant to have knowledge or to reasonably have known that the woman was pregnant.

For the purposes of the bill, a fetus is defined as being at least 20 weeks old or, if it is not possible to determine the period of gestation, at least 400 grams in weight. If a person commits an offence under proposed new section 54A, the total maximum penalty is the total maximum penalty imposed for the particular form of grievous bodily harm plus three years imprisonment. Proposed new section 54B creates an offence if a person's act or omission constitutes the death of a pregnant woman and the act or omission includes causing the loss of the pregnant woman's fetus. A person is charged with this offence only if they are also charged with an offence under a specified provision of the Crimes Act 1900 in relation to homicide. This offence will carry an additional maximum penalty of three years' imprisonment. Again, there is no provision for the person to have known that the woman was pregnant.

Very importantly, proposed new sections 54A and 54B do not apply to the termination of a pregnancy under the Abortion Law Reform Act 2019 or to an act or omission of a pregnant woman that results in the loss of the woman's fetus. This particular section is imperative, as it determines that the bill does not contain any provisions that will affect a woman's ability to obtain a lawful abortion under New South Wales legislation. The issue of preventing a woman from obtaining a lawful abortion was a concern of stakeholders, including the Women's Legal Service NSW, with the Crimes Amendment (Zoe's Law) Bill 2017. It would appear that the drafters of the Crimes Legislation Amendment (Loss of Foetus) Bill 2021 have considered these concerns and strengthened the protections of women seeking lawful abortions in the light of the previous concerns raised.

Additionally, the bill does not displace the born alive rule and therefore does not recognise fetal personhood. The born alive rule means that a person is not a legal being until they are fully born in a legal state. This ensures that a fetus cannot compete with the rights or interests of other existing persons, primarily the woman

carrying the fetus. The issue of fetal personhood was another concern shared by stakeholders regarding the Crimes Amendment (Zoe's Law) Bill 2017. The bill also amends part 3 division 2 of the Crimes (Sentencing Procedure) Act 1999 by amending the definition of "family victim". Immediate family members of a pregnant woman who is the primary victim of an offence will be included as family victims. These family members may be included in a victim impact statement with information including the impact of the loss of the fetus on the family of victims and other members of the immediate family. This particular amendment is supported, as victim impact statements play an important role in sentencing proceedings.

By allowing the immediate family members to offer a personalised perspective to the courts, a more appropriate sentence for the offence can be determined, in addition to helping alleviate, or at the very least consider, the pain and suffering caused to the primary victim and their close family members. Further, the bill amends the Criminal Procedure Act 1986 by providing that the name of an unborn child can be included in the particulars of a criminal charge. It is not mandatory for the name of the unborn child to be included in the indictment. However, this amendment will allow the primary victim or immediate family to better recognise the extent of the harm caused by the offender by acknowledging the existence and personal impact of the unborn child. This amendment will exist whether the pregnant woman is alive or deceased.

Finally, the bill amends the Motor Accident Injuries Act 2017 to allow statutory benefits to be payable for any funeral expenses incurred as a result of the loss of a fetus in a motor accident. This amendment ensures that families can hold a funeral or memorial service for an unborn child, who was lost due to a motor vehicle accident, without being financially burdened. The loss of an unborn child can cause terrible emotional harm to families and this is further exasperated by funeral expenses. The bill is a result of numerous attempts to provide better access to justice for pregnant women and their families regarding the loss of an unborn child as a result of a criminal action, especially including serious personal violence and driving offences. The most well-known example of this campaign is the hard-fought advocacy of Brodie Donegan. [*Extension of time*]

On Christmas Day 2009 Ms Donegan was hit by a van whilst pregnant with her unborn child, Zoe. Despite the offender, Justine Hampson, being affected by a cocktail of drugs—including methadone—causing her to crash, severely injure Ms Donegan and kill the unborn baby Zoe, Ms Hampson was sentenced to only nine months in prison. Ms Hampson was convicted of two charges, including dangerous driving causing grievous bodily harm. Zoe's death, or the impact of Zoe's death, was not considered in the court processes. The criminal justice system in New South Wales failed Ms Donegan by not accounting for the loss of her daughter in the criminal charges and simply listing the loss of Zoe as part of Ms Donegan's own injuries. Ms Donegan was also allowed to provide only one victim impact statement to the courts, despite the loss of Zoe affecting her entire family and loved ones.

Ms Donegan was 32 weeks pregnant with her daughter at the time of the criminal incident. She had named her daughter and looked forward to a life with her daughter. The criminal justice system was not capable of delivering justice for Ms Donegan, Zoe, and her family, despite the physical, emotional and mental anguish experienced by Ms Donegan and her family. I thank Ms Donegan and acknowledge her bravery and her continued advocacy to ensure pregnant women and their families are better protected and supported in New South Wales. Despite needing to relive her own horrific experience, Ms Donegan spearheaded the campaign to better provide justice to victims. Apart from Ms Donegan, the Attorney General's bill has received further support from stakeholders including Family Planning NSW on behalf of Women's Health NSW and the Women's Electoral Lobby, Our Bodies Our Choices, the Rape & Domestic Violence Services Australia and the Australian Medical Association (NSW). The Attorney General states that the New South Wales Government consulted with legal bodies, victims groups and affected families in order to ensure that these reforms are appropriate and sufficient. In addition to receiving 114 submissions on the bill, that consultation included advocacy, not-for-profit and medical organisations, legal body stakeholders, religious leaders and individuals.

The New South Wales Labor Opposition supports the reforms provided in the Crimes Legislation Amendment (Loss of Foetus) Bill 2021. The Opposition believes that pregnant women and their families must be better protected in the criminal justice system, especially when there are terrible circumstances such as the loss of a fetus due to the criminal acts of a third party. The Opposition supports the insertion of proposed new sections 54A and 54B into the Crimes Act 1900. In particular, we support the provision which stipulates that these proposed sections do not apply to the termination of the pregnancy or an act or omission of the pregnant woman that results in the loss of the woman's fetus. The Opposition also supports the amendments to the Crimes (Sentencing Procedure) Act 1999, the Criminal Procedure Act 1986, and the Motor Accident Injuries Act 2017. The Opposition supports the provision that statutory benefits are included in funeral expenses for the loss of a fetus of a pregnant woman, if the loss results from a motor accident. The trauma and anguish caused by losing a fetus must be properly compensated for and must not put a family into financial debt. The New South Wales Labor Opposition does not oppose this bill.

Mr NATHANIEL SMITH (Wollondilly) (16:42): I am very pleased to speak in support of the Crimes Legislation Amendment (Loss of Foetus) Bill 2021. This bill provides an important suite of reforms that will ensure better recognition will be given to loss of a fetus within the criminal law. The subject of this bill has a history to it. Similar legislation was introduced into the Legislative Assembly by former member for The Entrance Chris Spence, with the full support of Brodie Donegan, the mother, and Nick Ball, the father. The legislation was passed overwhelmingly by a vote of 63 to 26 in this House. My father, a former Attorney General and the then member for Epping, spoke about this issue in his last private member's statement in this Chamber before he retired in late 2014. I quote him:

The irony is that by lawmakers ignoring modern advances in medical research, where much more is known about unborn children, a ... gap in the law is created. If assault or reckless or dangerous driving causes a child to be born alive prematurely and the child then dies from the injuries, the perpetrator may be prosecuted and convicted for homicide or other offences against the person. The child may be born very prematurely—say, at 22 weeks gestation—but if born alive it is treated as a person with all the protections the law affords to older persons. But if the child dies in the womb at a much later stage of development—say, 37 weeks—it is not currently recognised as a person.

I thank the Attorney General for introducing this bill because the law should have been changed years ago. The unexpected loss of an unborn child is profoundly distressing at any time, let alone when it occurs as a result of another person's deliberate or reckless act towards a pregnant woman. Several families in New South Wales and other Australian States and Territories have suffered that loss in previous years, most commonly when their unborn child was lost as a result of another person's dangerous driving. In some instances the criminal acts that have caused the loss of the unborn child have also resulted in the death of the pregnant woman and other individuals.

In November 2018 the New South Wales Government committed to reform the law to better recognise the harm caused by those criminal acts and to seek expert advice on the scope and application of that reform. The reforms have been closely and carefully developed over a number of years to ensure that the criminal law can respond appropriately and in a way that reflects the standards of the diverse communities in New South Wales. In 2019 a confidential discussion paper was provided to a number of key stakeholders, including legal and medical practitioners, prosecutors, defence counsel, the NSW Police Force and other key advocacy groups. The discussion paper was also provided to known victims who had lost an unborn child as a result of third-party criminal acts and their immediate family members. That included a detailed discussion of the law and a number of targeted questions for expert consideration and feedback. The Government also released an exposure draft bill for public consultation in November 2020. A total of 114 submissions were received, including 63 formal submissions and 51 pieces of correspondence sent outside of the "Have your say" process.

Feedback was provided by a number of individuals as well as numerous organisations and agencies, including the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions; the Law Society of New South Wales; Women's Legal Service NSW; the Public Defenders; the NSW Bar Association; Legal Aid NSW; Women's Health NSW; the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists; church leaders, including the Catholic Archbishop of Sydney, the Archbishop of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Australia and the Archbishop of the Anglican Diocese of Sydney; FamilyVoice Australia; Women & Babies Support; WayAhead Mental Health Association NSW; and many others. Consultation confirmed that it is a complex issue, with diverse views being received from the community and legal advocacy groups as to whether the current law is sufficient in recognising the loss of an unborn child.

After extensive consultation, the Government has carefully considered how best to legislate to better acknowledge this tragic loss and to better support expectant parents who lose an unborn child due to another person's criminal act. Some aspects of the exposure draft are similar to what is before Parliament in the current bill; some parts have changed, most notably the amendments to the Crimes Act to produce two new standalone criminal offences. The first offence is causing the loss of an unborn child, which will apply to a wide range of criminal acts and carry a maximum penalty of five to 28 years' imprisonment depending on the type of act, such as dangerous driving or grievous bodily harm with intent to the pregnant woman. The combined maximum sentence for that offence and the existing criminal offence will be three years higher than is currently available for this conduct under existing law.

The second offence is "causing the loss of an unborn child (death of pregnant woman)", which can be charged with a homicide offence, such as murder, manslaughter or dangerous driving occasioning death, where the child is lost and the pregnant woman is killed due to a third-party criminal act. That offence will carry a maximum penalty of three years' imprisonment and apply in addition to the maximum penalty for the homicide offence. The bill has also undergone targeted consultation with operational agencies. The Government thanks stakeholders for their contributions over the years, especially the family members who have advocated for change, who we have listened to closely. The Crimes Legislation Amendment (Loss of Foetus) Bill 2021 presents significant reform that is appropriately balanced and will improve how the loss of an unborn child can be recognised in criminal law. I commend the bill to the House.

Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland) (16:49): I contribute to debate on the Crimes Legislation Amendment (Loss of Foetus) Bill 2021. Whilst I note there was some consultation on an earlier draft of the bill—the Crimes Legislation (Offences Against Pregnant Women) Bill 2020—this bill is different. At the outset I say that I am deeply disappointed that, as someone who was a co-sponsor for the Reproductive Health Care Reform Act 2019, the Attorney General did not consult with me or, to my knowledge, the other co-sponsors of that bill, who all have a strong interest in the bill before the House. I am also deeply disappointed that the Attorney General appears not to have consulted with the many groups for women and others, including the 90 organisations that form the NSW Pro-Choice Alliance, which have fought for women's reproductive rights for generations.

We know that the bill has in some form or another cast a shadow over women's reproductive rights in New South Wales for some years and before I came to this place. I note that the Attorney General has played a significant role in those earlier iterations. As women in this place we fight together across political parties, factions and institutions to improve the rights of women in all areas of our lives. Those fights have united women for generations. It is a shame that a man who comes from a party that is so poorly represented by women in this place has failed to engage with us on this issue before introducing this legislation to this House. The bill should not be politicised; women across all sides of politics should work together to get the best outcome for all of us—for our mothers, our sisters and our daughters.

Over the last decade a number of attempts were made to change the laws relating to the loss of a fetus in New South Wales, most commonly known as Zoe's law in reference to Brodie Donegan who lost her baby, Zoe, 12 years ago. Brodie has characterised her fight as one "to recognise that her loss was separate to my injuries and impacted the whole family". I extend my deepest sympathies to Brodie and her family. I can only imagine the grief and sorrow that accompanies such a loss. Pregnancy is supposed to be a time of great joy and expectation, of anticipation of a life that will come, a new little person who will be born into one's family. The loss of any pregnancy—through stillbirth, miscarriage or an act of violence, whether by accident or intention—is by its very nature a deep loss. It is a loss of potential and the grief of not knowing the person who might have entered the world as part of one's family, but failed to do so.

Taboos still exist today when about talking about miscarriage or stillbirth, whether it be for cultural reasons or misplaced guilt or shame. I know that in my electorate many women still do not receive appropriate or respectful care when their baby dies during pregnancy or childbirth, or even soon after. We know that losing a pregnancy is traumatic at any time, and that overlaying that experience with violence or another traumatic event such as a car accident makes the loss so much greater. In 2005 the Labor Government recognised that loss by amending the definition of grievous bodily harm in the Crimes Act to include:

- (a) the destruction (other than in the course of a medical procedure ... of the foetus of a pregnant woman, whether or not the woman suffers any other harm ...

The offence carries a maximum prison sentence of 25 years. In 2010 the Hon. Michael Campbell, QC, reviewed the law surrounding criminal incidents involving the death of an unborn child and found there was no need to change that law. That view has also been supported by Dr Hannah Robert, who lost her eight-month-old baby in utero after an accident. Whilst the stated intention of the bill has been to support those who have lost a fetus through violence or a traumatic event, the underlying motivation by some members in this place and the other place has been to introduce a concept of "fetal personhood" to outweigh the rights of a parent with the rights of a fetus. The fear of women everywhere does not come from what is in the bill but rather the amendments that could be moved by those in the other place. It is important that the bill is not used by those who would seek to deny the reproductive rights of women.

The bill introduces two new offences into the Crimes Act relating to the loss of a fetus due to criminal acts. The new offences can be charged when a fetus has reached the gestational age of at least 20 weeks or 400 grams in weight. A new provision at new section 54A "Offence of causing loss of a foetus" will be charged when grievous bodily harm [GBH] has been caused to a pregnant person causing the loss of the fetus. Many different offences in the Crimes Act relate to GBH. The maximum penalties range from two to 25 years' imprisonment. This bill provides that when a person is charged with one of those offences involving an act causing the loss of a fetus, proposed section 54A enables a new offence to be included in the criminal prosecution which will allow for a maximum penalty that is three years higher than what is currently available.

A second offence at new section 54B will operate in similar terms to the offence at new section 54A. It will provide that the offender also be charged with a homicide offence, such as murder or manslaughter, where a pregnant person is killed and the fetus is lost as a result of the conduct. That offence will also carry an additional maximum penalty. The Criminal Procedure Act will also be amended to allow the name of the fetus lost to a third-party criminal act to be included in the initiating process or the indictment of the criminal charge. Currently the law does not allow for that. It will not be compulsory and the pregnant person might request that the fetus' name not be included in the indictment. The Crimes (Sentencing Procedure) Act will also be amended to allow

for immediate family members of the pregnant person whose fetus was lost to make a victim's impact statement. The Motor Accidents Injuries Act currently allows for certain payments to be made to a person injured in a motor vehicle accident. The Act will be amended to allow for a pregnant person to claim funeral costs for the fetus if it was lost as a result of a motor accident.

My understanding is that those changes are about doing what Brodie Donegan has long campaigned for, which is to ensure that those who experience the loss of a pregnancy through violence or gross negligence or trauma are able to grieve in a way that enables them to speak about their loss, to heal and to have the specific additional loss that they have suffered to be acknowledged within the legal system. Despite the lack of consultation from the Attorney General, I take him on his word that the bill will not be amended from its current state where it provides that new sections 54A and 54B do not apply to termination of the pregnancy under the Abortion Law Reform Act or an act or omission of the pregnant woman that results in the loss of the woman's fetus. It is vital that the bill not be allowed to undermine a woman's right or ability to obtain a lawful abortion under the reforms introduced by the Abortion Law Reform Act 2019.

In addition, I am pleased that the Attorney General has said that the bill does not displace the born alive rule; however, I find that hard to reconcile with when he said "unborn child" six times in his second reading speech. I do not want the bill to recognise fetal personhood and the Attorney General has said that it will not, but I note that concerns about it have been expressed by the Women's Legal Service. I call on the Attorney General to address that issue in his speech in reply. At the moment, the born alive rule deems legal personhood to apply to an infant born independently of its mother after it has taken its first breath. That cannot change.

The Attorney General has behaved in a very high-handed way by not including women in this place in the drafting of the bill. He did the same thing last week with the legislation regarding the sexual consent laws. Those issues are central to women's lives; they deserve respect. We deserve respect. Dabbling in women's issues should not be tolerated by women on either side of this House. I challenge the Attorney General to not be so caught up in his desire to be seen as a reformist that he continues to leave out those who are at the heart of this and other legislation. The abortion reforms of 2019 were won by generations of activists. We have seen those laws being unwound rapidly in other jurisdictions around the world and we cannot let that happen in Australia. I thank Brodie Donegan, Family Planning NSW, Women's Health NSW, the Women's Electoral Lobby, Our Bodies Our Choices, Rape & Domestic Violence Services Australia and the AMA that have all indicated to the shadow Minister for Women that they support the bill. I hope that this bill is the one that we vote for, and with that I give it my qualified support.

Debate interrupted.

Public Interest Debate

COVID-19 ECONOMIC RECOVERY STRATEGY

Mrs LESLIE WILLIAMS (Port Macquarie) (16:59): I move:

That this House acknowledges the work the New South Wales Government is doing to ensure that New South Wales citizens have economic security and a plan for the future as we recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

It is times like these that the people of New South Wales, particularly people in the Port Macquarie electorate and across regional New South Wales, are very thankful that they have a Liberal-Nationals Government looking after their interests. Unlike members opposite who continue to focus on themselves and prioritise their relationship with the unions, the Government has its eyes well and truly on the individuals, families and businesses that we know have been doing it extremely tough, not only through the COVID-19 pandemic but also through the droughts, bushfires and those devastating floods on the mid North Coast in March this year.

The COVID-19 Economic Recovery Strategy was released on 21 October and was applauded by the people of New South Wales. They knew that it was a recovery strategy that was going to support a safe and rapid recovery as this State's economy reopens in line with our reopening New South Wales road map. The package has three key objectives. The first and foremost is securing a strong rebound, which is why this Government has put in place temporary and targeted measures aimed at encouraging economic activity, building confidence in our local businesses and supporting restoring and creating jobs. That includes \$500 million to restore consumer and business confidence and the expansion of the Dine & Discover voucher program, which members on the other side wished they had thought of previously. It took the fantastic Minister for Customer Service to dream up this amazing voucher system, which has been taken up in spades by people right across the communities of New South Wales, and businesses are also thanking us for it. We have also announced an expanded Stay & Discover accommodation voucher and a Summer Holiday Stock Guarantee to provide certainty to businesses operating over the coming summer.

There is also \$212.2 million to boost vital sectors of the economy, including additional funding for the performing arts sector and the Alfresco Restart Package. Many venues in my electorate including cafes, restaurants and clubs are taking up the opportunity to boost their outdoor dining options. As we come into the summer months, we know the Alfresco Restart Package will support local businesses and, at the end of the day, that goes on to support local jobs. Through its Economic Recovery Plan, the Government is ensuring that the sectors, localities and communities hit the hardest will have the timely targeted support they need to get back on their feet, back to growth and back to building for a strong future. I see the member for Wyong is nodding pleasingly at my comments. Clearly he is very much in agreement. It is good to see the wonderful approach across both sides of the House.

Mr David Harris: Nodding off.

Mrs LESLIE WILLIAMS: That's harsh. The sectors, localities and communities being targeted include the hospitality, arts and recreation and small business sectors, younger workers, western Sydney and the Sydney CBD. That objective will also include \$130 million for a mental health recovery package. That is critically important in these difficult times as we come out of the COVID-19 pandemic, but also after natural disasters that previously impacted regional communities. The mental health recovery package will provide immediate access to help anyone whose mental health has been impacted. There is \$495 million in education support to address learning gaps for children in need and to help schools adapt to future possible learning objectives. There is \$739.3 million in household and social support, including housing support for vulnerable Aboriginal communities, expansion of the solar rebates and support measures for victims of domestic and family violence. The Attorney General's landmark announcement a few weeks ago was welcome and focuses on making sure we increase the number of refuges across the State as well as the many different types of support services for women, men and families impacted by domestic and family violence.

There will be support for the business sector, which is still under pressure, including the Event Saver Fund, to support event organisers over the summer months. Again, in the electorate of Port Macquarie, we see the benefit of that. There will also be an expansion of the Small Business Fees and Charges Rebate to include road tolls. As a Government we know that we need to do more than focus on the here and now. That is why we have to begin the process of applying the lessons learned over the past 18 months to build a better future for our entire State, overcoming the economic challenges of the pandemic and pursuing new economic opportunities that have come to light. We will support further development of existing industries such as the theatre and film sector, build capabilities and new opportunities such as the production of ribonucleic acid research in the manufacturing industry, reduce red tape to make it easier to run a business in New South Wales while ensuring that our customers are protected, improve our State's liveability with investment in new open spaces and outdoor recreation, and boost workforce participation by identifying barriers to women's economic participation and reform opportunities.

The appointment of Michael Rodriguez as the New South Wales 24-Hour Economy Commissioner to oversee the implementation of these measures in the strategy shows that we are very serious. The role will ensure seamless coordination from the Government as it drives the State's economic recovery. I am thankful that there will be two more speakers from this side of the House because there are millions more dollars and a range of ways that, now and into the future, we need to talk about as we continue to support our local communities and as we recover from COVID-19.

Mr DAVID HARRIS (Wyong) (17:06): Here we go, it is the public interest debate and we have the same old tired rhetoric from this tired old Government. Every afternoon they go over the same old list to try to convince themselves that they are doing a good job. When trying to get economic security and a vision for the future, the most important ingredient that is needed is trust. Trust is integral to the functioning of any society. Trust in each other and in our public institutions and leaders are essential ingredients for social and economic progress that allow people to cooperate with and express solidarity for one another. When economic insecurity becomes widespread, trust in those institutions erodes. Poor Government performance, scandals and corruption undermine people's trust that public institutions are working in their and the State's best interests.

Let us have a look at the Government's record. It has had massive billion dollar blowouts in infrastructure programs—money that could have been spent further improving schools and hospitals—whether it be the light rail at over \$1 billion; the creative accounting to hide the \$4 billion blowout of WestConnex; or the \$4 million Metro blowout, which continues with the Metro City and Southwest, which has seen delays in its schedule and blowouts in its funding. Brand new intercity trains are sitting at Kangy Angy in the electorate of the member for The Entrance because they have not been deemed safe to run on the network. They are sitting idle because they are not safe. The light rail is out of action because of cracking, ferries cannot run at night or in big swells and cannot even fit under bridges, and there is record fines revenue for low-speed infringements. These are all things that impact our population in New South Wales daily. What is most telling is that two-thirds of the Government's 2015 and 2019 promises remain undelivered.

When they read out their lists, bear in mind that two-thirds of them are undelivered. I think the saying is that you are supposed to underpromise and overdeliver, but these guys have got it back to front. They have gone in the other direction: They have overpromised and underdelivered. It is absolutely terrible. There have been the ICAC hearings, the Transport Asset Holding Entity issues and the icare problems. The gross debt of New South Wales is projected to climb to \$117 billion over the next four years—record levels of debt. There is the NSW Generations Fund, which was put up as a great thing, being invested in countries ranging from Angola, Russia and the Cayman Islands. This is what I am talking about: trust in public institutions being eroded. This Government is working a million miles an hour to erode trust. The new Treasurer, the Hon. Matt Kean, even called for a review. But let us have a think: Who set up that fund? The Hon. Dominic Perrottet, the current Premier. Who set up icare? The Hon. Dominic Perrottet, the current Premier.

Once again we hear from a report, hidden in the fine print, that tolls will be charged on harbour crossings in all directions. Currently on the harbour bridge or in the harbour tunnel drivers heading north do not pay a toll. But, again, here is this Government wasting money—blowouts—and the only way it is going to get it back is by increasing taxes, charges and tolls on the community. How does that affect people on the Central Coast in my electorate, for example? It will cost them \$4 extra per trip, which is \$20 a week and \$1,000 a year. I was astounded when I added it up—\$1,000 a year! That is on top of what drivers already pay for that trip if they travel each day for work, taking out two weeks' holiday, which is over \$13,000 in tolls. That will go up by another \$1,000. Rents and the cost of housing on the Central Coast are up and rates on some parts of the coast have increased by 47 per cent because of the botched council amalgamation. Our water and sewer charges are about to go up as well. This motion talks about vision when the Government is deaf to its own failings. I will finish with a quote:

Let us drop our 'tin ear' and listen to the sounds of the 'real' world veiled beyond our inattention, and overwhelmed by the smoke and mirrors of superficiality.

Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore) (17:11): I thank the member for Port Macquarie for moving this public interest debate. She is talking about a vision for the future and how important economic security is for our community. It was disappointing how uncharacteristically unpleasant the member for Wyong was in his contribution because when he spoke and regaled us with stories of corruption, ICAC, mismanagement of funds and overspending on—

Ms Yasmin Catley: You need to read the newspapers.

Ms FELICITY WILSON: I can finish my sentence and then you can listen to what I am saying, member for Swansea. When he spoke about all these issues—infrastructure blowouts and failures left, right and centre—all I could think about was Labor. What did Labor do all that time? Was it the CBD-Rozelle metro?

Ms Yasmin Catley: Nice try.

Ms FELICITY WILSON: Maybe read the paper, member for Swansea.

Ms Yasmin Catley: You were still in primary school.

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

Ms FELICITY WILSON: Whether the member for Swansea thinks I was in primary school or not, everybody was capable of understanding how incompetent and inept those opposite were. When we talk about ICAC in this State, who do we think of? We think of Eddie Obeid, Ian Macdonald and all the people who sat over there—actually, they sat over here.

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

Ms FELICITY WILSON: They had the Treasury benches and what did they do? They raped and pillaged our economy and took us for granted. That is what Labor constantly wants to talk about.

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

Ms FELICITY WILSON: They want to hark back to the failures of the past, but we want to talk about the future because we implement policies that support the people of New South Wales. When we talk about economic security, it is not about how much money Eddie Obeid can stuff into his pocket. It is about how much support we give to our families, our small businesses and our local communities.

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

Ms FELICITY WILSON: I want to talk about that work. We know that the Coalition has a strong economic record. Just because we hear those from the other side of the Chamber carping on does not make what they say a fact. We know that our strong fiscal management has made sure that we have got through the COVID pandemic, and we have done so much better than most other jurisdictions across the globe. Although there have

been a lot of rainy days, particularly this year with the extended lockdown due to the Delta outbreak, we know that we have done what we have needed to do to protect not only lives but also livelihoods. Our approach to economic management has always been about ensuring that the budget can support the economy and not that the economy supports the budget.

Between 2011-12 and 2024-25, which is the period when those opposite want to talk about our record, I am proud to say that our record shows that we introduced recurrent savings and efficiency measures of around \$80 billion; that is \$45 billion between 2011-12 and 2020-21. Those savings have been reinvested into new priority service and policy delivery areas. We know that the record investments in schools, hospitals and transport, and the record investments in our environment in delivering outcomes for the next generation, have only been possible because of our fiscal management record.

I will talk particularly to what the member for Port Macquarie said about the role of economic security for women in this period of time. We all know that families and women in particular were disproportionately impacted by the COVID lockdowns and the pandemic. We hear women and families out there that know how tough it has been and are struggling. We hear the challenges for small businesses and some that have had to shut down. We know what families had to deal with for home learning and taking children out of child care. I have small children, and I know how challenging it can be.

I acknowledge the signal from the Treasurer about ensuring that we invest in women's economic security by boosting support for child care and making sure that women who have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 are supported in their recovery, particularly in relation to job losses. We are committed as a Government to increasing the participation rate of women in our workforce, and that includes measures like affordable and accessible child care. That can make a real difference to women and families across the State. Many parents who faced the challenge of balancing working from home and home learning have shown us that school-aged kids need to get back to the classroom.

Childcare and classroom supports will be a boost for those families. That is why we are continuing the delivery of the Start Strong preschool program, which is a financial investment to ensure universal access to two years of early childhood education in the years before school. To help the cost of living for parents and families, we have also allocated \$150 million for community preschools to deliver free preschool for the 2022 school year. We all know how challenging it has been for families and particularly women. Women have to make difficult and unenviable decisions about their own futures because of family pressures and the cost of raising a family. Government members are the only people in this place who are focused on achieving positive outcomes for those groups, rather than carping about historic failures.

Ms LIESL TESCH (Gosford) (17:16): We talk about economic security, but obviously those folks opposite do not talk to the working class people of the beautiful Central Coast.

Ms Felicity Wilson: Like my family?

Ms LIESL TESCH: Maybe. Who knows? Talk to them about what it feels like. We are living in a crisis of regional housing prices at the moment. The rents in our community have gone through the roof. People are being kicked out of their houses and invited to come back for an extra \$100 to \$120. People can no longer afford to live in our community and are couch surfing and moving further and further north, as we see high rents further and further north. It is a crisis for working class people, with supposed economic security delivered by this Government. We also have the great new NorthConnex on the Central Coast. For truckies it is \$21.05 per trip, and for cars it is \$8. That is not economic security; that is another day-to-day cost.

As well as that, fines have gone through the roof in our community. The forced amalgamation of our councils has also smashed the people of the Central Coast with massive rent increases, rate increases and now a proposed water bill increase. I might add there has been no pay rise for our frontline public servants during COVID. Those opposite crow about economic security. Imagine if they in fact delivered the promised pay rise to our frontline workers—our nurses and teachers—and how well that would ripple into our local economy and small businesses. There are also the budget blowouts: the Metro; WestConnex; the South Korean trains that do not fit the track; the light rail, which will not be working for who knows how long; and the ferries that do not fit under the bridge. How is that for economic security? And there are 6,000 manufacturing jobs in our community that are now non-existent.

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER: The member for North Shore will come to order.

Ms LIESL TESCH: As well as that, two-thirds of the promises of the last election have not been delivered. The member for Wyong spoke about it. How do we trust the Government? I am following up with the Federal Liberals as well. We have handfuls and handfuls of promises that have not been delivered that should be delivering economic security for the people of the Central Coast and across New South Wales. Dominic Perrottet

and the New South Wales Government came into the Chamber and decried the cost of living, yet this is the same Government that refused to rule out a big new tax on our community. Last week, the Government released its response to the beaches tunnel community consultation. Buried in that response was the bombshell that Transport for NSW has already factored in a two-way toll to pay for big, expensive projects across New South Wales. What a rotl!

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER: I call the member for North Shore to order for the first time. The member has made her contribution. The member for Gosford will continue.

Ms LIESL TESCH: The Liberal Government already tolls coasties one way, and now they want to charge us on the way out. Historically this has never happened. If you are a worker who travels to the Central Coast during peak hour, it is \$4 every time you cross the bridge, which is \$20 a week and—I am not sure how the member for Wyong did his maths—\$720 a year. It is a hell of a lot out of the hip pocket for those who have been paying only \$720 a year and will now be charged \$1,440.

I would like to talk about Warren, a wharfie who lives in the beautiful suburb of Cheero Point near Mooney Mooney. He travels the bridge eight times a week, depending on his work schedule. Those changes will leave him out of pocket hundreds of dollars a year, just to get home from work. Another woman who will suffer under Perrottet's new tax will be Karen Farley. She lives in Kanwal, at the northern end of the coast. Public transport is scarce where she lives and travelling by car is essential. Around Christmas in 2018 she had a double lung transplant. As part of her recovery, she travels to St Vincent's Hospital regularly for check-ups to make sure her new lungs are not being rejected and are working normally. When asked about paying a new toll, Karen said:

I already pay so much in tolls to access critical healthcare as a transplant patient at St Vincent's Hospital. Knowing that I will be slapped with another toll is incredibly frustrating, especially when all I am trying to do is see my doctors and stay healthy.

Karen will lose hundreds if Perrottet gets his big new tax on the Central Coast. The member for North Shore and all members on the other side of the House who are from the northern side of the city will be hit by the new toll. Economic security for the future is important to coasties. We do not have a spare cent to rub at the moment. If Dominic Perrottet puts his hand in our pockets and takes out the new tax, it is another blow to coasties. We are struggling to pay the mortgage, the ever increasing rents and the ever climbing grocery bills. Now the Government wants to whack us with another tax. Please do not tax the Harbour Bridge on the return trip.

Ms ELENI PETINOS (Miranda) (17:21): I thank the member for Port Macquarie for moving this important motion today. I wholeheartedly support this public interest debate. This year has undoubtedly been a challenging time for everyone in all of our communities. The New South Wales Government has taken strong action to ensure that those who need assistance are supported. New South Wales is the only half-a-trillion-dollar State economy in Australia, with a nominal gross State product of \$629 billion in the 2020 financial year. That has meant our State is in a strong position to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. Prior to the Delta outbreak, the State's final demand had recovered above pre-COVID levels in June 2021 and the New South Wales Government had handed down a sensible and considered 2022 budget based on a range of assumptions regarding the COVID-19 pandemic. However, that included that there were no interstate border closures.

We as a State are resilient. As we emerge from the challenges posed by the Delta outbreak, it is important that we adapt and continue to build a strong economic future for the people of New South Wales. Throughout the Delta lockdown the New South Wales Government took strong action to ensure the protection of lives and livelihoods. That meant balancing our critical health response with keeping our economy going. The Government's priority has been to protect our economy and workers to get to the other side of the pandemic by supporting the recovery of the economy and establishing the policies to ensure we win the future.

At its peak, the cost of restrictions was around \$2.2 billion every week, and occurred during the pause of construction activity. That includes ongoing costs of international border closures, which is estimated at around \$325 million a week. Prior to New South Wales reaching its 70 per cent vaccination milestone, the cost of all restrictions had fallen to around \$1.65 billion a week. As the announced road map of restrictions is implemented, the impact of restrictions on the economy will drop significantly. By the end of November, the total cost of restrictions, including international borders, is estimated to be around \$360 million a week. At that point the cost of domestic restrictions, which is essentially the two square metre social distancing rule, is expected to be minor, at around \$35 million per week.

Employment has moved above its pre-pandemic level. The New South Wales unemployment rate stood at 4.6 per cent in September, which is broadly in line with its pre-pandemic level and in line with the national average. That is the second-lowest among the States, behind Western Australia, at 4.1 per cent. The success of this response is made clear in the emerging signs of strength from our economy. Last week, NAB released its Monthly Business Survey for October. The New South Wales business confidence soared to another record high during October after beating last month's record high. New South Wales business conditions made a record jump

on the back of the reopening and sits comfortably in positive territory. That shows that New South Wales businesses are ready for the summer ahead and ready for the future.

There is a similar story with employment data. Employment in New South Wales rose by 22,000 people in October as businesses increased staffing in the lead-up to restrictions easing on October 11. According to the latest Australian Bureau of Statistics data survey, which covers up to 9 October, two days prior to the lockdown being lifted, hours worked increased by 3.9 per cent following a 2.7 per cent rise in September. Other indicators continue to show the economy is experiencing significant improvement since the State's lockdown lifted one month ago today. In November, New South Wales consumer sentiment recorded a strong increase to be the highest in the country while the State's payroll jobs jumped 3.5 per cent in the fortnight to 16 October.

While the New South Wales Government has been doing this critical maintenance and recovery, the Government has also been preparing for our economy's bright future by delivering much-needed infrastructure and providing opportunities for the people across our State. This Government is ready for the future and with its policies, the future is bright and the people of New South Wales can be assured their Government is building the economy of the future.

Mr DAVID MEHAN (The Entrance) (17:26): I move:

That the motion be amended by adding the following words:

"and that any such plan should acknowledge that any north-bound tolls on the Sydney Harbour Bridge and tunnels would hinder the economic security of New South Wales as we recover from the COVID-19 pandemic."

First, I note that New South Wales is the most tolled State on the planet—maybe even in the universe, but certainly on the planet—according to expert opinion. Secondly, the Sydney Harbour Bridge was paid for in 1988. Thirdly, the Sydney Harbour Tunnel will be paid for in 2022. Fourthly, Central Coast commuters pay a significant part of their wages in transport to and from work, including in tolls. Just last week the Government released its response to community submissions and concerns relating to the planned Beaches Link and Gore Hill Freeway connection—the northern beaches harbour tunnel. Buried within that document is a revelation about a prospective new toll on the Sydney Harbour Bridge and the Government was hoping to sneak that past residents. When pressed about a two-way tunnel toll for the Harbour Bridge in question time, the Premier refused to rule it out, saying the Government has not yet made a decision. That was on 11 November; lest we forget.

The community in its submissions raised concerns about the introduction of a toll on the Sydney Harbour Bridge heading north, and that is in the submission papers at reference C26.2.1. The community also raised concerns about the impact the project would have on traffic in northern Sydney. Shockingly, the Government's response revealed that its traffic modelling was in fact premised on the assumption that the Government will introduce a toll on northbound traffic on the Harbour Bridge; that is at reference C26-7 in the Government's response, which states:

The traffic assessment and modelling carried out for the environmental impact statement assumes that tolls would apply to all north and southbound trips on all harbour crossings in the future, including two-way tolling on the Western Harbour Tunnel and Beaches Link tunnel.

That is in the Government's response to community submissions at reference C8-2. The Government also failed to rule out privatising the harbour crossings, including the Western Harbour Tunnel and the Beaches Link tunnel. When asked about that in question time, the transport Minister refused to rule it out, saying, "Decisions in relation to the future of these routes will be provided in time. What I will say is this is what governments do when they make decisions through an appropriate process." That was also a quote from 11 November.

Under the Perrottet-Toole Government, there is a private toll monopoly operating in this State. The M2, the M4, the M5 South West, the M5 East, the M7, the M8, the Lane Cove Tunnel and the Cross City Tunnel, the Eastern Distributor and NorthConnex are all owned by one company. A massive amount of billing power is being put into the hands of one private operator whose main concern is achieving high profits for its shareholders. Those taxes exacerbate social inequality and increase the cost of living. Those sorts of tolls and the way they are administered are regressive. A toll paid by a low-income worker has a bigger impact on that person than a toll paid by high-income workers. It is regressive taxation of the worst kind. My constituents already pay when they commute going south to Sydney. They should not have to pay coming home. I humbly suggest to Government members in this Chamber that they use the opportunity of this debate to rule out a northbound toll on the Harbour Bridge and commit to not applying a toll tax to my constituents and the people of the Central Coast.

Mr GARETH WARD (Kiama) (17:31): I thank my friend and colleague the member for Port Macquarie for moving this motion in the House today. She is an outstanding member and I have no doubt that whatever party she represents, her community will support her. We will get to test out that theory in a few months. I acknowledge the motion which relates to economic security and vision for the future. Whilst I am not so credible on the vision part, I have something to say about the importance of a strong economy. Without a strong economy, we cannot

build roads, we cannot deliver more schools, we cannot have more nurses and doctors. There is no doubt that when comparing the net debt-to-GSP ratio of any State we see that New South Wales is travelling incredibly well. But we should acknowledge there are challenges that relate to small businesses. Tax burdens continue to be a problem for them, particularly payroll tax. Whilst the New South Wales Government has made some very positive movements in that regard, more needs to be done.

In my part of the world, I want to see infrastructure investments that change lives. I acknowledge members from the St George region and the Sutherland shire region—including the Assistant Speaker—who have pushed for the extension of the F6. If this Government is serious about driving economic growth, it can invest in these projects and continue to ensure that young apprentices, trainees, Aboriginal people, women in non-traditional roles, local businesses and local companies are employed as part of these projects to deliver a strong economy. It can also invest in State infrastructure, which is a very important investment.

Recently in this House, I moved a motion calling on the Government to release the McNaughton report on fast rail. Members might recall that prior to the last election an announcement was made about using fast rail to expand the regions. We can all get behind that prospect. I want to see the next Snowy Hydro project. I want to see the next major investments that have a vision, which is what this motion calls for. It is important that the New South Wales Government releases the report by Professor McNaughton, who is renowned around the world for delivering faster rail, so that we can see what the plans are and work out how they can be funded so that we can expand regional New South Wales. My part of the world was one location highlighted for that investment. I am a local member who supports investments in public transport and that is why I am particularly keen to see that come to fruition. I want to see those investments.

I briefly use the time of the House to call on the Government to invest in projects in my region, such as the Nowra bypass. This is a considerable project. It is on the regional environmental plan for our region. Whilst we have seen great investments in the Princes Highway there is one hell of a bottleneck. Those members who I am sure holiday in my region, because they love it, will enjoy a great new highway until they get to Nowra, where they will be greeted by a number of sets of traffic lights that are problematic. If we are talking about investments for the future and economic plans, clearly my view is that we need to invest in infrastructure.

That also involves social infrastructure. I provide some suggestions to members of the Government, particularly those of the Cabinet, with respect to social housing. For too long in this State we have seen social housing split between four departments: land and property, the Aboriginal Housing Office, Department of Communities and Justice, and the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment. We will not see a revolution with respect to social housing until we actually have clear leadership and guidance from one Ministry with respect to social housing. This is the State's second-largest asset, at \$49 billion, with an under-utilisation rate of about 16 per cent. The best thing the Government could do is look at how it can utilise land that is not being used, build on that land and build up the social housing portfolio. That will not just help it underwrite its credit rating but will help to build the properties that people need.

We continue to see homelessness in the regions, with the huge shift of people moving out of the cities because they do not need to live there to do their work anymore. They know they can live in beautiful parts of the world. That shift is forcing up rents and housing prices in the regions. We have seen an economic crisis as well as a health crisis, but the next major crisis which we are now experiencing is a housing crisis. I say to members of the Government that they need to unlock the potential of this asset. It needs strong, strategic leadership. We need to look at how we can better utilise those properties that are old, that can be onsold and redeveloped, so that their potential can best be utilised and we can provide that important social safety net of housing security, which every person across this State deserves.

Mrs LESLIE WILLIAMS (Port Macquarie) (17:36): In reply: It is timely that I have just received the latest update about the Dine & Discover vouchers in my electorate. I know that everybody loves those vouchers and they are great for the economy. Some 188 businesses in my electorate have registered for Dine & Discover. There have been over 55½ thousand customer registrations and almost \$6 million spent so far. If that is not a great initiative to support our local economy, I do not know what is. I thank the member for Wyong for his contribution to the debate. He talked about trust. If he went and told someone in my electorate to trust Labor he would be laughed out of town. But anyway, he should keep on going with that rhetoric. I wish him luck with it in the regions.

I thank the member for North Shore for her contribution. She reminded members of those 16 years of Labor and the neglect of the State by NSW Labor. However, as the member for Kiama reminded members in his contribution, it was not just neglect but the abandonment of the people of regional New South Wales. The member for Gosford talked about the working class people in her electorate on the Central Coast. She misled the House by stating that our frontline workers did not get any pay rise, which of course is not correct. They did get a 2.5 per cent pay rise. It is very unparliamentary to mislead the House like that. She also mentioned the word "ferries" again. It made me think the member for Swansea was going to jump up again and call those wonderful

ferries that were 70 per cent constructed in my electorate "cheap junk". That is okay; I will keep reminding my constituents of what Labor thinks of jobs in my electorate.

I also thank the member for Miranda for her contribution. She reminded the House about the good economic position that New South Wales is in as we come out of COVID. Certainly I would not want to debate those members opposite comparing what we are doing in New South Wales with what is happening in the States to the north and south of us. When it comes to our economic strategies, they are vastly different. She talked about increased employment opportunities and increased hours of work. Of course, we will continue to create additional jobs across all sectors in the months ahead.

I thank the member for The Entrance for his contribution and his amendment to the motion, although of course the Government will not be supporting it. Essentially those opposite always come back to the argument of privatisation. Thank goodness we had a contribution from the member for Kiama, which I welcomed, as always. It reminded us that Labor voted down privatisation time and time again, yet Labor members are always there cutting the ribbons and unveiling the plaques. They love it because they know their communities love the fact that this Government invests in their local projects. I thank all the members who made a contribution to the debate. As I said, the Government will not be supporting the amendment of the member for The Entrance.

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER: The member for Port Macquarie has moved a motion, to which the member for The Entrance has moved an amendment. The question is that the amendment of the member for The Entrance be agreed to.

The House divided.

Ayes17
Noes20
Majority.....3

AYES

Butler, R
Crakanthorp, T
Dalton, H
Dib, J
Donato, P
Doyle, T

Haylen, J
Hoenig, R
Leong, J
McGirr, J
Mehan, D (teller)
Minns, C

Park, R
Parker, J
Piper, G
Smith, T
Tesch, L (teller)

NOES

Cooke, S (teller)
Crouch, A (teller)
Davies, T
Evans, L
Gibbons, M
Griffin, J
Layzell, D

Lindsay, W
O'Dea, J
Preston, R
Saunders, D
Sidgreaves, P
Sidoti, J
Singh, G

Smith, N
Speakman, M
Tuckerman, W
Ward, G
Williams, L
Williams, R

PAIRS

Aitchison, J
Atalla, E
Bali, S
Barr, C
Car, P
Catley, Y
Chanthivong, A
Cotsis, S
Daley, M
Finn, J
Harris, D
Harrison, J
Hornery, S
Kamper, S
Lalich, N

Constance, A
Berejiklian, G
Barilaro, J
Lee, G
Toole, P
Upton, G
Clancy, J
Dominello, V
Perrottet, D
Ayes, S
Kean, M
Hazzard, B
Stokes, R
Elliott, D
Pavey, M

PAIRS

Lynch, P
McDermott, H
McKay, J
Mihailuk, T
O'Neill, M
Saffin, J
Scully, P
Voltz, L
Warren, G
Washington, K
Watson, A
Zangari, G

Marshall, A
Roberts, A
Hancock, S
Henskens, A
Gulaptis, C
Bromhead, S
Provest, G
Taylor, M
Conolly, K
Wilson, F
Petinos, E
Anderson, K

Amendment negatived.

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

Motion agreed to.

*Bills***CRIMES LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (LOSS OF FOETUS) BILL 2021****Second Reading Debate**

Debate resumed from an earlier hour.

Mr ANTHONY ROBERTS (Lane Cove—Minister for Counter Terrorism and Corrections) (17:55):

I welcome the opportunity to speak in support of the Crimes Legislation Amendment (Loss of Foetus) Bill, historically known as Zoe's law. I am honoured to show my support for making it a standalone criminal offence to cause the loss of a fetus when a pregnant mother is injured or killed. I am here today because of two brave women who experienced the loss of their unborn children as a result of another person's criminal act. The stories of Brodie Donegan and Jacqueline Sparks have touched the lives of many. As a father, I can only imagine how hard the journey has been for those families. They have told their stories time and time again and relived the trauma of their losses to campaign for a change at law that will never benefit them—a selfless act and a long campaign that will only help families into the future. Nothing can turn back time or give them back their beautiful baby girls Zoe and Mia.

I was fortunate to meet both Brodie and Jacque last week when they came to Parliament House. They spoke of the tragedy that was inflicted upon them and their families, and highlighted the need to change the law. Their stories truly exemplify the heart and intention of the bill. I will never forget hearing about Brodie's accident in 2009, on the very day when the world celebrates the love of family and life through birth. It was Christmas Day and Brodie was 32 weeks pregnant when a drug-affected driver lost control of their vehicle and crashed into her, causing unimaginable injuries. On that Christmas Day, Brodie lost her love, her angel, her life—Zoe. Pinned to the ground between the van and a tree, dazed and unable to move one of her legs, Brodie remembered asking desperately about her baby. She recalled:

My next memory ... is at Royal North Shore Hospital where they were trying to locate my daughter's heartbeat, which they found rather quickly. I was hopeful that my daughter still having a heartbeat was good news and it might end up okay. I begged doctors to take her out immediately but they said they needed to stabilise me and work out my injuries. After two hours they couldn't find a heartbeat. I remember yelling to Nick, my husband, as I was wheeled into theatre that he had to call our daughter Zoe because that meant "life". I wanted her to live so badly ... I woke returning to the recovery ward and I asked everyone I saw if my daughter Zoe survived. Eventually, after what felt like a lifetime later, Nick was sent in to break it to me. That they'd tried to resuscitate her but they'd been unsuccessful. That she hadn't been able to hold on. Nick and I were heartbroken.... She was still warm and looked and felt and smelt like any other newborn, she just wasn't breathing. It was so surreal. I wanted to turn back time. I remember looking at her face and seeing the mark on her lip from the resuscitation attempts and noticed one of her eyes partly open. She was absolutely gorgeous and so soft and I just wanted her to wake up so badly.

The funeral for Zoe was held almost four weeks after the accident, when Brodie was well enough to attend. Nick and Brodie both spoke at the funeral, their words cutting to the heart of why these reforms are needed:

We had lost our little girl. She would never get to do the things our two year old daughter Ashlee had done or will do. We'd never see her take her first steps, smile, go to school or grow up. All our hopes and dreams for Zoe were lost and she'd lost all of us ... We still couldn't reconcile that we were having a funeral for the death of a baby that the law wasn't charging someone for.

At that time, and still now, the law only recognised the loss of a fetus of a pregnant woman through Byron's law as an injury to the mother. In court, Brodie heard her list of injuries presented to the magistrate and Zoe was

included as one of her injuries—at law, Zoe was nothing more than an injury to Brodie. From that day in 2009 Brodie began a campaign, which has lasted 12 years to date, calling for this anomaly in the law to be changed. The campaign can be summed up in one quote from Brodie:

My injuries healed. Zoe did not.

And Brodie is not alone. Last week Jacquie Sparks said to me:

This law will really make a difference to a family in the future. Our daughters were everything to our lives. At the very least their loss of having a life can be accounted for.

Jacquie's story is also heartbreaking. In 2013 Jacquie was struck by a car travelling in the wrong direction, causing serious injuries to Jacquie and two others. Jacquie was 32 weeks pregnant. Jacquie's womb was ruptured. Jacquie's unborn child, Mia, did not survive. Tragically, Jacquie's first pregnancy would be her last. Mia was listed in court as an injury to Jacquie. Describing the inadequacy of the law in 2014 in sentencing the driver, District Court Judge Paul Conlon said:

Lest there be any doubt about my use of the phrase 'life of an infant', one only has to look at the photograph of Ms Sparks in the hospital bed looking down at her perfectly formed, although dead baby daughter in her arms. However, the court must work within the parameters set by the legislature.

Outside the courtroom, Jacquie called for Zoe's law to be supported in New South Wales. In 2019 Jacquie held up the photo of her baby, Mia, and said:

This is our daughter. Look at her and tell me that she should legally be listed as an injury... I nurtured her, dreamed of her, grew her. We named her, we held her, we buried her. My first and my last. We need to recognise and acknowledge the loss of an unborn child as a result of a criminal act of a third party. This reform is about her and us and all the other families that have lost their babies, not by choice or illness or fate. But because of someone else's criminal act. It is crucial that our children are recognised within criminal charges. Mia was not an injury. She was everything. We must create something that protects and recognises this, and I welcome any alternative that will see a separate charge brought forward.

I am honoured to speak on behalf of Brodie and Jacquie as well as other expectant parents who have gone through similar traumatic experiences. Their years of courage and advocacy for these reforms have taken a toll on them and their families. I am confident that if the reforms are passed, this long and unbearable road will have been worth it. While Brodie and Jacquie will never get the opportunity to personally feel the benefits of the reforms, they feel comforted in the knowledge that they were directly responsible for ensuring that no other parent will experience the same pain.

Currently there is no standalone offence of causing the loss of an unborn child. The proposed changes will better acknowledge the heartbreak suffered by families like Brodie's and Jacquie's, as well as punish offenders appropriately. Currently the law in New South Wales recognises the destruction of an unborn baby as grievous bodily harm to the pregnant woman. Currently there is no guarantee that the loss of a fetus will be specified within the particulars of a criminal charge, nor result in a higher penalty to recognise the criminality of the act or the unique harm caused by the loss.

The inadequate representation under the existing law, whereby the loss of an unborn child is considered an injury to the mother, became abundantly clear in 2018: Katherine Hoang was nine months pregnant with twins when the Nissan Tiida she was in collided with a Mazda 3 driving in the other direction at Orchard Hills. Katherine, the twins and a young relative were all killed; Katherine's husband, Bronko, was the only survivor. Bronko spent a week in a coma, unaware that his family was gone. When he was told, he screamed in agony for the loss for his wife and his two unborn children. Tragically the law did not recognise the loss of the twins; they were injuries to their mother, Katherine. Bronko described it at the time as an insult. He said:

I did not bury my wife and two injuries. I buried my wife and my unborn twin sons.

These reforms are long overdue and are simply common sense. The bill aims to strengthen the criminal law and its recognition of the loss of a fetus as a distinct harm suffered by a woman and her immediate family. These amendments also will improve support and recognition available to families by allowing close family members of a primary victim to give a victim impact statement to the court. This is particularly important when the pregnant woman has died. The addition of close family members is welcomed by Brodie's partner, Nick. Nick has not only supported Brodie in campaigning for reform but also has called for family members to be allowed to give victim impact statements. In 2013, detailing the hurt also felt by expectant fathers, Nick said:

I cannot hold my daughter or see her grow up with her sister, Ashlee, and her little brother, Lachlan. Lachlan will never have the opportunity to know her. One day, when he is older, I will have to explain to him what happened to his big sister, just as I had to do with Brodie and Ashlee, and our family and friends on Christmas day. I was the first to hold Zoe after she had been delivered stillborn. I held her for several hours, she was perfect in every way and I did not want to let her go. Her death was made far more poignant by the fact that only 24 hours earlier, we had been watching her on an ultrasound and she was given a clean bill of health. Zoe was my second daughter and always will be, despite her not being recognised in criminal law. When I started approaching members of Parliament and the media about Byron's Law, and the possibility of changing the current laws, I quickly realised I had a battle ahead of me. My story was met with a short sympathy and good luck. Media attention focused on Brodie, and even to this day I am saddened

by a sense of invisibility when it comes to Zoe's life. As her father, I felt voiceless in the loss of Zoe's life and when Brodie was recovered enough she continued her own efforts, where I had failed.

[Extension of time]

I thank Nick, not only for his support of Brodie, but also for sharing his grief as a father and highlighting the importance of victim impact statements. The proposed amendments do not affect reforms introduced by the Abortion Law Reform Act 2019. The offences will expressly exclude any act or omission by the pregnant woman. However, the bill does acknowledge and protect a woman's right to choose to carry her pregnancy to full term and it acknowledges her loss in the same scope as the requirements under Births, Deaths and Marriages when that right is suddenly taken away by a serious criminal offence. Brodie's words describe the requirement:

Births Deaths and Marriages say you need to have a funeral for a baby born over 20 weeks. We received a stillbirth/death certificate. We named our daughter. We received the baby bonus paid as the bereavement bonus, as happens after you lose a baby over 20 weeks. I received six weeks paid parental leave from Newcastle University.

Further to these requirements, the unborn child is listed on subsequent siblings' birth certificates, and the loss of the unborn child is included in the road toll statistics from 20 weeks on. Under the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act 1995, a stillborn fetus of at least 20 weeks gestation, or over 400 grams if the gestational period cannot be adequately determined, is required to be registered as a birth in New South Wales. The Act requires parents of a stillborn to name their stillborn baby. It requires the stillborn baby to be buried or cremated and a perinatal medical certificate to be registered with Births, Deaths and Marriages. The stillborn certificate and a birth certificate is issued.

The decision to commence the offences from 20 weeks gestation onwards is not arbitrary. It is specifically chosen in order to correlate with existing legislation. This bill does not propose any new offences; rather, it works within the framework of selected existing grievous bodily harm offences. These reforms are common sense. They strike the right balance by recognising and implementing changes that acknowledge the gravity of the loss of an unborn baby, without abrogating the born alive rule or conflicting with the rights of the pregnant woman. Zoe's law is about recognising life. That is exactly what we are trying to achieve today.

With the indulgence of the House—and I know it will embarrass him—I would like to formally acknowledge, recognise and pay tribute to Chris Spence and his tireless efforts to ensure change in this area of law is achieved. Chris has been a tireless supporter of Brodie and Jacquie and petitioned alongside them for change in the legislation to reflect community concern and expectation. Indeed, Chris has been a strong advocate for this issue over the past 12 years, both inside and outside this House. I can truly say that this legislation would not be before the House today without his efforts. I commend the bill to the House.

Dr MARJORIE O'NEILL (Coogee) (18:09): My contribution to debate on the Crimes Legislation Amendment (Loss of Foetus) Bill 2021 will be brief. I acknowledge the huge amount of work that has been done by the Opposition's shadow Attorney General and member for Maroubra, Michael Daley, and our shadow Minister for Women and member for Charlestown, Jodie Harrison, throughout the significant amount of community consultation they have conducted in a short period on this highly complex legislation. I do not think anyone can deny that the loss of a fetus as a result of a person's criminal offence would be a truly harrowing experience. Undoubtedly, this experience would be incredibly distressing and traumatising for the parents, their families and the wider community around that family. I acknowledge all the expectant parents, especially Brodie Donegan, who have become advocates for reform and who have been able to turn their grief into strong and positive advocacy. I recognise their courage and remarkable advocacy over many years for these reforms.

This bill represents the latest in several attempts over the last decade to change the law in relation to the killing of a fetus in New South Wales, which is often referred to as Zoe's law. Under current laws, the loss of a fetus through a criminal act is considered grievous bodily harm to a pregnant woman. There is no separate offence for the unborn baby. This is important reform that recognises the loss of a fetus as the result of a third-party criminal act. This legislation supports the widely held community view that it is necessary to recognise in the criminal law the loss of a fetus as a result of a criminal act of another. The bill introduces two new offences into the Crimes Act 1900 relating to the loss of a fetus due to criminal acts. The new offences can be charged when a fetus has reached the gestational age of at least 20 weeks, or 400 grams in weight.

A new offence under proposed section 54A, "Offence of causing loss of a foetus", will be charged when grievous bodily harm has been caused to a pregnant person, causing the loss of the fetus. The bill provides that when a person is charged with one of those offences and this alleged act causes the loss of a fetus, the proposed section 54A will also allow a new offence to be included in the criminal prosecution. The new provision allows for an additional maximum penalty that is three years higher than is currently available for the same conduct under the existing law.

A second offence, contained in proposed section 54B, "Offence of causing loss of a foetus (death of a pregnant woman)", will operate in similar terms to 54A. An offender can be charged with a homicide offence, such as murder or manslaughter, when the pregnant person is killed and the fetus is lost as a result of the conduct. This offence also will carry an additional maximum penalty of three years' imprisonment. This bill also ensures that families are able to claim funeral costs for the loss of an unborn child caused by car accidents and that bereavement payments also will be made available to help families access counselling when either of the new offences is charged.

Most significantly, the bill provides that proposed sections 54A and 54B do not apply to the termination of the pregnancy under the Abortion Law Reform Act 2019 or an act or omission of a pregnant woman that results in the loss of the woman's fetus. Therefore, the bill will not affect a pregnant person's ability to obtain a lawful abortion under reforms introduced by the Abortion Law Reform Act 2019. In addition, the bill does not displace the born alive rule and therefore does not recognise fetal personhood. This bill has been a long time in the making. Since 2013 there have been multiple attempts by New South Wales politicians to revive what is known as Zoe's law. This bill goes a long way to acknowledging the gravity of loss of a fetus without abolishing the rights of women.

I acknowledge the in-depth community consultation by the Opposition in the last week of the design of this bill, including the strong advocacy of Brodie Donegan, and the members of Family Planning NSW on behalf of Women's Health NSW and Women's Electoral Lobby, Our Bodies Our Choices, Rape & Domestic Violence Services Australia, and Australian Medical Association (NSW), all of whom support the bill. The Opposition does not oppose the bill.

Mrs TANYA DAVIES (Mulgoa) (18:14): I speak in support of the Crimes Legislation Amendment (Loss of Foetus) Bill. In September 2018 on The Northern Road near Orchard Hills in the Mulgoa electorate, the Hoang family was travelling home one night when a drunk driver collided head-on with their car. Twenty-three-year-old Katherine Hoang, nee Gordan, and her sister-in-law, Belinda Hoang, were killed in the crash. Husband to Katherine and brother to Belinda, Bronko Hoang suffered serious brain, head, leg and other internal injuries, and woke up from a coma a week later to find out that four members of his family had died on that fateful day. Katherine Hoang was just days away from giving birth to twin boys. Had the accident happened just a few days later, with the Hoangs coming home from hospital with their newborn babies, the deaths of those baby boys would have been separately recognised by law. However, because the Hoang's twin boys were in utero, the driver was charged with only two counts of manslaughter, and causing grievous bodily harm to Bronko Hoang.

While the drunk driver was sentenced to 10 years in prison, the deaths of the twin boys were not recognised under New South Wales law. At the time of the accident, former Premier Gladys Berejiklian made a commitment to introduce laws to recognise the death of an unborn child killed during a criminal act. In November 2018, about two months after the accident, the New South Wales Government committed to seek expert advice and community feedback on how the loss of a fetus as a result of the third party criminal act might be better recognised in New South Wales law. The New South Wales Government subsequently considered reform options in consultation with stakeholders and members of the community. It is quite clear that it is a delicate and difficult balance to strike. From the outset I say that I have been a strong advocate for a law such as this to be passed through this House—ever since the first call for Zoe's law by members impacted by such criminal acts.

I met Brodie Donegan last week, but I have known of her and Nick's story and their child for many years. The same tragedy experienced by the Hoang family and their twin boys occurred in my electorate on a busy road I travel on many times a week conducting my electorate duties and serving my community. I confess that every time I drive past that spot I think of them, and not a day goes by that I do not forget that tragedy. On the occasions when my young daughter was in the car with me and saw the significant number of teddy bears, crosses and flowers heaped up on the fence around what was the Penrith Golf Club, it always drew her attention. One day she asked me whether we could buy something to place at that location in recognition and honour of not only the two ladies who died but also the two little boys that our community would no longer have the opportunity and privilege of getting to know.

While Brodie Donegan's story has impacted me personally over many years, it was the Hoang family tragedy that drove the need for reform into my heart. I persisted to ensure that we worked consistently and without giving up to achieve the bill before the House. I recognise that members have expressed concerns that the bill could be a Trojan Horse to trample on other reforms for women's reproductive rights. I assure the House that is not even remotely close to being factual. After many years of advocacy from many members in this place and the other place, as well as the tireless advocacy of Brodie Donegan, Jacqueline Sparks and others, it is a momentous day to contribute to debate on this bill, which will expressly recognise the loss of an unborn child as a unique injury and loss for the pregnant woman and other family members.

Under the new laws, if a third party criminal act such as dangerous driving causes the loss of a fetus, the following charges may be available: If the fetus is less than 20 weeks, a charge can be laid against the accused under existing grievous bodily harm offences, with a maximum penalty of up to 25 years' imprisonment depending on the type of criminal act; if the fetus is at least 20 weeks, or 400 grams, the accused can be charged with the new offence of causing the loss of a fetus, with a maximum penalty of five to 28 years' imprisonment depending on the type of third party criminal act; if the pregnant woman sustains other injuries, the accused can be charged with and convicted for both the new offence of causing the loss of a fetus and any other charge under the Crimes Act 1900 for the pregnant woman's other injuries; and if the pregnant woman is killed as a result of the third party criminal act and the fetus is at least 20 weeks, or 400 grams, the accused can be charged and convicted for both homicide of the pregnant woman and the new offence of "causing the loss of a foetus (death of a pregnant woman)".

This legislation will finally bring appropriate justice for those who lose an unborn baby as a result of a criminal act by a third party. Not only will it ensure proper justice for the families who lose an unborn child as a result of a criminal act, the legislation will also improve support to parents who have lost an unborn child of any age. The reforms provide support to families and recognition of the loss of an unborn child of any age by enabling immediate family members of a pregnant woman whose fetus was lost—not only the mother—to make victim impact statements that may be considered by the courts when sentencing offenders by amending the Crimes (Sentencing Procedure) Act 1999; the name of an unborn child lost as a result of a criminal offence to be included in the formal wording of the indictment, which sets out the details of the alleged offences against an accused, by amending the Criminal Procedure Act 1986; and family members to claim funeral costs for the loss of an unborn child caused by a car accident by amending the Motor Accident Injuries Act 2017. In addition, families who lose an unborn child where one of the new offences is charged may be eligible for a one-off \$3,000 payment under the reforms. That bereavement payment scheme will assist families to access support services, including counselling.

Those important and vital reforms will not only recognise the tremendous tragedy of losing an unborn child as a result of a criminal act but also provide parents with the support they need, as well as recognise each individual child by having their name in the formal wording. I congratulate the Attorney General and the Premier on this legislation. It will ensure greater justice and recognition for the loss of children in those circumstances so that the experiences of the Hoang and Donegan families in the aftermath of their tragedies will never occur for another family again. I congratulate Brodie Donegan on her tireless advocacy over the last decade. It has been a long battle fighting for this achievement. I echo the words of Minister for Counter Terrorism and Corrections, the Hon. Anthony Roberts, who acknowledged the work of a former member for The Entrance, Chris Spence, who was Brodie Donegan's member of Parliament. I remember his tireless fighting and toiling to get this legislation through this House when he was the member, and I acknowledge his efforts. It is a historic day to see Brodie's advocacy, and the advocacy of many in this place, achieve this important legislation. I commend the bill to the House.

Mr DAVID MEHAN (The Entrance) (18:24): I contribute to debate on the Crimes Legislation Amendment (Loss of Foetus) Bill 2021. I note that the bill seeks to amend four Acts: the Crimes Act 1900, the Crimes (Sentencing Procedures) Act 1999, the Criminal Procedure Act 1986 and the Motor Accident Injuries Act 2017. Labor supports the bill. The current law in New South Wales recognises the destruction of a fetus as grievous bodily harm to the pregnant person. There is no separate offence to address an act which causes the death of the fetus. The bill addresses that problem. New section 54A will be introduced into the Crimes Act 1900, which will be called "Offence of causing loss of a foetus". That will be a charge when grievous bodily harm has been caused to a pregnant person causing the loss of a fetus.

The second section to be introduced into the Crimes Act is new section 54B, which will be called "Offence of causing loss of a foetus (death of a pregnant woman)". That will operate in similar terms to new section 54A and will be charged as a homicide offence when the pregnant person is killed and the fetus is also lost as a result of that conduct. Those two separate new offences will carry additional penalties on top of the penalties that already apply to the offence against a pregnant person.

The Crimes Sentencing Procedures Act 1999 will be amended to allow for immediate family members of the pregnant person whose fetus was lost to make a victim's impact statement. The Criminal Procedure Act will be amended to allow the name of the fetus lost to a third-party criminal act to be included on the initiating process or in the indictment of the criminal charge. Currently, the law does not allow that. It will not be compulsory and the pregnant person may request that the fetus' name not be included in the indictment. The Motor Accident Injuries Act, which currently allows for payments to be made to a person injured in a motor vehicle accident, will be amended to allow for a pregnant person to claim funeral costs for the fetus if it was lost as a result of a motor accident.

Most significantly, the bill provides that proposed sections 54A and 54B do not apply to termination of a pregnancy under the Abortion Law Reform Act 2019 or an act or omission by the pregnant person that results in the loss of the pregnant person's fetus. I acknowledge the work of my constituent Brodie Donegan and I remind the House of the circumstances surrounding Brodie's loss. On Christmas Day 2009, Brodie was pregnant with a daughter, Zoe, and was hit by a drug-affected motor vehicle driver which ended in injuries to Brodie and the death of Zoe. That began Mrs Donegan's campaign over the 12 years since to have the loss of Zoe properly recognised as an offence separate to the offence against her bodily person, recognising the loss of Zoe as a fetus and an unborn child. The Attorney General has put together a thoughtful and well-framed bill. I commend the bill to the House.

Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore) (18:29): I am very pleased to support the suite of reforms proposed in the Crimes Legislation Amendment (Loss of Foetus) Bill 2021. There is really nothing we can say in this House that will acknowledge or recognise sufficiently what many parents and families go through when they lose their unborn babies as a result of criminal acts. The Government knows that it has taken too long to get an outcome for those individuals, families and babies to be recognised under criminal law. I am proud that the Government has introduced the reforms to Parliament to make sure that we can do that.

I acknowledge two of the mothers who have been instrumental in working towards the reform, Brodie Donegan and Jacqueline Sparks. They and members of this place have made many attempts to bring legislation to fruition to address this under criminal law. I acknowledge the Attorney General for his work in walking the very narrow line of getting the right legislation passed. We have seen incredibly courageous people, particularly courageous women who have lost their babies in this way, using their own incredible sense of feeling and loss to drive advocacy and outcomes for the rest of our community. I thank them for that work.

The bill represents an important change to the law in New South Wales which will ensure that the devastating impact of losing an unborn child as a result of the criminal act of somebody else will have greater recognition under the law. In New South Wales the most serious offences are heard before the District Court or the Supreme Court and those proceedings are known as indictable proceedings. An indictment is the instrument that provides the court with jurisdiction to hear a criminal trial. It is a formal document that is presented in the name of the Queen and is duly signed and authorised either by the Director of Public Prosecutions, the Attorney General or a person delegated on their behalf, such as a Crown prosecutor.

An indictment must set out each of the offences with which the accused is charged. Each of the counts in an indictment must contain a statement setting out each of the elements of the offence that the Crown is required to prove and sufficient information about the allegations for the accused person to understand the case that is being brought against them. That information is known as the particulars of the charge. It is on the basis of an indictment that an accused person pleads guilty or not guilty to the charges. Because of the important role played by an indictment, it is vital that the details are correct. Numerous cases have resulted in a conviction being overturned when an error or defect has appeared in the indictment, such as where it wrongly states the elements of the offence or some other material particular.

To ensure the integrity of proceedings, section 16 of the Criminal Procedure Act 1986 provides a list of grounds on which an indictment will not be bad, insufficient, void, erroneous or defective. That includes grounds such as the addition of certain unnecessary phrases, the naming of a person by their office rather than their proper name or leaving out the date on which the offence was alleged to have been committed except where the date is essential to proof of the offence. The bill will add to this list a sub-provision which provides that an indictment for an offence under the Crimes Act 1900 relating to the destruction or loss of a fetus, regardless of the gestational age of the fetus, will not be defective for stating the name of the fetus. That provision will ensure that where a prosecutor, in consultation with the victim of the offence, or the victim's family where the victim is deceased, decides that it is appropriate to include the name of the unborn child in the particulars of the indictment, the indictment will not be defective because of that inclusion. That will provide certainty for courts, prosecutors, victims and their families, and accused persons as to the validity of an indictment presented by the prosecution which names the unborn child.

The amendment will apply to both the new offences in schedule 1 to the bill and any other relevant offences that address criminal behaviour that causes the loss of a fetus. It will not be necessary to prove that a fetus had a gestational age of 20 weeks or more for the provision to apply. The amendment provides an important way for us, the courts and the justice system to recognise the loss of a fetus as a result of a criminal third-party act. It will respond to the strong submissions from affected families requesting to have the name of their unborn children to be included independently in a charge and read out in court. We know how crucial agency, identification and recognition are when it comes to a life that was taken and never lived and how crucial it is for a fetus to be recognised with its identity and the name and love borne upon it by its family. The amendment will not make it mandatory to name on an indictment, and doing so may not be appropriate in all cases. For example, many fetuses

would not yet have been named or the pregnant woman or the family may not wish to have the fetus named on the indictment. In those cases, it will not be necessary to name the fetus on the indictment.

Importantly, this amendment will not displace the born alive rule. We have had many discussions in this place about what is appropriate when talking about the born alive rule. It is an important principle of our law that legal personhood does not come about until a person is born alive, meaning that they have taken their first breath and are capable of life independently of the pregnant woman. Instead, this amendment will ensure that the terrible harm caused to a pregnant woman and her family where a fetus has been lost due to the criminal act of another can be properly reflected in the particulars of the charge as they appear on an indictment.

I say again that there is very little that we can do in this place to ever take away or make amends for the loss that these women and families have suffered. I have been very fortunate to have carried two babies—two beautiful, healthy young children—to term. I know, in particular, the feeling of being pregnant and the connection you have with the baby within you—the hopes, the dreams and the aspirations for that life yet to be lived. I could not imagine the horror of having your baby taken from you at that point, but in particular knowing that it is done because of the criminal act of another borne out onto you. This law will go some ways towards making sure that we recognise that loss and provide a sense of justice for those families and pregnant women. I am very pleased to support these reforms and commend the bill to the House.

Ms KATE WASHINGTON (Port Stephens) (18:36): I contribute to the debate on the Crimes Legislation Amendment (Loss of Foetus) Bill 2021. On Christmas Day in 2009 Brodie Donegan, who was 32 weeks pregnant, went for a short walk to stretch her legs. Just 20 metres from her driveway, a drug-affected driver swerved off the road and struck her. The impact shattered Ms Donegan's pelvis, lower spine, hip and right foot. She went headfirst through the windscreen of the driver's mini-van. The driver was affected by a cocktail of drugs when she struck poor Brodie Donegan at Ourimbah, killing the baby that had been growing inside her for eight months. The driver was convicted of two charges, including dangerous driving causing grievous bodily harm. She was sentenced to nine months jail followed by an 18-month parole period. Brodie and her husband, Nick Ball, had intended to call their baby Zoe.

Brodie's experience in the criminal justice system following her terrifying experience led to the bill we are debating today. Brodie could not reconcile how their tragic loss was simply listed as injury to her own body. To Brodie, this tragic loss was not acknowledged in our criminal laws or in the criminal justice system. Since then, she has bravely advocated for change. But making change has been challenging. Over the past decade, Zoe's law has taken many forms. All of them have been unsupportable, until this version. The complication arose from a missing protection under our laws for women and health workers—the right to a lawful abortion in New South Wales.

In its first iterations, Zoe's law, as presented to Parliament, created a barrier to decriminalising abortion in New South Wales. Currently under the law a child is not regarded as a legal person until it is born and takes its first breath. The first versions of Zoe's law sought to reverse this principle and grant legal status or personhood to a fetus. This change would have undermined the ability of women to make decisions about their body. It would have affected women's reproductive rights. In relation to the earlier version of Zoe's law, Julie Hamblin of HWL Ebsworth Lawyers—a health lawyer—said it would have added "a new weapon to the armoury of those seeking to secure a conviction for unlawful abortion". For these reasons, Brodie Donegan herself did not support that version of Zoe's law.

Since then, thankfully, abortion has been decriminalised in New South Wales. After a hard-fought, decades-long campaign, women may now access lawful abortion. It is a right that women do not want to ever lose. We cannot afford any backward step. We cannot afford to jeopardise a woman's right to choose, a woman's right to access reproductive health care or a health professional's role in providing health care. For that reason, the Labor Opposition has approached this bill with extreme caution, and consultation with stakeholders has been extensive. I thank our shadow Ministers—the shadow Minister for Women and prevention of domestic violence, Jodie Harrison, who is in the Chamber tonight, and shadow Attorney General, Michael Daley—for their extensive consultation with stakeholders over a very short period of time.

I also thank Ann Brassil from Family Planning NSW, who has provided a considered position statement on behalf of Family Planning NSW and also on behalf of Denele Crozier from Women's Health NSW, Mary O'Sullivan from the New South Wales Women's Electoral Lobby and Julie Hamblin from HWL Ebsworth Lawyers. I also thank Catherine Henry of Catherine Henry Lawyers who has been involved in this conversation for a long time and has campaigned hard from the Hunter against the earlier iterations of Zoe's law. She also contributed to the Opposition's consultations on this current bill.

The bill before us today creates two new criminal offences in relation to causing the loss of a fetus by amending the Crimes Act 1900 and inserting new sections 54A and 54B. In effect, if someone is charged with

grievous bodily harm or homicide, and their actions cause the loss of a fetus, a new offence will be added to the charge list, and the person could have another three years added to their sentence as a result. The bill also introduces financial provisions for funeral arrangements for the fetus, expands the eligibility of family members who can make a victim impact statement in court and allows the name of the fetus to be included on a criminal charge, if that is the wish of the harmed person.

Importantly, the bill does not undermine the longstanding legal principle whereby a child is not regarded as a legal person until it is born and takes its first breath. To be abundantly clear, this bill does not introduce the concept of fetal personhood into the New South Wales Crimes Act, as previous iterations of this bill have attempted to do. Indeed, the bill specifically states that neither of the two new offences will apply where the loss of the fetus was due to a lawful termination or any act or omission of the pregnant person themselves. So whilst the bill before us today is different to what has been presented to this Parliament before, the path we have taken to get here has certainly been very rocky. We have seen examples in other jurisdictions where a woman's right to choose has been eroded. We must never go there. And, whilst Labor is supporting the bill before us today, it does so with considerable caution. The gains women have made in this State have been hard fought and gruelling.

It is important to recognise the understandable sense of unease among some women's advocates with regard to this bill. Many believe, in good faith, that this change is conceptually the start of a slippery slope to fetal personhood and its historically anti-abortion, anti-women sentiments. Indeed, I share the view of the majority of stakeholders that this bill should be passed with no amendments, therefore closing the door on a lengthy and painful process for so many women and advocates in New South Wales. I also recognise and respect the view of other stakeholders that this law is unnecessary. They argue that our laws already provide for greater sentencing for harm done to a fetus, and that the risks associated with this change are far too great.

In respecting those views, it is essential that this bill is not amended to include fetal personhood or any provisions allowing the prosecution of a person for causing the death of their own fetus, intentionally or unintentionally, or the prosecution of health workers for causing the death of a fetus in the course of the provision of health care. For me and many others, these issues form the line in the sand. Given this bill does not introduce any of these aspects, the Labor Opposition does not oppose this bill. Finally, I acknowledge Brodie Donegan for her impressive campaign following her unthinkable experience. Should any other expectant parents and their families experience something similarly heartbreaking, I hope that this law—Zoe's law in its latest and final form—ensures the criminal justice system better reflects the gravity and enormity of their loss.

Ms ELENI PETINOS (Miranda) (18:44): I speak in support of the Crimes Legislation Amendment (Loss of Foetus) Bill 2021. The loss of a child in any circumstances is devastating. I cannot begin to fathom the pain that expectant parents would experience when grieving the loss of their unborn child due to the criminal actions of another person. Currently no individual offences address the loss of a pregnancy due to a criminal act and that is why the need for the bill is paramount. It is crucial that we implement the proposed amendments that the bill seeks to introduce so that parents can access better justice. The loss of the fetus must be acknowledged by the criminal justice system. The purpose of the bill is to create two new offences to expressly recognise the loss of an unborn child due to criminal acts, and improve support and recognition for parents who have lost an unborn child in these circumstances. The introduction of the two new offences will include a standalone offence that will apply to a wide range of criminal acts and an offence that will apply to circumstances where the pregnant mother and her unborn child are lost due to a third party criminal act.

By way of background, there has been a longstanding need for the introduction of these legislative amendments. In recent years there have been several tragic cases involving pregnant women losing their unborn children as a result of the criminal actions of third parties. These distressing incidents have been brought to the attention of the community, which has questioned whether the New South Wales criminal law gives adequate recognition to instances where criminal acts cause the loss of an unborn child. In 2018 the New South Wales Government committed to seek expert advice and community feedback on how these tragic circumstances may be better addressed and recognised in our law. Through considering reform options, and consultation with stakeholders and members of our community, the New South Wales Government has developed the bill to better support families that lose an unborn child due to criminal acts and ensure offenders face tougher sentences.

The bill will strengthen the law by creating two new offences in the Crimes Act 1900, including an offence of causing the loss of a fetus, which will apply to a wide range of criminal acts and carry a maximum penalty of five to 28 years imprisonment depending on the type of act, such as dangerous driving or grievous bodily harm with intent to the pregnant woman. The combined maximum sentence for this offence and the existing criminal offence will be three years higher than currently available for this conduct under existing law. It will also create an offence of causing the loss of a fetus by death of a pregnant woman, which can be charged with a homicide offence such as murder, manslaughter or dangerous driving occasioning death where the fetus is lost and the pregnant woman is killed due to a third party criminal act. This offence will carry a maximum penalty of three

years' imprisonment and apply in addition to the maximum penalty for the homicide offence. I note that these can be changed where the unborn child is of at least 20 weeks' gestation or 400 grams in weight consistent with the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act 1995.

Additionally, the bill will also improve support and recognition available to expectant parents. The bill will reform the Criminal Procedure Act 1986 to allow the name of an unborn child of any age lost as a result of a criminal offence to be included in the formal wording of charges against an accused, reform the Crimes (Sentencing Procedure) Act 1999 to allow family members of an unborn child of any age to make victim impact statements that may be taken into account by the courts when sentencing offenders, and reform the Motor Accident Injuries Act 2017 to enable family members to claim funeral costs for the loss of an unborn child of any age caused by a motor accident. These reforms are incredibly important as they allow families to focus on their grief without financial burdens and provide them with the opportunity to contribute their own stories during the court process.

I note that the proposed amendments do not affect reforms introduced by the Abortion Law Reform Act 2019, which has been of great concern to many members during debate. The offences expressly exclude any act or omission by the pregnant woman. Furthermore, these reforms are not intended to displace the centuries old born alive rule, which provides that a crime of violence such as homicide can only be committed on a legally recognised person—a status attained when someone is born and takes their first breath. In addition to the bill, the New South Wales Government is establishing a bereavement payment scheme to provide for a one-off payment of \$3,000 to families who lose an unborn child when one of the new criminal offences is charged. This is another important step in assisting families to access support services such as counselling. The purpose of the bill is not to replace the pain or tragic nature of these circumstances. However, the important amendments that the bill seeks to introduce will provide better support to grieving families and achieve justice for the victims of these crimes. I support the Crimes Legislation Amendment (Loss of Foetus) Bill 2021.

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla—Attorney General, and Minister for Prevention of Domestic and Sexual Violence) (18:49): In reply: I thank the member for Maroubra, the member for Holsworthy, the member for Newtown, the member for Charlestown, the member for Camden, the member for Keira, the member for Terrigal, the member for Prospect, the member for Wollondilly, the member for Maitland, the member for Lane Cove, the member for Coogee, the member for The Entrance, the member for North Shore, the member for Port Stephens and the member for Miranda for their respective considered contributions to this debate.

I also recognise, again, victim-survivors and other stakeholders for their ongoing engagement with these reforms and for advocating to ensure that these reforms are appropriate, will be effective and will work to support those who have lost an unborn child rather than criminalising or marginalising women. I recognise in particular the advocacy of Brodie Donegan, Nick Ball and Jacqueline Sparks. Let me be clear: It is not the intention of the bill to criminalise women, nor will it be the outcome. Careful and extensive consultation and consideration in drafting have occurred to ensure that this is not the case.

I now turn to address several matters that have been raised in debate by members, including by the member for Charlestown, the member for Newtown and the member for Maitland. The member for Charlestown and the member for Newtown raised concerns about the risk that the bill will criminalise a pregnant woman miscarrying or for her behaviour that may cause the loss of her fetus. The bill will not undermine bodily autonomy, disrupt the Abortion Law Reform Act 2019, criminalise the conduct of a pregnant woman or affect a person's ability to obtain a lawful abortion. The proposed new offences in schedule 1 to the bill will not in any way criminalise a woman for her behaviour that may cause the loss of her fetus, nor will they affect a person's ability to obtain a lawful abortion. This is made abundantly clear at proposed section 54A (6), which states:

Proposed sections 54A and 54B do not apply to—

- (a) the termination of a pregnancy under the *Abortion Law Reform Act 2019*, or
- (b) an act or omission of a pregnant woman that results in the loss of the woman's foetus

This is repeated at proposed section 54B (5), which states expressly that the new offences do not apply to those scenarios. The text of the legislative drafting is unequivocal in this regard and I have made this limitation very clear in my second reading speech. It is not the purpose or effect of the bill to impact on the Abortion Law Reform Act 2019 or capture "any act or omission of a pregnant woman". This wording of this phrase "any act or omission" is broad and plain. The purpose of the bill and these offences is instead to address the criminal behaviour of a third party that causes the loss of a fetus of a woman and to better support women who are offended against in this way.

In addition, proposed section 54A captures behaviour where a person's act or omission constitutes an offence under a provision of the Crimes Act that creates an offence involving physical elements of causing grievous bodily harm to a person. It leans on existing criminal offences committed by one person, a third party accused, against the other person, in this case the pregnant woman, to be established before an accused could be

found guilty. These offences cannot be committed by a victim against themselves. These offences are being introduced only to address the criminal behaviour of a third party that causes the loss of a fetus of a woman and seeks to better support women who are offended against in this way.

The member for Newtown sought clarification as to why the bill is necessary, as this behaviour is already captured under the definition of grievous bodily harm. Unfortunately, there have been several tragic cases involving pregnant women losing their unborn child as a result of the criminal actions of third parties. Those distressing incidents have led to increased community interest in whether the criminal law in New South Wales gives adequate recognition to circumstances where a third-party criminal act causes the loss of a fetus. While destruction of a fetus is captured by the definition of grievous bodily harm, there is currently no standalone offence of causing the loss of an unborn child or a fetus. Creating these new criminal offences will expressly recognise the loss of a fetus as a unique injury and loss for the pregnant woman and other family members. The Government's proposed suite of reforms will better acknowledge the heartbreak suffered by families and punish offenders appropriately.

The member for Charlestown and the member for Newtown expressed concern that the bill undermines the born alive rule and creates fetal personhood. It does not. Under the common law, an infant is not recognised as an independent legal person until the infant is born alive—that is, has completely left its mother's body and shown evidence of independent life. That applies in all Australian jurisdictions and is also the case in Commonwealth jurisdictions like Canada, New Zealand and the United Kingdom. Evidence of life may include a heartbeat after delivery or evidence of a child having breathed independently, including where the child's breathing is assisted by mechanical respiration. That is called the born alive rule. The drafting of schedule 1 to the bill has been carefully formulated to maintain the born alive rule while appropriately criminalising very serious acts to ensure that offences against a pregnant woman resulting in the loss of her fetus can be properly recognised in criminal charges.

The common law born alive rule, reflected in section 20 of the Crimes Act 1900, ascribes legal personhood once a person is born alive and surviving independently. That means that a fetus is not recognised under New South Wales law as a legal person and therefore cannot be an individual victim of a crime. The proposed section 54A offence in the bill maintains the born alive rule by creating the new offences as a specific factual matrix of injury to the pregnant woman as the primary victim. The offence recognises the unique and grave harm caused by the loss to the pregnant woman as a result of an offender's actions. Section 54B is novel in its approach, but it does not make the fetus the primary victim. The loss of the fetus is framed in a causational way as a result of the unlawful killing of a pregnant woman. That is because the section 54B offence can only be charged alongside a homicide offence pertaining to the unlawful death of a pregnant woman, recognising that the fetus is inextricably linked to the pregnant woman.

I note the concerns raised by members in relation to the offences impliedly undermining the born alive rule. I reassure them that the drafting of the bill has been carefully developed in consultation with legal stakeholders so that it will not undermine the born alive rule and consequently will not bring about fetal personhood. The member for Charlestown asked about the rationale behind the fact that the new offences will only apply to third-party criminal acts causing the loss of a fetus of 20 weeks' gestation or more or 400 grams in weight. The decision was not made by reference to the Abortion Law Reform Act 2019 because the bill is not related to the Abortion Law Reform Act 2019 in any way. The bill applies to a very different set of circumstances. Instead, this requirement has precedent in New South Wales law as it reflects existing thresholds in the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act 1995.

As noted by the member for Charlestown, 20 weeks is the time at which the loss of a fetus without a criminal act is considered a stillbirth rather than a miscarriage. Certain rights then apply regarding the issue of a birth certificate under the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act 1995. Section 4 of that Act also defines death to exclude a stillbirth—that is, death can only occur at law and must only be registered after a child has been born alive. Should there be any doubt about whether the prosecution can establish the gestational age of the fetus, or where the primary victim does not want the loss of a fetus to be the main focus of a charge, the prosecution may still proceed under the existing grievous bodily harm offences. Under the bill, harm to or destruction of a fetus of less than 20 weeks' gestation—or of less than 400 grams if the period of gestation could not be established—would continue to be considered grievous bodily harm to the child's mother only.

I note concerns raised in the debate in relation to victim impact statements and whether an accused person's family, in particular in proceedings for a domestic violence offence, could provide such a statement. Schedule 2 to the bill amends the Crimes (Sentencing Procedure) Act 1999 to allow a person who was a member of the primary victim's immediate family at the time the offence was committed to provide a victim impact statement to the court in relation to the harm caused by the loss of the fetus. Section 26 of the Crimes (Sentencing Procedure)

Act 1999 strictly defines "a member of the primary victim's immediate family". Victim impact statements are tendered or adduced by the Crown as part of its case.

The Crown ultimately retains control over that process, in consultation with the victim. That is already an important safeguard. In the example, an accused person's family could only provide a victim impact statement if the prosecutor is satisfied that the person "is a member of the victim's extended family or culturally recognised family to whom the victim is or was close" or "is a person with whom the victim had a close relationship analogous to a family relationship, or whom the victim considered to be family." It is important that the sentencing process does not cause distress to a victim and that their connections or relationships with other people closely informs it. In conclusion, the bill will strengthen the law in New South Wales by better recognising the loss of an unborn child caused by a third-party criminal act as well as the harm and heartbreak caused to expectant parents and families. I commend the bill to the House.

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

Motion agreed to.

Third Reading

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN: I move:

That this bill be now read a third time.

Motion agreed to.

CRIMES (ADMINISTRATION OF SENTENCES) AMENDMENT BILL 2021

Second Reading Debate

Debate resumed from 10 November 2021.

Mr JIHAD DIB (Lakemba) (19:02): I lead for the Labor Opposition in debate on the Crimes (Administration of Sentences) Amendment Bill 2021 in the Legislative Assembly. I speak on behalf of the shadow Minister for Corrections, the shadow Minister for Juvenile Justice, and the shadow Minister for Medical Research in the other place, the fantastic Hon. Tara Moriarty. I appreciate the Hon. Tara Moriarty having prepared this speech to be read in this Chamber. The Opposition does not oppose the bill.

The bill amends the Crimes (Administration of Sentences) Act 1999, or CAS Act, and the Crimes (High Risk Offenders) Act 2006, or CHRO Act, to expand the Victims Register, update the high-risk offenders processes and remove ambiguity regarding delegation of functions. The bill proposes to amend the CAS Act and the CHRO Act to require the State Parole Authority to consider any recommendation by the High Risk Offenders Assessment Committee that an application for post-sentence detention or supervision be made in relation to an offender when deciding whether to release that offender on parole.

The State Parole Authority determines matters relating to parole being granted and is required to consider a number of matters including the interests of community safety, an offender's criminal history and whether an application has been made but not determined for an extended supervision order or continuing detention under the Crimes (High Risk Offenders) Act 2006 or the Terrorism (High Risk Offenders) Act 2017. I take a moment to acknowledge the presence of the Minister.

Mr Anthony Roberts: Thank you, sir.

Mr JIHAD DIB: Pleasure. Currently the State Parole Authority is prohibited from having regard to the fact that an application for an extended supervision order or a continuing detention order may be made with respect of an offender when considering whether to release the offender on parole. This amendment removes that prohibition and creates a requirement that the State Parole Authority consider any recommendation of the High Risk Offenders Assessment Committee that an application for an extended supervision order or a continuing detention order be made in relation to an offender.

The second amendment seeks to allow the Chief Executive of Justice Health to delegate the right to have free and unfettered access at all times to correctional centres and medical records and to offenders held within them. At the moment the CEO of Justice Health cannot delegate that authority, and this amendment will allow that person to do so where necessary. The next lot of amendments are in relation to improving the Victims Register. The first will provide that victims of offenders serving a sentence of imprisonment, including fixed-term and life sentences, and offenders sentenced to an intensive correction order for a personal violence offence within the meaning of the Crimes (Domestic and Personal Violence) Act are to be recorded in the Victims Register, if they so request. The second lot will clarify that a family representative of a victim must be recorded in the Victims Register if the victim is under 18 years of age but give the Commissioner of Corrective Services NSW

discretion to direct that a victim aged 16 or 17 years be recorded in the register instead of a family representative if it is in the victim's interest to do so.

The third amendment will permit a victim who is recorded in the Victims Register to nominate an individual to act and to receive information on their behalf. The fourth amendment will allow for additional information about an offender to be disclosed to a registered victim, including when an offender is transferred to the custody of another jurisdiction, and when an offender who is subject to an intensive correction order for a personal violence offence breaches that order and is placed in custody. The final amendment ensures consistent references to an offender who is "serving a sentence". It gives me great pleasure to speak in this place on this amendment bill on behalf of the shadow Minister, the Hon. Tara Moriarty.

As I said at the outset, the Opposition will not oppose the bill. The shadow Minister has spoken to me about the fact that the bill seems to tidy up a few loose ends. She gave an example during the recent COVID pandemic, where there was an issue with the CEO of Justice Health being unable to obtain some information. Some things in the amendments will make life a little bit easier and will make sure that things are well organised. It will give confidence to people in the system, which is a critical and important thing. The improvements to the Victims Register are welcome. I am glad to see that they are in the bill, and the Opposition hopes that they will be in place sooner rather than later because they have been a long time coming.

Ms ELENi PETINOS (Miranda) (19:08): I speak in support of the Crimes (Administration of Sentences) Amendment Bill 2021. I acknowledge the presence of the very hardworking Minister. In particular, I will speak about the amendment to require the State Parole Authority to consider recommendations of the High Risk Offender Assessment Committee when determining whether to release an offender on parole. The State Parole Authority, which was established under part 8 of the Crimes (Administration of Sentences) Act 1999, or CAS Act, determines matters relating to the granting of parole and the conditions on which parole is granted. In determining whether to grant an offender parole, section 135 of the CAS Act requires that the Parole Authority must be satisfied that releasing an offender is in the interests of the safety of the community. In making this assessment, the State Parole Authority is required to have regard to a number of factors, including the offender's criminal history, any relevant comments made by the sentencing court, and that an application has been made but not determined for an extended supervision order or a continuing detention order under the Crimes (High Risk Offenders) Act 2006 or the Terrorism (High Risk Offenders) Act 2017.

Currently, section 135 (7) of the CAS Act expressly prohibits the Parole Authority from having regard to the fact that an application for an extended supervision order or a continuing detention order may be made in respect of an offender when considering whether to release the offender on parole. Instead, the State Parole Authority is limited to only consider where an application has been made. This means that it could make a parole order for an offender without knowing that the offender is subject to a recommendation from the committee that an application be made to the Supreme Court for a continuing detention order. The release of the offender on parole in these circumstances pre-empts the possibility of an application to the Supreme Court for a continuing detention order and a finding by the court that the offender's risk is sufficient to warrant the offender's detention. The community would be exposed to the offender's risk without the State Parole Authority having had the opportunity to consider the committee's recommendation.

The bill will remove this prohibition and instead require the State Parole Authority, when determining whether to make a parole order directing the release of an offender, to consider any recommendation by the High Risk Offender Assessment Committee that an application for an extended supervision order or a continuing detention order be made in relation to the offender under the Crimes (High Risk Offenders) Act 2006 or the Terrorism (High Risk Offenders) Act 2017. This amendment is necessary, as the fact that the committee has reviewed a risk assessment about an offender—and made a recommendation that an application be made—is relevant to the State Parole Authority's assessment of the impact on the safety of the community of an offender's release to parole, and may ultimately lead to an application being made, and orders being imposed, by the Supreme Court under one of the high risk offender Acts.

This amendment is appropriate, as offenders that fall within the purview of the High Risk Offender Assessment Committee can be some of the most dangerous offenders in our State. The primary function of the committee is to review the risk assessments of these offenders and to make recommendations about the taking of action by the State, including whether an application should be made for an extended supervision order or a continuing detention order in relation to an offender. This amendment will also better reflect how the high risk offender and parole frameworks operate in practice, with parole matters and applications for extended supervision orders and continuing detention orders subject to separate processes and different time frames. As a result, it is not always possible for an application to be made against an offender before the State Parole Authority makes a parole decision. It is therefore in the interests of the safety of the community that the State Parole Authority take

recommendations of the High Risk Offender Assessment Committee into account when determining whether to release an offender on parole.

To facilitate this amendment, the bill will also clarify that information obtained by the State under section 25 of the Crimes (High Risk Offenders) Act 2006 may be used in parole proceedings before the State Parole Authority, but only if the provider of the information consents. This will ensure that key information considered by the High Risk Offender Assessment Committee, when making a recommendation about whether an application should be made in relation to an offender under the Crimes (High Risk Offenders) Act 2006, is available to the State Parole Authority to assist in determining the weight that should be given to the committee's recommendation. This will create consistency across the high risk offender regimes by mirroring an existing provision that enables information about terrorism-related offenders to be given to the State Parole Authority under section 71A of the Terrorism (High Risk Offenders) Act 2017.

I am pleased to support the amendments in this bill, which will ensure that the State Parole Authority takes recommendations of the High Risk Offenders Assessment Committee into account when determining whether to release an offender on parole. This will enhance the safety and protection of the community, and is consistent with the community safety objectives of parole decision-making by the State Parole Authority. I thank the Minister and his office for their work in relation to this legislation. I commend the bill to the House.

Mr ANTHONY ROBERTS (Lane Cove—Minister for Counter Terrorism and Corrections) (19:14):

In reply: I thank the member for Miranda and the member Lakemba for their thoughtful contributions to the important Crimes (Administration of Sentences) Amendment Bill 2021 that goes a long way to solving a number of issues in the Act, particularly strengthening the provisions about the support of victims and the provision about health services more broadly within the correctional system. I commend the bill to the House.

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

Motion agreed to.

Third Reading

Mr ANTHONY ROBERTS: I move:

That this bill be now read a third time.

Motion agreed to.

Private Members' Statements

CENTRAL WEST FLOODS

Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra) (19:15): I speak tonight about the flooding through the Central West. For several days water has been spilling over the wall of Wyangala Dam and the dam is still at more than 100 per cent capacity. WaterNSW is doing a lot of hard work with stakeholders up and down the Lachlan Valley. The Airspace Reference Panel meets regularly to work out the releases that should continue to occur throughout the valley. The inflows into Wyangala peaked last week at 110 giganalitres and have dropped steadily to 35 giganalitres over the past few days, which is good news. We will hopefully see fewer giganalitres released in the coming days to give communities that have encroaching floodwaters a bit of breathing space, particularly the communities of Gooloogong in the south-west of my electorate and, more importantly, Forbes. From today, the community of Forbes has been ordered to evacuate. That is impacting about 800 homes. There are SES volunteers working overtime and, goodness gracious, they are doing an absolutely fantastic job.

I had the opportunity over the past few days to speak with SES units at Cowra and Grenfell. I have spoken to mayors Bill West and Phyllis Miller at all hours of the day and night to check on the welfare of those communities. Our hearts go out to them at this time because it is very slow-moving floodwater in those parts. Thankfully, we have not seen inflows into the tributary creeks below the dam, which is fantastic. The Bland, Back and Lignum creek systems have held back. They have not seen those inflows. That is significant because in 2016 the water downstream of the dam wall contributed to major flooding along the Newell Highway. The Newell was cut for around 40 days. It was a difficult time for communities through the Central West and, indeed, for the heavy vehicle industry trying to move freight from Victoria and South Australia et cetera up the Newell and into Queensland, and vice versa. We expect that the Newell Highway will be impacted tomorrow—hopefully, on this occasion for as little time as possible, but potentially for two to three days. There is more modelling to be done, and we will see where that lands.

In addition to communities being so terribly impacted and people having to leave their homes, one of the most devastating effects of the current flood is the impact on crops. Crops are being absolutely devastated and decimated through the Central West. We were otherwise expecting a tremendous crop haul from that area. One

of the saddest things is that we are now relying on the density of those crops to hold the water back from creating further damage downstream. It is a difficult time for those communities, and our hearts go out to them. We will continue to reach out over the days ahead. We are expecting two more weather events—one over the coming weekend and one in the middle of next week. We can only hope that those events do not prolong the damage and flooding through the Lachlan Valley. I conclude my statement there. Perhaps next week I will be able to provide the House with a further update on the flooding event.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Greg Piper): We are all concerned for the people who live in the communities that are flood affected. I thank the member for Cootamundra for the update.

TAXI INDUSTRY

Mr NATHANIEL SMITH (Wollondilly) (19:21): I share concerns regarding aspects of the New South Wales Government's proposed point to point industry reforms. Some of the proposed reforms are unfair and, if unchecked, will have unintended impacts on public transport options in regional areas. It is a concern that my good friend and colleague the neighbouring member for Goulburn also shares, and together we met with the office of the Minister for Transport and Roads last week to put them directly. I thank the Minister and his staff for their time and appreciate their assurances that the policy will undergo a rethink. That is wise.

The proposed financial compensation package for taxi licence owners is entirely inadequate. A compensation package capped in some cases at just \$90,000 for two or more licences is a lazy cut-and-paste job from the highly discredited 2018 Victorian package. In my electorate of Wollondilly, local taxi operator Laurie Stewart owns and operates 18 licences. He invested \$1.5 million back in 1999. How is \$90,000 fair compensation for him? It simply is not. Despite those criticisms, I encourage Transport for NSW and the Minister to push ahead with reforms that will deliver a cheaper, safer, more reliable and resilient point to point industry. They should not be abandoned, just refined. There is need for reform.

I am sure that we all have memories from our younger and wilder days of Friday night struggles to get an overpriced taxi. We have come a long way since then. Rideshare disruptors deserve credit. Taxi operators have lifted their game and consumers are better off. Rideshare operators have made travel around metropolitan Sydney cheaper, easier and more reliable, but their arrival has sent taxi licence valuations plummeting. Let us not forget that those licences are financial assets. As found in a December 2020 upper House report, they are retirement nest eggs for small-time investors like 86-year-old Stephen Harapin. Today, both his asset and income stream are a fraction of what they once were.

I also accept that over the years the behaviour of some operators has been less than ideal. I cite the Muswellbrook Shire Council case mentioned in a 2015 Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal review that sought to expand the supply of local taxi services by purchasing two licences. The town's existing taxi operator outbid the council. It offered more than what was financially viable to obstruct competitors. That is a perversion of the market. Put simply, it is unacceptable behaviour that inflates asset prices and preserves monopolies. Therefore, not everyone supports a licence buyback.

I note the criticism by the Institute of Public Affairs [IPA] of the Victorian taxi reforms, which it labelled as a taxpayer-funded handout. To be fair, it has a point. Taxi licences can be said to be a Government-granted privilege that restricts competition, and we know from economics 101 that when you restrict a market you inflate prices. This means we all pay more for our trips, while at the same time limiting our choices and reducing the quality of service. As the IPA rightly argues, "The industry has benefited from government privileges through obtaining much higher profits than they would have done without those licences". This must justify a lower licence valuation to recognise the amount of compensation already earned from the licence due to the monopolistic nature of the industry. It certainly is not a viable argument to not pay compensation at all.

Licence holders were induced by successive governments to invest in taxi licences. They were complicit in spruiking the guaranteed income streams and strong growth in licence market values. It is not a question of whether licence holders should be compensated; it is a question of how much. That calculation is fraught with complexity and difficulty for the reasons I have outlined. Both the Government and taxi licence owners need to reconsider their expectations. The Government must do away with caps and offer fairer valuations. Owners also need to accept that five-year-old market valuations are not realistic compensation figures. It is vital that whatever is eventually decided, taxi operators in regional New South Wales, like Laurie Stewart, remain viable. Rideshare is a good, cheap option for young and mobile Sydneysiders, but it is not a realistic option in the regions. With an aging population like my local community, we need a reliable, safe and wheelchair-accessible transport service that only taxi operators have a track record of providing.

BERESFIELD POLICE STATION

Ms SONIA HORNER (Wallsend) (19:26): On Tuesday 6 April, an armed man walked into a takeaway shop on Lawson Avenue in Beresfield, threatening the two female employees, demanding cash, before fleeing along Beresford Avenue. A short time later, he threatened a 21-year-old man with the same firearm, demanding the man's phone and wallet. Thankfully, no-one was injured in either confrontation. The alleged perpetrator fled the scene and police began a large-scale search. Patrolling officers sighted the car on Woodberry Road and after a short pursuit arrested the man without further incident. I acknowledge the quick response of our hardworking local police officers. As usual, they did a fantastic job. I understand why local residents, though, are concerned, considering that directly across the road from the takeaway shop that was held up is the Beresfield Police Station, but it has been sitting for years unmanned. Unmanned.

Beresfield and Tarro constituents are deeply concerned about local crime and many feel that the police stations in Maitland and Raymond Terrace are too far away to render emergency care or assistance. I received a Facebook message illustrating this problem. A mum with young kids who lives in Beresfield told me, "I had the scariest experience. I was home with two kids asleep. Heard yanking noise at my patio. Next thing you know, I saw a man is trying to force himself into my kitchen through the dark glass door. He was yanking the door handle like mad, and I had never seen anything so frantic in my life. My TV was on. It was clear that someone was home, but still he was trying to madly get in. I rang 000 to get the police. They turned up over half an hour later, as Maitland is the closest station." I shudder to think what would have happened had the man got into the woman's house. She did the right thing, of course, calling 000 and summoning the police, but in a situation where every second counts she was left without assistance for more than half an hour. She asked, "Who is protecting us and our little ones? We don't feel safe at all any more here."

It is heartbreaking to hear. Beresfield and Tarro are wonderful little communities, but they are not getting the services and support that they need and deserve. Of course, it is not our police officers' fault; they do what they can to protect people in our community. It is the fault of this Government. It is this Government's fault that it does not seem to care about people in Beresfield, and about adequately staffing and resourcing police in the Hunter region. I have brought up this concerning matter in the area over and over again because the lack of a police presence in the western suburbs of Newcastle is a major problem for many local residents and business owners, as we see. A long-term resident wrote to me saying:

Many in the community have lived local and were here when the station was manned previously. The benefits were that the officers tended to also live in the area and were part of the community. Their kids went to the local schools and played in the sport teams. They had relationships in the area. They knew when the local pubs and clubs closed and which way people went home and ensured nothing happened.

Local policing, with on-the-ground experience and local knowledge, is what is missing in the area. We do not have a local police station operational in the entirety of the Wallsend electorate. I call on the police Minister to do the right thing by communities in Beresfield and Tarro, and invest in the police resources and staff needed to make our communities safe.

GARDENS OF STONE

Mr PAUL TOOLE (Bathurst—Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional Transport and Roads, and Minister for Regional New South Wales) (19:31): Tonight I speak on a very important initiative and project in my local area, and that is the Gardens of Stone. Thirty thousand hectares of land are being developed in a State conservation area within the Lithgow community for this particular project to create one of the best ecotourism and adventure destinations not only in this State but also in this country. When talking about this ecotourism and adventure experience, I have to thank the Premier, who was there on the weekend, for announcing the project. I also thank the Treasurer, and the Minister for Energy and Environment. What we have done with this project strikes the balance for what will protect that area but also enable that area to be enjoyed by so many residents across the State.

In some cases residents of New South Wales go into other States; in some cases they fly down to Tasmania to enjoy it. But now, right on Sydney's door step on the edge of Lithgow, we are able to create this adventure opportunity for so many. It has the Temple of Doom and it has the Lost City. This is our Indiana Jones stuff. This is stuff that cannot be seen anywhere else except at the Gardens of Stone. Importantly, on his visit the Premier also announced the New South Wales Government will back the project with an investment of \$50 million. It is one of the largest investments to go into the Lithgow community. It is about transforming that community. It is about making sure that we are providing jobs of the future, ensuring that it will diversify that community. What is also exciting is that it has the opportunity to bring over 200,000 visitors to the Lithgow area each and every year. We all see visitors going to the Blue Mountains to enjoy the Three Sisters. If we can only get a portion of those visitors into the Gardens of Stone, that would be a huge economic boost to the local area.

As I said, it is anticipated that 200,000 visitors will go to this destination each and every year. That will inject \$30 million to \$40 million into the local economy which will help drive it. This investment will create around 200 jobs in the local area, which is important so that we can provide a foundation for the communities that are diversifying and transitioning out of mining. This \$50 million investment will provide not only walkways and lookouts but also a 35-kilometre bike track. There will also be Australia's longest zip-line, at 900 metres long, which will be incredible to see because it will go from one canyon to another. We will also have a via ferrata, which is rock climbing. People with various skill levels, young people and families will be able to enjoy this as a destination within that local area. The investment in this particular project will see people enjoying camping and eco cabins will be constructed. A six-day walking track will be part of the adventure in this particular area.

This investment is probably the largest that I have seen in the Lithgow community. It goes to show that the New South Wales Government will support communities that are looking to diversify. It is about striking the right balance. We will also be protecting a number of rare and threatened species found in the reserves, including koalas, spotted-tail quolls, regent honeyeaters and the Blue Mountains water skink. The proposal also allows mining to continue within that area. We know how important the underground Angus Place mine is within that community. It will ensure that there are protections for the environment and that we get the balance right. It is great news, with 200,000 visitors, 190 jobs and a \$50 million investment. That is what we get with a Liberal-Nationals Government fighting for regional communities.

VAUCLUSE ELECTORATE COMMUNITY BUILDING PARTNERSHIP GRANTS

Ms GABRIELLE UPTON (Vaucluse) (19:36): Today I congratulate the successful 2020-21 recipients of the Community Building Partnership grants in the Vaucluse electorate and inform the House how we shared \$400,000 of New South Wales investment to support my local community. I was able to support a number of my local schools. Double Bay Public School got \$41,000 to transform its concrete playground into a better multi-user learning and play space. I say well done to president Jay and his wife, Nicole Westbury, co-vice-presidents Tanya Gray and Michelle Sagoaga-Singh, and Principal Lauren Sten. At Kincoppal-Rose Bay, \$13,228 was granted to purchase a new trailer that will build on its community project activities. I congratulate Principal Maureen Ryan, director of community Mary Cook and the school board, led by chair Dr Mark Sinclair. McAuley Catholic Primary School in Rose Bay has been supported with \$10,000 for a new school hall stage. I look forward to seeing it when it is safe to do so. I congratulate Principal Nicole Jones and P&C president Emma Harcourt.

My electorate has a number of amazing sporting organisations. Those that received Community Building Partnership grants this year included Eastern Suburbs District Rugby Union Football Club, which received \$13,970 to install a new electronic scoreboard. I thank CEO Dom Remond, president John Murray and the rest of the team, including vice-presidents Sam Fay and Campbell Aitken. I will join them this Friday evening to celebrate and talk about the new electronic scoreboard. Woollahra Colleagues Rugby Union Football Club received \$12,500 to paint and repair its clubhouse. I congratulate president Cameron Ireland, to whom I spoke last night, and treasurer Paul Howard. Being a harbour and beachside electorate, one of the many amazing sailing clubs we have locally is the Vaucluse Amateur 12 foot Sailing Club, led by Commodore Rob Ugarte and treasurer Ian Manovel. The club received \$30,000 to upgrade the clubhouse's foundation piles.

Gratifyingly, the two local lifesaving clubs in my electorate also benefitted from the funding. North Bondi Surf Life Saving Club received \$15,000 to build a new memorabilia cabinet to house the club's many achievements. It is a testament to the club's leadership, including president Andrew Christopher, general manager Julien Palmer, secretary Greg Bodkin, treasurer Serge Vegh, and head of lifesaving Doron Milner. Bondi Surf Bathers' Life Saving Club is in the midst of a renovation, the first since the pavilion at Bondi was installed. It received \$100,000 to replace the club's floor, which has water damage. I congratulate president Brent Jackson, director of finance Thomas Wetula and the rest of the team, all of whom do incredible work to keep our people safe on Bondi Beach.

For my local religious groups and social services organisations, St Michael's Anglican Church at Vaucluse got \$6,500 to install hardwired internet inside the heritage church hall. I congratulate parish rector Bishop Stuart Robinson, assistant minister Reverend Dan McKinlay, church warden Suzanne Williams, Elaine Kaye and all of the parish. They have done a fantastic job of moving online during lockdown and I thank them for the opportunity to address their community during an August service. Chabad Double Bay received \$26,400 to purchase a new vehicle for its Project Helper 101 program. I congratulate Head Rabbi Yanky Berger. Dover Heights Shule received \$27,336 to build a mechitzah, which is a partition for the synagogue. I congratulate Rabbi Motti and Rebbetzin Esti Feldman, treasurer Avron Newstadt and president Robin Lax. Jewish House received \$25,000 to replace the carpet in its building on Flood Street. I congratulate CEO Rabbi Mendel Kastel and president Roger Clifford. The Central Synagogue in Bondi Junction received a \$30,000 grant to upgrade its ground-floor kitchen which will better serve its community. I congratulate chief minister, Rabbi Levi Wolff, president Danny Taibel, chief financial officer Phil Ginges and the whole community.

Watson Bay's Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church received \$10,000 for repairs to the toilet block's roof and guttering. I congratulate parish priest and administrator, Father Gerald Gleeson. The St George Greek Orthodox parish church at Rose Bay received \$39,000 to update its courtyard shade protection. I congratulate Father Gerasimos Koutsouras, president George Confos and the whole Greek Orthodox community in my electorate. Whether they are sporting, social, religious or resident-based organisations, many important local organisations were benefitted by this year's Community Building Partnership grants. I am privileged to have them serving my community and they deserve these grants. I look forward to meeting them in the near term to view the additions to their community efforts.

TAFE NSW CAMPUS SALES

Mr TIM CRAKANTHORP (Newcastle) (19:41): I love a riddle. Let us do a couple. "What is seen in the middle of March and April that cannot be seen at the beginning or the end of either month?" The answer is: The letter R. "I have cities, but no houses. I have mountains, but no trees. I have water, but no fish. What am I?" The answer is: A map. The last one, "When do the words 'not approved' actually mean the opposite?" The answer is: When you are the New South Wales Government.

As part of the TAFE NSW asset flog-off program in September 2020, the Minister was asked to approve divestment sites at Grenfell, Mudgee, Goulburn, Dapto, Kogarah, Seaforth, Dubbo, Quirindi, Singleton, Bourke, Chullora, Corowa, Deniliquin, Narrandera, Lidcombe, Queanbeyan, West Wyalong, Murwillumbah and Hornsby East. Initiated by the Minister's chief of staff were the handwritten words "not approved". Just one month later in October 2020 the Mid-Western Regional Council agreed to purchase 70 Court Street, Mudgee, from TAFE NSW. Also in October 2020 the TAFE campus at 8 George Street, Dubbo, was also approved for sale. The divestment of a Goulburn TAFE annexe settled in May this year. But hang on! I thought all those sales were not approved? What is happening?

That is the exact question that was prosecuted at budget estimates last month. If I had more time, I would love to pop on the Benny Hill theme and take the House through the absolute comedy of errors that budget estimates hearing was. We had Ministers unaware of briefs, department heads unaware of briefs, staffers making high-level decisions and an asset sales program worth over \$100 million that no-one seemed to be accountable for. If it were not so serious it would have been hilarious.

But this evening I am focusing on that flog-off program: Grenfell, Mudgee, Goulburn, Dapto, Kogarah, Seaforth, Dubbo, Quirindi, Singleton, Bourke, Chullora, Corowa, Deniliquin, Narrandera, Lidcombe, Queanbeyan, West Wyalong, Murwillumbah and Hornsby East and just how, despite seemingly not being approved, these sites still end up on the market. We asked the Minister, "Hey, have you seen this document?" He said, "No. Oh, yes. No. Maybe. A little bit." It was a good, clear answer. We asked TAFE's managing director, "Hey, have you seen this document?" There was an unequivocal, "No."

The questioning turned to TAFE's chief corporate services officer. Finally, someone seemed to know what was going on. This is what went down. When those 19 sites were proposed in one document, the issue was not that the Government did not want to divest them. No, the issue was that it did not want to approve them all at once—"Bring these sites back to us one by one, we will approve the flog-off that way." We were not given a precise reason that was the way it needed to be done. Perhaps it was to try to attract less attention and be a little more sneaky.

When does "not approved" actually mean the opposite? It is when the Liberal Government is trying to flog off TAFE assets in western Sydney and regional New South Wales. The Government will say that those buildings were not used and it was costing too much money to hang onto them. That is what the Government is all about—the money, where it can make a buck. That question is wrapped into its standard operating practice. That is something we are very familiar with now. Cut down the courses and suddenly we have fewer students. Oh well, now we do not need as many teachers. We cannot fill the buildings anymore so better flog them off. We know it wants to do this because the Government has a \$3 billion property sales target. We know that the Education cluster needs to contribute \$90 million towards it, and that at least \$3.7 million needs to come from TAFE. This is an old, tired Government that is addicted to privatisation, flogging off assets and not looking after its people. When does "not approved" actually mean the opposite? When it is said by this Liberal-Nationals Government.

MOREE PLAINS SHIRE

Mr ADAM MARSHALL (Northern Tablelands—Minister for Agriculture and Western New South Wales) (19:46): The Moree Plains shire local government area is currently experiencing a significant outbreak of COVID-19. Since the end of October there have been 154 confirmed cases in the Moree Plains shire, with infections also at Boggabilla and in the remote community of Toomelah. Garah, Mungindi and other small localities within the shire are also affected. Of those cases, around 600 close contacts have been identified.

Through the incredible efforts of some amazing individuals like Hunter New England Health Mehi Cluster General Manager David Quirk, Moree Hospital Health Service Manager Bronwyn Cosh and Pius X Aboriginal Corporation Practice Manager Ros Rose, there has been a major scale-up in COVID-19 vaccinations and swabbing assets deployed to those vulnerable communities.

Unfortunately, the vaccination rate within the Moree Plains shire Aboriginal community is not where any of us would like it to be. Despite having every opportunity for vaccination since earlier this year, vaccination rates in the Aboriginal community trail well behind those in the non-Aboriginal community. There continues to be a push to bring those vaccination rates in line with the rest of the State. I assure members that it is through no shortage of effort. As part of the COVID-19 response, a number of individuals who are confirmed cases or close contacts have been placed into emergency accommodation to assist with isolation. The community's effort involving NSW Health, Pius X Aboriginal Corporation, the local police and the local council is working to stem the spread.

As the saying goes, it never rains but it pours and that is exactly what happened last week in the Moree Plains shire and across most of northern New South Wales. The Bureau of Meteorology announced that a significant low pressure system would descend on the north-west last week and dump 100 to 150 millimetres of rain on the Moree Plains shire and Queensland border region. Preliminary forecasts indicated that the Moree township could experience a flood event similar to that which occurred in March this year, with the Mehi River predicted to peak at 10.6 metres—definitely more than breaking its banks. We experienced in March how difficult coordinating a multi-agency flood response can be, and that was without the added nightmare of an advanced COVID-19 outbreak. A flood level this high would have again left homes and properties with water inundation, in particular in South Moree.

The difference this time was that a number of residences in flood-prone areas housed isolating COVID-19 patients. This posed the conundrum of whether to relocate those individuals ahead of the rain as a precaution, noting that limited appropriate motel accommodation was on offer, with a lot of the private accommodation already taken up with the influx of workers for the record-breaking harvest. A major flood of over 12 metres was predicted for the Macintyre River at Boggabilla, which would cut off that community and the Toomelah community as well.

The Moree COVID-19 Emergency Operations Centre [EOC], led by Moree police inspector Helen McWilliam, and Phil Malligan before her, shifted its focus to establishing COVID-safe flood evacuation centres and developing systems to prevent the spread of the virus. I note that a regular EOC would operate live from a central location in the affected community but this one operated via videoconference for obvious reasons. Preparations were also being made by NSW State Emergency Service Superintendent Mitch Parker for the full evacuation of Boggabilla and Toomelah, potentially to Moree, in response to the rising Macintyre River and the fact that, despite the crisis, the Queensland Government still would not let us cross into Goondiwindi.

Evacuations could have meant an additional 600 vulnerable residents descending on Moree into emergency accommodation. I thank the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning, the Hon. Sarah Mitchell, for accommodating the use of school halls in Moree if needed as evacuation centres. A power of work between Moree Plains Shire Council and Resilience NSW also went into ensuring that families in isolation had adequate food supplies ahead of the rain event, with many hampers dropped off. I recognise the leadership of emergency services and agencies that scaled up to respond to this weather event that, thankfully, did not occur as predicted. The Mehi River peaked at Moree at a mere 2.67 metres on Saturday, while the Macintyre River reached 8.29 metres on Sunday afternoon—well within its banks, thank goodness.

This was an experience of learning to live with COVID-19, potentially with an added crisis on top. It is clear the rulebook for responding to natural disasters has been washed away by the pandemic. Again, I acknowledge the efforts of all those emergency services. I thank them for their work, their professionalism and their willingness to think outside the box to prepare the community for something that, thankfully, did not occur.

FAIRFIELD ELECTORATE INFRASTRUCTURE

Mr GUY ZANGARI (Fairfield) (19:52): Via video link: I speak about the need for Government investment in infrastructure projects in Fairfield and other suburbs in south-west Sydney. For a long time Fairfield and other south-west Sydney suburbs have been neglected by the New South Wales Liberal-Nationals Government. Year after year, budget after budget, Fairfield is pushed to the side with little to no Government funding coming its way. As the member for Fairfield, I have battled the Government for more infrastructure funding since I was first elected. While some small victories have been achieved, this is a drop in the ocean compared to what needs to be done, particularly where infrastructure is concerned.

Several areas need to be addressed by the Government as a matter of urgency. For example, Fairfield Hospital has been abysmally neglected by the Government for many years. It is unclear what the Government's plans for Fairfield Hospital are, given that calls for urgent funding by me, the member for Prospect and the member for Cabramatta have largely been ignored for many years. We are not the only ones that the Government has chosen to ignore. The 2020 parliamentary inquiry into the current and future provision of health services in south-west Sydney's growth region highlighted historic underfunding, with healthcare gaps, staffing shortfalls and an inequity in funding across the district—which includes Fairfield Hospital—and recommended an immediate funding injection.

The Government did not agree and stated that the district had substantial funding. I can honestly say that Fairfield Hospital received little of that substantial funding. One of the recommendations from the inquiry was for the provision of enhanced kidney dialysis machines at Fairfield Hospital. Sadly, the Government has chosen not to support the recommendation, which means Fairfield residents will have to travel to other hospitals to receive that treatment—an appalling failure by the Government to address the increasing need for such treatments among Fairfield residents.

I now turn my attention to Fairfield schools. Fairfield school infrastructure is also an area that is struggling from Government neglect. Recently the Government announced the schools that were approved for air conditioning installation in round two of the Cooler Classrooms Program. Seven schools in the electorate of Fairfield were part of that selection process, but none of them will receive funding for air conditioning in this round. They have already been waiting for 2½ years for this round to be announced and now they will have to wait longer. When I turn my attention to the Transport Access Program, otherwise known as Easy Access, it is very simple: Fairfield residents face significant issues in that area. Recently I put a question to the Government regarding Easy Access funding for Villawood, Carramar and Yennora railway stations as a matter of urgency. Once again, those stations have been sidelined. The Government responded by saying that they are "not currently scheduled for an accessibility upgrade".

On a recent visit to Villawood I could see that it was a burgeoning suburb with many high-rise developments currently under construction. Yet the Government will not commit to providing the appropriate infrastructure to cater to that growth in population and to suit the needs of the residents who use Villawood station, many of whom are elderly commuters or commuters with prams. I turn now to environmental and tourism infrastructure in the area. The 2021 lockdown told a tale of two Sydneys, with south-west Sydney suburbs subjected to the harshest restrictions and stay-at-home orders literally from the very beginning while other suburbs in Greater Sydney enjoyed more freedoms. While Fairfield does not have a beach nearby, it does, however, have the potential to be a place where residents can enjoy different recreational activities on the same scale as eastern suburbs residents. Sadly, the lockdown did not create that tale of two Sydneys. In 12 years of governing New South Wales it is quite clear where the State Government's infrastructure priorities lie, and they are not in south-west Sydney.

Providing local government with funds to clear local waterways, upgrade tracks at Western Sydney Parklands, bring back night markets and incentivise more western Sydney events are just some of the ways in which the Government can show a commitment to improving recreational experiences in suburbs such as Fairfield. It is for those reasons that the funding gap was so evident between the two Sydneys in lockdown. Many more areas need urgent infrastructure investment in Fairfield. They include social housing projects, roads, public transport and an investment in the maintenance of Fairfield's heritage buildings, to name a few. Therefore, it is incumbent on the State Government to stop claiming that funding is equitable and instead inject funding as a matter of priority into those areas in order to bridge the gap between suburbs such as Fairfield in south-west Sydney and the rest of Greater Sydney.

DAVIDSON ELECTORATE COMMUNITY BUILDING PARTNERSHIP GRANTS

Mr JONATHAN O'DEA (Davidson) (19:57): The popular Community Building Partnership [CBP] program from the New South Wales Government, which facilitates various local community infrastructure projects, has been finalised for this year. Again it will create vibrant, inclusive and well-serviced communities. The most recent annual program will enable infrastructure enhancements for my local community in many ways across 20 separate and valuable projects. My electorate's largest single grant of \$80,000 has been allocated towards a lightning safety shelter, including a bathroom, defibrillator and storm-safe area, at Killara Golf Club. Other recipients of the CBP grants announced this month included the Anglican Church at Frenchs Forest, which received \$28,000 to convert its bathroom facilities to unisex disabled; and Ku-ring-gai council, which received \$20,000 for the refurbishment of the Arena Pavilion at the St Ives Showground and \$10,000 for water and rock play at the Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden and Education Centre in St Ives.

Other funding recipients in my electorate included Autism Spectrum Australia, which received \$15,180 for classroom repairs at the Aspect school for autistic students in St Ives; the Roseville Scout Group, which

received \$22,000 to upgrade bathrooms with disability facilities; the Girl Guides Association, which received \$9,488 to landscape the Belrose Guide Hall; Sunnyfield, which received \$11,594 for a garden makeover and installation of irrigation to reduce maintenance at a communal home in Frenchs Forest; the Kambora P&C Association, which received \$20,000 to purchase SMART boards for kindergarten to year 6 classrooms at Kambora Public School; Belrose Public School P&C Association, which received \$12,000 to renovate existing schoolrooms at the creative arts hub for students and the community; and the Holy Family Catholic Primary School, which received \$15,072 to install a solar power system, including panels for its sustainable solar power project.

Further funding recipients under the program included Chabad House North Shore, which received \$18,000 to install disabled toilets for its temporary childcare and community centre; Davidson High School P&C Association, which received \$15,000 to upgrade its garden and pathway to improve access and environmental spaces; the Scout Association, which received \$7,102 to renovate bathrooms at Middle Harbour Scout Hall; St Ives Park Public School P&C Association, which received \$20,000 to purchase and install new water bubblers and bottle refill stations throughout the school grounds; St Ives Public P&C Association, which received \$17,284 to purchase and install water stations at St Ives Public School; and Castle Cove Public School P&C Association, which received \$27,225 to purchase and install bottle refill stations at Castle Cove Primary School.

I am pleased to advise that Marine Rescue NSW will receive \$16,602 to purchase additional radio control room technological equipment for its State communications centre located in Belrose. The St Ives Rugby Club is no doubt pleased to have received \$19,200 to replace the clubhouse amenity and upgrade its energy efficiency arrangements, as well as to replace its security shutter and signage. That will also benefit a number of other organisations, including the local cricket club in the non-rugby season. I finish the list with another Anglican Church, this time in Killara, which will receive \$15,000 to replace the church hall windows. I hope the success of the CBP scheme continues well into the future. One of its important features is that it empowers local MPs to influence how to allocate valuable community resources to worthwhile causes. I look forward to seeing the completion of the projects that were funded this year and my local community reaping the benefits into the future.

SPECIAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO THE DRUG "ICE"

Ms JO HAYLEN (Summer Hill) (20:02): In November 2018, to much fanfare, the New South Wales Government established the Special Commission of Inquiry into the Drug "Ice". Three years later, we still do not have a comprehensive response from the Government. The inquiry, led by Professor Dan Howard, SC, was established to report on the prevalence and impact of the drug on our communities and to consider ways to stop its manufacture. It received 250 submissions and heard from experts, community leaders and people in the community with lived experience of illicit drug use. The inquiry made 109 recommendations, positing a raft of harm-reduction reforms.

In February 2020 the Government issued an interim response ruling out five key recommendations and saying it would formally respond to the inquiry by mid-2021—we are now in November. Of course, we know that some of the delay can be sheeted to COVID-19 and the pressures it has placed on both our mental health and political systems, but the pandemic has also exacerbated many of the harms in our community caused by ice. For vulnerable people who use illicit drugs, COVID has presented additional barriers. A study by the University of New South Wales has shown that:

... people who use drugs may also be particularly vulnerable to contracting COVID-19 due to underlying health issues, stigma, social marginalisation and higher economic and social vulnerabilities, including a lack of access to housing and health care.

Many of the protective factors that support vulnerable people have been limited or absent throughout the lockdown. For many, stigma around drug use and a history of negative interactions with healthcare providers has contributed to greater health care hesitancy, meaning they are less likely to seek assistance or treatment if they show COVID-19 symptoms. At the same time, COVID has constrained healthcare providers and organisations, with limited contact, deployment of staff and of course growing demand. Still these organisations have done vital work, shifting focus and modes of delivery—including offering mail order needle and syringe programs—and continuing to turn up each and every day to help the people they care for.

The pressure on these organisations and the people they assist has been immense. It is clear that what they and the community need is certainty when it comes to how the Government plans to respond to illicit drug use into the future. It has been reported that the Attorney General is preparing to introduce a new scheme, based on the Cannabis Cautioning Scheme, that expands the current system of fines handed out at music festivals for possessing small quantities of recreational drugs. This is welcome news that recognises a purely punitive approach is unlikely to achieve results different to what has been achieved in the past. Diverting drug users out of the criminal justice system and into treatment recognises that we cannot simply continue to try and arrest our way out of the challenges posed by illicit drug use.

I note the Premier is reported to be "backing" the reforms, saying drug law reform has "sat in the too hard basket for too long". This, too, is a very welcome development. As members will know, I have long argued for an approach to illicit drug use rooted in evidence, compassion and pragmatism. For diversion to work, it must apply to all people and to all drugs. It must also be accompanied by significant increases in funding for alcohol and other drug treatment, lest an already overburdened system be flooded without additional resources. And it must recognise that not all illicit drug users necessarily require treatment. We must be open-minded and consider other opportunities within the health system to assist people to address illicit drug use without applying a one-size-fits-all approach.

The ice inquiry was a far-reaching inquiry and 109 recommendations were made. Like many in the community, I was disappointed that the New South Wales Government was quick to rule out five recommendations in its interim response, including establishing additional medically supervised injecting centres; recommendations on drug checking, including pill testing at music festivals; ceasing the use of drug detection dogs; and providing needle and syringe programs in correctional centres. There is clear evidence for acting on each of these recommendations. I note the commissioner has expressed disappointment and anger at the delay in the Government's response and the reasoning behind its decision to rule out these considered recommendations.

To be clear, decriminalising illicit drug use does not equal legalisation, nor does it weaken a hard line criminal approach to manufacturing and sale of illicit drug use. Much will be made of whether the proposal, reported to be coming from the Government to introduce a diversion scheme for illicit drug use, is tantamount to decriminalisation. It is not. We wait with open minds and open hearts for the Government's response. We know that we need to move towards a compassionate, pragmatic and health-focused approach that is needed more than ever.

SEVEN HILLS ELECTORATE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS

Mr MARK TAYLOR (Seven Hills) (20:08): I take this opportunity to update the House on the Queen's Birthday 2021 Honours List recipients from across the electorate of Seven Hills. As members are aware, the Order of Australia honours are awarded by the Governor-General of Australia, His Excellency General the Hon. David Hurley AC, DSC, FTSE, in his capacity as the representative of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Those awarded with such honours have demonstrated distinguished service in many aspects of the Australian community. As the representative of the Seven Hills electorate in this place, it brings me great joy to acknowledge the individuals who received a Medal of the Order of Australia from my electorate for their services to the local community and beyond. The awards are provided for service worthy of particular recognition.

Firstly, I wish to congratulate Jennifer Monaghan, OAM. Jennifer serves as the secretary of the Kings Langley Cricket Club, among many other duties and tasks. She has been recognised for her commitment to the Kings Langley community and the wider community. Recently I was able to open the new facilities in which the Kings Langley Cricket Club operates. Jennifer played a major role in this process where the New South Wales Government via the international T20 fund and Blacktown City Council co-funded new clubhouse and change room facilities. Through working with Jennifer to complete these upgrades, I can personally vouch for the terrific work she does to ensure the Kings Langley Cricket Club runs smoothly and effectively. It is fantastic to see such a valuable member of the Seven Hills electorate being recognised for her hard work and dedication towards serving her community.

I acknowledge and thank Karen Melita O'Neill, OAM, and Janet Pike, OAM, for their ongoing service to those with disabilities in our community. Having workers who are dedicated to their job, in the way that Karen and Janet are, is terrific to see. They provide care to individuals with the utmost care and diligence, which has resulted in their very worthy recognition. This prestigious award is fitting for individuals, such as Karen and Janet, who spend their time serving those who are the most vulnerable in our community. I thank Karen and Janet for their terrific work, and encourage them to continue inspiring a new generation of workers in the way that they do.

I also acknowledge David Sollom, OAM, who is a long-serving member of the rowing community in New South Wales and beyond. David joined the Sydney Rowing Club as a member in 1957 at 18 years of age. David also served as a Rowing NSW board member from 1987 to 1997. In addition, David was the director of finance for some years at the club. In 1997 he became a director of Rowing Australia. David is currently 82 years of age and he remains a director of the Sydney Rowing Club—a role in which he has served since 2007. David is said to be an inspiring man who has been a key member of the rowing community for such a remarkable period of time. He is a deserving person to be awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in recognition of giving his time over the past 64 years in his service to the rowing community.

I always find great joy in recognising the newest recipients of the Order of Australia medal, particularly those from the electorate of Seven Hills. It is fitting that these individuals are recognised for their community service, which often goes unnoticed. As members are aware, those individuals who serve our communities in roles

as do Jenny, Karen, Janet and David are eternally valuable and worthy and are always deserving of such recognition. I also take this opportunity to thank the wider Seven Hills electorate for their dedication to volunteering. The local community—from Wentworthville to Kings Langley and Seven Hills to Winston Hills—has many groups that continue to make our area flourish. Almost every person I know is involved in some form of group in one way or another. Whether it is the Vardys Road Public School P&C, the Pendle Hill Cricket Club committee, the Lalor Park Kookas Junior Rugby League Club or the many other organisations, they are fantastic volunteers in our local community. I take this opportunity to thank them for their great work.

EUROBODALLA HOSPITAL

Mr RYAN PARK (Keira) (20:12): Today I wish to talk about health services on the South Coast of New South Wales—a community I represent in the shadow Cabinet—and a petition that I presented today to the New South Wales Parliament on behalf of the people of Eurobodalla and the South Coast. For years the Eurobodalla community has fought for better health services in their region to address serious longstanding gaps in available health care. The petition calls on the Government to provide today three things in the Eurobodalla: first, an adequate accident and emergency services; second, a level four hospital; and, third, a radiation oncology service within the region. Communities in the Sydney metropolitan area might be surprised to learn that this regional community has to ask for these seemingly basic health services.

The people of the Eurobodalla were promised a level four hospital by the Government. However, the clinical planning process has revealed a very different reality. It has revealed that the new Eurobodalla hospital will open with services that are inadequate to meet the needs of this growing community. The new hospital will open as a level three facility with reduced bed numbers in vital areas such as paediatrics and maternity. Instead of a fully funded level four hospital, the community will receive a brand new building and a promise that services may expand to level four over the coming 10 years, in 2031. The community needs those services now, not in 10 years' time. The Eurobodalla health district has a significant First Nations population and one of the highest seniors demographics in Australia; however, currently it has no critical care and intensive care service, no local mental health unit, and no specialist physician, paediatric, anaesthetic or orthopaedic services. Yet those services are provided in southern New South Wales districts with smaller populations.

The Moruya maternity service has the largest number of births for a rural maternity service in southern New South Wales. Despite that, the new Eurobodalla hospital will open with fewer maternity, neonatal and paediatric beds, and no intensive care unit. The hospital will open with no inpatient mental health services, which means no mental health beds close to home for residents of the Eurobodalla. There is no permanent paediatrician in the Eurobodalla, and the community is regularly left without a neonatal specialist to respond to paediatric emergencies, putting newborn babies' lives at risk. The Eurobodalla's population is projected to increase to more than 40,000 by 2031. With a median age of 53 years, the region has one of the highest proportions of older residents in New South Wales. Emergency presentations are 65 per cent higher and admissions are 25 per cent higher than neighbouring hospitals in the Southern NSW Local Health District.

Many patients in the Eurobodalla are forced to travel outside the region for cancer treatment, and other vital health and mental health services. I have met with many of those people. The New South Wales parliamentary inquiry into rural and regional health, which Labor fought hard to establish, recently heard harrowing testimony from a Eurobodalla resident about the traumatic upheaval to her life when she was left no option other than to travel out of the region to seek lifesaving cancer treatment. Testimony from a highly respected senior clinician pointed to a serious shortage of paediatric and maternity services, and a system relying on overstretched and exhausted doctors. I commend Dr Holland and the entire community for their advocacy in this campaign to ensure their community receives the health services they deserve. The vulnerability of the Eurobodalla was laid bare during the 2019-20 summer bushfires when the Princes Highway was closed and access to Moruya District Hospital and Batemans Bay hospital was cut off. Both facilities were in imminent danger and at the very limits of their service capacity.

The petition presented to the New South Wales Parliament today is the second petition presented to the Government calling for better health services in the Eurobodalla. The first was presented to the member for Bega in 2018. Sadly, it fell on deaf ears. Despite the obstacles of COVID lockdowns, the petition is 380 pages long with more than 3,500 signatures. An online petition that was initiated to give people isolated by the COVID pandemic the opportunity to participate is still running on the Parliament website and already has more than 2,000 signatures, with some weeks to go. The petition is evidence that thousands of people on the South Coast of New South Wales from the Bega Valley and Eurobodalla regions are calling on the Government to improve health services in the Eurobodalla urgently and deliver on the promise of a fully funded level four hospital when it opens.

ROUSE HILL REGIONAL PARK

Mr KEVIN CONOLLY (Riverstone) (20:17): Rouse Hill Regional Park, and Rouse Hill House and farm are twin gems within the landscape of north-west Sydney. The area of Rouse Hill is named after the Rouse family, who were pioneers of that part of Sydney. Their original family home is located next door to the park and it is now owned by the Historic Houses Trust. The park was originally part of the Rouse family's estate for seven consecutive generations and it is now owned by the National Parks and Wildlife Service. Monuments to the family, in the form of wooden totem pole sculptures, are located in the main playground. Each totem lists the name of the parents and how many children they had for six of the seven generations of the Rouse family.

When Richard Rouse, superintendent of the Parramatta lumberyard, won the contract to build tollhouses along the new turnpike road running from Parramatta to Windsor in 1811, he could not have known that his name would be etched in colonial history. Governor Macquarie ordered a series of tollhouses to be built at strategic points. It was during construction of such a tollhouse that Richard Rouse received permission to take up land and construct a dwelling on the elevated grassy ridge, then known as Vinegar Hill. The property at Rouse Hill remained in the same family ownership from around 1813 until 1978, when the New South Wales Government purchased the property and its 24 outbuildings. Urgent repair works and stabilisation on the homestead and outbuildings were undertaken. The gardens were restored and the main entrance driveway was regraded and re-gravelled.

Since 1978 descendants have returned many significant family items and the collection now comprises over 20,000 objects as diverse as costumes, furniture, tools and automobiles. In 2009 the new Windsor Road bypass allowed a section of the old road alignment to remain as a feature of the historical property, maintaining the link with tollhouse builder Richard Rouse. The road diversion also resulted in the old Rouse Hill Public School building being added to the estate. The schoolhouse was conserved and repainted in the Victorian colour scheme and interpreted as a nineteenth century school. Rouse Hill Regional Park is located in Sydney's North West Growth Centre, which is an area that has experienced significant urban development over the past 15 years.

In 1989 the Sydney Regional Environmental Plan No. 19—Rouse Hill Development Area identified a site for a large regional park that would ensure the rural setting of the State heritage-listed Rouse Hill Estate was retained and also provide recreational space for the new development area. In 1996 the first 43 hectares of land surrounding Rouse Hill House was transferred from the then Department of Urban Affairs and Planning to National Parks and Wildlife Service. In March 1999 a further two hectares were reserved. The park offers places for picnics and BBQs, paths for cycling, plenty of bushwalking, an adventure playground for children and precious open space in a Cumberland Plain environment. It is also dog friendly, allowing visiting families to bring four-legged friends along with them.

Rouse Hill Regional Park is dominated by land cleared of its natural vegetation, which offers a large open space for visitor enjoyment. Also present is remnant native vegetation, including endangered ecological communities. Native vegetation within the park is mostly associated with Second Ponds Creek in the east, which is part of an important local vegetation corridor connecting Rouse Hill Regional Park through to more extensive habitat corridors along Caddies and Cattai creeks. Today the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces, Rob Stokes, made the exciting announcement of a 25-hectare expansion of Rouse Hill Regional Park, demonstrating the Government's commitment to delivering more public parklands for Sydney's west.

As a result, one of Sydney's best regional parks will grow by more than one-third, with the acquisition of private land to be dedicated as a permanent public space. The first five hectares have come into public ownership and will be under the care of Greater Sydney Parklands. As the Minister said when making the announcement, Sydney's north-west is growing and its public parklands must grow with it. The Government has a vision of creating Sydney as a city within a park. Today's announcement is a step closer to achieving that vision. I commend the Government's commitment to expanding parks in Sydney's west and congratulate the Minister on his announcement.

EASTLAKES SHOPPING CENTRE

Mr RON HOENIG (Heffron) (20:22): The problem with ghosts is that they come back to haunt us. The ghost coming back to haunt the planning Minister, the Hon. Rob Stokes, is the Eastlakes Shopping Centre development approved under the accelerated planning assessment. The approval was provided and granted under that accelerated planning proposal by an applicant who asserted that construction would commence within six months to be able to get within the guidelines of that proposal. Some 16 months have passed and not one blade of grass has been turned, consistent with what I informed the planning Minister would happen one day before approval was granted.

In fact, I informed the planning Minister that not only did it not comply with the accelerated program, but the applicant was a donor to the Liberal Party through the Free Enterprise Foundation. Subsequent to that conversation, I found out in the Independent Commission Against Corruption hearings that Daryl Maguire acted for the applicant and was seeking to arrange meetings with his little mate—being the applicant—and the former Premier. Why is it surprising then that there is a lack of compliance and what do I know about this application beyond what is publicly available? A lot more because fortunately under Standing Order 52 of the Legislative Council, the documents that relate to that approval have been produced and are now public. I inform the House in respect of the application that the department did not prepare the assessment but paid \$20,000 to a Natasha Harris to pay for the assessment of such application. Would you believe that?

The other somewhat interesting issue is that questions need to be answered. For example, why did the proposal for additional apartments deserve taxpayers money to be fast-tracked? When were the criteria applied? Where are the documents detailing the assessment of the Eastlakes Shopping Centre proposal against the criteria? Why was the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment's deputy secretary, Marcus Ray, pressuring staff to keep industry-nominated projects on the priority list? Eastlakes development was kept on the list even after the documents indicated that serious concerns were raised about the delays in the determination of the application. Questions also need to be raised as to why the Crown Group was misidentified in all the documents prepared by the department until 27 May 2021, during which time the project was also misdescribed in all department documents as providing 141 new lots rather than 65.

Further, why did Crown Group not provide written confirmation of its construction time line until after the modification was determined, bearing in mind that construction was to commence within six months? Why were real questions not raised by the department until August, some two months after the modification was approved, about Crown's shovel-readiness? More importantly, giving consideration to the object of the program, where did the \$200 million figure for a public benefit come from? Alarm bells should have been going off about the inclusion of Eastlakes in sprint two. Maybe alarm bells were going off but there was just too much pressure to keep Crown's development on the list. Questions were being asked by departmental staff.

Alarm bells should have been going off with the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces when he attended meetings where the projects were discussed and tested against the criteria. Where are the minutes of those meetings? They certainly have not been provided to me under Standing Order 52 of the other place. The obvious question remains: How on earth did the modification application make the list of projects worthy of fast-tracking? Bear in mind, as I have told the House before, I advised the Minister of my complete concerns about the progress of the application the day before the approval, and everything I said to the Minister that should have raised alarm bells was just ignored.

REGIONAL AGED-CARE SERVICES

Mr ROY BUTLER (Barwon) (20:27): Australia is a great country and we have much to be proud of. New South Wales is the most populated and best-resourced State. What we cannot be proud of is what we are doing to aging people in regional New South Wales. They have made a massive contribution to our communities, paid taxes and volunteered and some have even served with our military. When they can no longer live at home, they often have to leave their town, their social network and often their spouse. Part of that relates to the availability of health services, but there is a more fundamental problem with the availability of aged-care services in regional communities.

People deserve to be able to age within their own community. Couples who have lived together and loved each other for decades should not be separated into different communities when one of them needs to enter care. That introduces new risks when a partner is in one community and travelling long distances to see their loved one in another community. That is if their licence is not restricted. For older people with a restricted licence, it leaves very few options to access their loved one when they want to see them. Adult children and grandchildren are unable to access their well-aged relative unless they go for a long drive. Not providing options to the aged within your community creates complex problems, additional costs and heartache for friends and family. One aged-care nurse wrote to me:

I have worked as a nurse in Aged Care for 13 years; I have seen loneliness, despair, disconnection in those that I look after. It is very sad to see elderly sitting everyday wondering if family and friends will visit. Physical and verbal contact is vital for our elderly people to have, if they don't have this they begin to withdraw and become recluse. Our people need to have options to be able to keep our elderly here.

Currently we have a circular chicken-and-egg argument about aged-care facilities. The Federal Government says it has a formula to staff it but it cannot apply the formula unless the State agrees to build it. The State says it will not build the infrastructure without confirmation from the Federal Government that it will fund the staffing. Around it goes, nothing happens and families and couples are forced apart. Given we have a Liberal-Nationals Government at a State and Federal level, why can this not be worked out? It does not take much time on the

Australian Bureau of Statistics website to work out the number of well-aged people in our communities. They are the same communities that have been asking for decades for these services. They should not have to ask and they should not have to fight. Well-aged people have a right to age in their community surrounded by friends and family. A gentleman from Lake Cargelligo said to me and the Minister in a letter:

I have seen friends have their wife or husband leave the community to get placement and the toll this takes on them both and the family is unfair. My wife and I have been married for over 60 years, raised our family, worked in the community, volunteered for the community. And then in your last years of life must leave all you know. Live with people you don't know and only see family and friends when they can make the 200km plus trip. I am asking you to look into more Aged Care beds at Lake Cargelligo so the last years of our life is with the ones we love around us.

That is just one of many letters I receive describing the heartbreaking decision that well-aged people face in the bush. I highlight a passionate community group called Lake Cargelligo All Care, which came about following a public meeting held in Lake Cargelligo in June 2011. Over 100 people attended a meeting about the need for more aged-care beds in town. At that time, community members in need of longer term care for any reason were required to access care elsewhere. That meant that relatives, sometimes elderly themselves, were disadvantaged not only financially but also socially. The situation has not changed.

Lake Cargelligo has 16 residential aged-care beds. Projections from 2013 for 2020 were that Lake Cargelligo would need 94 aged-care beds. No new beds have been established to meet that need. All Care has been lobbying for increased aged-care resources consistently since it was established. It has seen local health district CEOs come and go. It has received response after response from State and Federal Ministers reinforcing the chicken-and-egg argument I touched on earlier. In 2016 All Care was told by the local health district that it was not on the upgrade radar and would not be for another 30 years. Messages like that have not halted the group. All Care and the community have raised over \$45,000 to go towards addressing the problem.

All Care Lake Cargelligo have done everything ever asked of them by State and Federal governments to prove they need additional aged-care resources. It is high time that work is recognised and the Government should step in to address the shortage to address families being ripped apart. State and Federal governments need to show respect for our well-aged citizens. Respect would mean acknowledging the needs of those communities and adequately resourcing aged care so people are not separated from family and spouses.

SELINA'S SPECIAL ENTERTAINMENT PRECINCT

Dr MARJORIE O'NEILL (Coogee) (20:32): I call on the New South Wales Government to declare Selina's a special entertainment precinct and help us bring the soul back to Arden Street. For decades, Selina's—a famous venue within the Coogee Bay Hotel—has been one of Sydney's best live music venues, offering generations of locals with the chance to see some of the world's greatest musicians. The iconic live music venue has been a drawcard for over 40 years, with headlining acts including Nirvana, INXS, Foo Fighters, The Pretzels and Midnight Oil to name a few. But the institution has recently announced that it might have to shut its doors on local live music. From the lockout laws to Sydney's infamous liquor laws that banned live music, dancing and mirror balls, Selina's is dying a death of a thousand cuts. If Selina's was to close, Sydneysiders would be left with one less live music venue, one less place to have fun with friends and one less place for up-and-coming musicians to find their breakthrough moment.

Labor wants to see the soul returned to Sydney, and by doing so we want live music to help stimulate our economy as we continue to emerge out of the lockdown and economic crisis. Live music is a bona fide method of impactful economic stimulus and has been for hundreds of years. Live music has the capacity to create, support and grow jobs directly in the live music industry as well as many other industries in the creative and night-time economies.

Supporting live music helps to create a diverse array of creative and business opportunities, which is proven to help build a thriving night-time economy. Based on case studies from across the world, we know that live music can be the foundation of so many other industries, from comedy and theatre to fashion, art and media, as well as hospitality, tourism and the supply chains that support them, not to mention they help build patronage for local public transport options, which is one more reason to save our buses. If the Government is serious about broad-reaching and effective stimulus to help our city and State emerge from the lockdown with an even stronger economy, live music and performance must be a part of the mix, and Selina's is the ideal place to start.

Selina's has played a huge role in the history of the Eastern Suburbs and the area's cultural legacy. The disappearance of landmark venues like the Bondi Lifesaver and now potentially Selina's will mean that new generations of local creatives will have fewer local stages to play on where they will hopefully catch their first break. But it does not have to be this way. All we need is for the Government to step out onto the dance floor and bust a few moves to save Selina's. That is what we are calling on the Government to do—that is, declare Selina's a special entertainment precinct.

Special entertainment precincts give local venues or defined localities special dispensation to operate live music, including extended trading hours and more realistic noise management conditions. Should the Coogee Bay Hotel and Selina's be declared a special entertainment precinct, it would provide the regulatory support needed for the venue to continue to operate entertainment and live music and would save Selina's from the red tape that is forcing it to close. This protection, which already applies to the Enmore Theatre, would give the critical extra support and security needed to ensure that Selina's can stay in business so that our local performers can stay in the spotlight. We know that Selina's can be saved, and we know exactly what we need to do to make that happen. The Government needs to utilise the reforms it created to support new venues and to save iconic locations like Selina's before it is too late.

This Friday is Ausmusic T-Shirt Day, a day when we celebrate live music and chip in to support artists, managers, crews and music workers who have been doing it tough over the past two years. Without a doubt, the past two years have been some of the toughest the industry has ever faced. This Friday I will show my support by wearing a Relentless shirt, which is an Eastern Suburbs punk band. I say to the Minister: There is no better day than Ausmusic T-Shirt Day to declare Selina's a special entertainment precinct. If he does, I will shout him an Ocean Alley T-shirt to celebrate.

WATER OWNERSHIP

Mrs HELEN DALTON (Murray) (20:37): The New South Wales Government has turned our State river system into a casino. Anyone in the world can buy our water, trade it and make a killing. They do not need to be Australian, have an Australian business number or an Australian bank account. A Chinese Government company named COFCO Corporation owns at least 7,000 megalitres of water in the Gwydir Valley. I will let that sink in. Foreign governments, some of them hostile to Australia, can buy and trade our most valuable natural resource with no restrictions. In many cases they can dodge taxes that Australian farmers must pay, like capital gains tax. Australia has a billion-dollar submarine program to protect us from the Chinese, but at the same time we roll out the welcome mat for the Chinese Government to buy our river water. Seriously, who the hell is making these decisions?

I have asked the NSW Nationals water Minister what checks she conducts on foreign governments that buy our water. Does she do a background check? Does she see if there are Chinese Communist Party links? Does she check for money laundering or criminal activity? Does she check to see if Australian mum-and-dad farmers benefit from those purchases? The answer is: no, no, no and no. Nothing—no background checks and no attempt to determine whether this is in the national interest. She says it is a Federal Government matter. I have done some digging and the Federal Government does not check anything either. It has something called the Foreign Investment Review Board but, guess what, it is not interested in water. It does not screen water purchases, so it is really like the Wild West and there is no regulation at a State or Federal government level.

Chinese Government company COFCO Corporation has a history with Australian agriculture. In 2017 Inverell-based Bindaree Beef had to take it to the Supreme Court after being left more than \$31 million out of pocket due to a failed export deal. Even after the Supreme Court ruled in favour of Bindaree Beef, the Chinese corporation refused to pay up, but the New South Wales Government is still happy to give it water access licences. It not just the Chinese. United Kingdom, United States, Canadian and Japanese companies own vast amounts of New South Wales river water. During the last drought, mothers in Far West New South Wales were bathing their babies with bottled water because towns had run out of tap water. Corporations trading river water look forward to prolonged dry spells; that is how perverse our water markets have become. Duxton Water is one corporate trader that bragged about how the next drought will be "fun" for investors, who will get a "huge free cash flow". They will make millions while Australian farmers go broke.

The worst part about this is that the Australian public are kept in the dark. There is no public register that allows someone to find out which Chinese, American or Russian government companies own our water, or how much they own. My bill for a public water register was voted down by the Liberals and The Nationals on three separate occasions. The Government used the excuse that it needed to wait for the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission [ACCC] inquiry into water markets before it could do anything. The ACCC handed down its findings several months ago but we have had complete radio silence from the Government since. The Federal Government has formed a panel to look at the recommendations, have a chat about them and to write another report. That is a ridiculous delaying tactic. We have had enough talk, inquiries and reports. If the State and Federal governments will not do anything, I will. My new enhanced bill will not only create a water register, it will also implement the key ACCC recommendations to improve our water markets. The time for talking is over. Let us see if this Government has the courage to protect Australian farmers and change our laws by supporting my bill.

PORT MACQUARIE ELECTORATE BASKETBALL AWARDS

Mrs LESLIE WILLIAMS (Port Macquarie) (20:41): I am pleased to announce the local award recipients who have battled it out on the courts throughout the 2021 basketball season. It was an occasion for celebration on 18 October when representative teams in Hastings joined together to attend the Port Macquarie Basketball Association's end-of-season awards to mark the special triumphs and jubilations achieved during another difficult year of COVID-19 restrictions. I applaud the association's board and membership for going above and beyond to ensure that the players were given every opportunity to perform at their full potential. Special mention goes to president Gary Turnbull, secretary Lyndal Harper and treasurer Ben Davidson, as well as board members Debbie Burghardt, Janine Handley, Nicole McMahon, Mark Champion and Heather Morgan, for setting a benchmark to attract young and talented basketball players to compete locally and at a State and national level.

Jody Carey was awarded the Club Person of the Year award. She was recognised for performing a number of key roles, including coach of the National Junior League [NJL] under-16 women's team, court volunteer at two local National Junior League rounds, coordinator of Saturday casual training sessions, member of the competitions committee, social media support, as well as being instrumental in drafting the how-to materials to streamline domestic competition registrations. Adding to her accolades, Jody also took home the Coach of the Year award for training the NJL under-16 women's team. Her remarkable coaching skills and rapport with the women saw the team united and strong all the way to the NJL grand final, beating the previously undefeated Tamworth in the preliminary final. It is no wonder that Jody's efforts were acknowledged with both of those prestigious awards because she is highly valued and appreciated within the Port Macquarie Dolphins.

The Player of the Year award was presented to Noah Pagotto for his stand-out performances at the Australian Junior Championships and for the New South Wales country under-18s men's team. The Junior Referee of the Year award went to Zayn Galea, who was simply outstanding in the roles that he officiated in the 2021 season. Zayn donated his time as NJL referee for the under-16s, including all rounds of the NJL, the Country Championships and the preseason carnivals. Due to his overall performance and the time he dedicated, Zayn was asked to referee the under-16s NJL final. Well done!

The awards continued at the Westport Club, with the following under 12, 14, 16 and 18 years recognised for their amazing talent on the court: the under-12 boys most valuable player went to Tallin Morris, and the coaches award went to Lennox Phillis; the under-14 girls most valuable player went to Cara McIlroy, and the coaches award went to Emilie Marshall; the under-14 boys most valuable player went to Jai Watts, and the coaches award went to Bailey Spradbrow; the under-16 boys most valuable player went to Cooper Russel, and the coaches award went to Malachy Kelleher; the under-16 girls most valuable player went to Trelise Kirkby, and the coaches award went to Seanna Hosking; the under-16 JPL most valuable player went to Sam Blain, and the coaches award went to Frank Dzikowski; and the under-18 JPL most valuable player went to Noah Pagotto, and the coaches award went to Caleb Prior.

One of the things we do best as a regional community is developing sports at a grassroots level. That is effectively achieved through our incredible volunteers who year in and year out offer opportunities to young athletes who could one day see them become the next elite sporting champions representing Australia. However, sport does so much more than mould and form champions: It supports inclusion, builds relationship, promotes healthy living and creates communities. I thank our committees, coaches, officials, captains and players for encouraging the sport they love in our regional families. I congratulate all the winners who have excelled in leadership and performance over the 2021 season, and applaud their enthusiasm and professionalism promoting basketball in our local community.

COVID-19 AND HOMELESSNESS

Ms LIESL TESCH (Gosford) (20:45): What would you do if you could not have a shower? How would you feel if you had nowhere to brush your teeth and wash your clothes? What would you do if you had no home to stay at while attempting to follow the Government's stay-at-home orders during lockdown? As we watched COVID-19 take hold, our leaders acted quickly and frameworks were put in place to support communities. Support was made available to those in need, those who had lost jobs and those who faced the financial impact of the pandemic. Our rough sleepers were given shelter to protect them from COVID-19.

As 2020 ended a sense of normality returned, with businesses reopening, staff getting back to work, kids getting back into classrooms and everyone looking forward to Christmas holidays. Far too many returned to a normal that we in the Chamber have no real sense of. They were moved on from their COVID accommodation. They returned to sleeping rough. It was back to the streets and back to being at risk. We started off 2021 as we had left 2020—full of hope for most. People were quietly hopeful that the coming year would allow us to reboot. Our rough sleepers were back on the streets, anxious for their own health.

Delta hit and we were turned upside down yet again. Businesses shut, schools locked down and hospitals were overrun. Health concerns were different. It was potent, and the risks to all ages were heightened. This time around, the offer of shelter for our rough sleepers was there again, but it did not catch all the rough sleepers and homeless. Many were left to fend for themselves. On the Central Coast we are incredibly lucky to have organisations that put the needs of our vulnerable front and centre.

My office was contacted by a 72-year-old local woman who sleeps in her van and has done so for many years. She is an incredibly resilient and positive human. She does not want temporary accommodation; it scares her. In the depth of winter she wanted a hot shower, but all the public showers at the beaches are cold. She was already cold. I was shocked that there was nowhere for that lovely 72-year-old to access a hot shower. There must have been many people across the coast in the same boat. Homeless services were closed to clients due to the lockdown. There was nowhere for our most vulnerable to have a hot shower and reclaim a small sense of dignity.

I do not like it when a problem with an easy fix is stopped by bureaucracy. Michael Star, the CEO of Coast Shelter, sidestepped the obstacles of the COVID bureaucracy. A local hire business was contacted and mobile hot showers were booked for the remainder of the lockdown, however long that may have been. Michael Star and the fabulous team at Coast Shelter worked swiftly to set up showers, provide care packages and food hampers, and a sense of dignity was provided. The fabulous team at Kincumber Neighbourhood Centre, which has been fantastic, also provided a sense of dignity. The team struggled to get food from western Sydney at various times and it took various trips there, but the number of people who continue to queue up outside during COVID to collect the food they so desperately need astounded me. The lines continue to grow.

I also acknowledge Central Coast Disaster Relief, which is an incredible organisation. I give a special shout-out to Carly Pal and her fantastic team of volunteers, and also to the Woy Woy Country Women's Association, which provided space out the front of its building to provide food to the homeless and people who need it, including people who are living close to or below the edge in their rental accommodation and need additional support. I hope Central Coast Council will help find a new location for them. The CWA is not able to accommodate them with the COVID rules in place in the future.

Those organisations gave a sense of dignity to the vulnerable people in our community. Housing, shelter, a hot shower and food should not have to be arranged for our vulnerable. Shelter in particular changes everything. It should not be so hard to have a hot shower, pandemic or no pandemic. This is about humanity. I offer a sincere thanks to all across the coast who continue to go to the trouble and go out of their way to help the more vulnerable people in the community.

Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal) (20:49): I acknowledge some of the people mentioned in the member for Gosford's speech. Michael Star and the team at Coast Shelter do an outstanding and amazing job. Unfortunately, I cannot take part in the sleep-out this Friday because I will be in the Chamber. I even jammed my sleeping bag in the boot of the car and I was ready to go. I also highlight that during the COVID lockdown the team at Coast Shelter became a vaccination hub for some of the most vulnerable on the Central Coast. A lot of those people are scared of the traditional ways of engaging through authorities, but they have an established relationship with the team at Coast Shelter. I congratulate Michael and the team on picking up that mantle. They acted as a vaccination centre for our most vulnerable and did a fantastic job. I also acknowledge the team at Kincumber Neighbourhood Centre. Colette and the team are outstanding, and very ably supported by the Kincumber Rotary. They do a wonderful job with their First Bites program. Again, those community organisations on the Central Coast go to show just how good we can do it on the coast.

RENEWABLE ENERGY

Mr DAVID MEHAN (The Entrance) (20:51): Because face-to-face meetings with constituents have not been possible over the preceding four months due to the COVID-19 health restrictions, I offered my constituents video or telephone conferences so that they might raise issues of concern without the need to make a formal appointment on my usual surgery days. Many of my constituents contacted me about climate change, and to express their concern about the lack of action on the issue by the national Government. They wanted to know what my view is and what we are doing in the State.

While the media concentrates on the climate change wars and the failure of the Morrison Government to plan for our future, in New South Wales we are well on our way to planning for a future powered by renewable energy. That has occurred in a bipartisan manner, by enacting the Electricity Infrastructure Investment legislation last year. The Act creates Renewable Energy Zones [REZs] across the State where a new State Government entity, the Energy Corporation of NSW, will plan and deliver 21 gigawatts of new renewable energy generation to replace our current 10 gigawatt-generating capacity. The Government accepted Labor amendments to the bill, which creates a REZ centred on the Central Coast and Hunter, where most of our existing power stations are located.

There will be a Renewable Energy Sector Board established to support local jobs and manufacturing opportunities. The Electricity Infrastructure Jobs Advocate will advise on workforce development, employment, education and training in the energy sector. Union representatives will be on the board to protect the interests of workers. I acknowledge the engagement on the development of the legislation by my colleague the member for Swansea, Yasmin Catley, who pressed the key amendment that ensured the Central Coast will be a REZ, underpinning the jobs and future of the power industry workers and their families of our region. Prime Minister Scott Morrison laid his idea out most clearly in a speech to the Victorian Chamber of Commerce and Industry last week. He said:

... it will be fixed painstakingly, step-by-step, by the entrepreneurs, by scientists, by technologists, by innovators, by industrialists, by financiers, by risk takers. That's the Australian way.

The Liberal-Nationals approach to climate change at a national level is a complete fraud in my view. Their plan is nothing but a hope that we as a nation will meet our undertakings to the world as a result of the normal operation of the market and creative capital. Scott Morrison says that is the "Australian way", but that is another fraud that ignores the way our country was established and the central role played by the State in its development. After all, it was a decision of government that caused the first colonies of Great Britain to be established on this continent.

It was the decided policy of the McGowen Labor Government in this State that saw a steelworks established in my hometown in Newcastle, not the action of a creative capitalist, in the form of the Broken Hill Proprietary Company, which was just as likely to establish in South Australia before it settled on Newcastle. And whilst we have privatised most, many of the most significant for-profit companies in the country were established by the State because the private sector could not, or would not, establish them for the needs of our community.

The regions were built on government railways, government irrigation schemes and the Grain Elevators Board. The Snowy Mountains Scheme would never have been established but for government action, nor would most of the energy infrastructure of this State that has been so recently privatised by the current Government. Left to its own priorities, the private sector will always look after itself before the common good. The banking royal commission reminded us of that. No, the private sector alone will not build the clean energy economy that will guarantee the future of our people. The State must plan and guide and look after the common good. That is the Australian way.

Bills

ELECTRONIC TRANSACTIONS AMENDMENT (REMOTE WITNESSING) BILL 2021

Returned

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Ms Sonia Hornery): I report receipt of a message from the Legislative Council returning the Electronic Transactions Amendment (Remote Witnessing) Bill 2021 without amendment.

Community Recognition Notices

VALE JIM COLQUHOUN

Mr MARK COURE (Oatley)—Speaker, I am deeply saddened to hear of the passing of my dear mentor, friend and former colleague, Jim Colquhoun. Jim and I served together on Kogarah Council for a number of years and he was always a pleasure to work with. He enshrines the community spirit of the St George region for his willingness to listen to every voice and perspective. He always had the interests of others at heart. He was a kind gentle man who unfortunately passed away on Saturday February 27 at his aged care home in Hurstville. One of Jim's finest achievements was when he served as the President of the Connells Point Progress Association for 23 years. To be involved in an organisation for that period of time as President is truly outstanding. If it were up to Jim, I am sure that he would still be on Council and with the Connells Point Progress Association to this day. Thank you Jim for your lifetime of service. You will be dearly missed.

DAVID CULLANE, OAM

Mr PHILIP DONATO (Orange)—I recognise David Cullane, of Canowindra. David Cullane OAM has been recognised with a national honour as the recipient of an Australian Fire Service Medal in the Queen's Birthday honours list. David was honoured for his dedication and committed service to the Rural Fire Service, Rivers, Canowindra and Cowra communities over the past 70 years. Joining the Rivers Brigade in the Cowra Fire District in 1951, he has held the positions of Brigade President, Deputy Captain, Captain and Group Captain. In 1984, David was elected Group Captain. This position was held concurrently with the position of Brigade Captain of Rivers. During his time as Group Captain, he managed five brigades in the Rivers Group. David continues to be an active member of the Brigade, holding the Brigade President role for more than 10 years. David also assists the District with organising further training for the brigades. David's expertise continues to be sought at a NSW RFS, community and Brigade level. David is community oriented and devoted to the NSW RFS, having secured

the Rivers Brigade's future by generously donating land for the Rivers Brigade Station. I congratulate David on his immense contribution to community and the RFS.

MATILDA DUNFORD

Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra)—Mr Speaker, I wish to bring to your attention a very special student in Year 6 from Young Public School, Matilda Dunford who has donated her hair to Variety for the third time. Variety – the Children's Charity supports children (aged 0-18) who are sick, disadvantaged or have special needs. Variety supports all Australian children to attain their full potential, regardless of ability or background. Matilda first donated her hair back in 2015, and was recognised by Variety after her third donation, made this year. Matilda has donated over 1 metre of her hair to Hair with Heart through Variety to help make wigs for children with long-term medical conditions. I am so proud of Matilda's generosity and willingness to help children in need, setting a wonderful example to her peers at Young Public School and the community. Well done Matilda, I am pleased you are receiving the recognition you deserve.

DONNA PELLOW – 41 YEARS OF SERVICE

Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra)—Mr Speaker, I would like to acknowledge Temora's Donna Pellow for her service of more than 41 years at the Temora Hospital. Ms Pellow joined the hospital staff in 1980, working as a food and patient services assistant for 10 years, and moved up to leading the services team, and has been in that role for 30 years. Through her time at the hospital, Ms Pellow has witnessed many changes, including a whole revamp of the way they cook food for patients. In celebration of her achievement, there was a surprise morning tea created for her, which Ms Pellow was ecstatic with. Congratulations to Ms Pellow and her 41 years of service at the Temora Hospital.

JUNEE EX-SERVICES CLUB – CLUBGRANTS.

Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra)—Mr Speaker, I would like to acknowledge the Junee Ex-Services Club for their continued community support through their local ClubGrants program. The Junee Ex-Services Clubs recently provided three \$2000 cheques to deserving Junee organisations in order to support and upgrade their facilities. I headed out to the cheque presentations and it was wonderful to see how grateful each organisation was to the Junee Ex-Services Club for their Generosity and Support. This extra helping hand that Junee Ex-Services Club provides is encouraging to see in small communities. The three cheques were awarded to: Junee Community Open Kitchen to replace their Kitchen Stove; Junee Community Centre to allow them to start a digital literacy course for seniors to help educate them for Covid related technology; Junee Cooinda Court Aged Care to upgrade the kitchen and dining facilities in the dementia wing. Well done to the Junee Ex-Services Club for continuing to assist local organisations through their ClubGrants program.

ST JOSEPH'S PRIMARY SCHOOL KINDERGARTEN TRANSITIONS

Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra)—Mr Speaker I extend a very warm welcome to the new kindergarten students transiting to 'big school' next year. St Joseph's Primary School in Grenfell is one of my many primary schools in the Cootamundra Electorate looking forward to welcoming and having the opportunity to teach the new kindergarten class of 2022. The new students will have the chance over the next few weeks to partake in orientation days. Orientation days are an opportunity for the students to meet their new teachers, their class mates and enjoy a snapshot of what life will be like as a kindergarten student.

The transition to 'big school' can be a very daunting but exciting time for both the child and their families and I personally acknowledge the hard time that these families have been through this year and that the transitioning phase hasn't been as smooth as it normally would be. I welcome all the new kindergarten students and their families to St Joseph's Primary School and I look forward to meeting them in the new year.

KEIRA BUCKPITT

Mrs SHELLEY HANCOCK (South Coast—Minister for Local Government)—I would like to acknowledge and congratulate St Johns year 11 student Keira Buckpitt for winning the under 18 girls Australian Junior Online Surf Championships. Keira who hopes to follow in the footsteps of Culburra Beach's Tyler Wright and Gerroa's Sally Fitzgibbons, has done an outstanding job which already includes wins at the 2018 national GromSearch final and 2020 regional web surf titles. With this year's championships being held online due to Covid-19 it wouldn't have been easy under the restrictions including staying within your LGA and travel restrictions, but with complying with all Covid-19 rules and restrictions and taking the win is impressive! Outstanding efforts and a huge congratulations to Keira Buckpitt and all the best for upcoming events.

MAITLAND WELCOMES SEVENTEEN NEW AUSTRALIAN CITIZENS

Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland)—On the morning of 29 October, 2021 I had the pleasure of attending Maitland City Council's Australian Citizenship Ceremonies which saw twelve permanent residents become Australian Citizens. The ceremony marks a special chapter in each and every new citizen's migration story and their ongoing commitment to Australia and our shared values. I would like to extend a warm welcome to Subhashri Amarnath, Christopher Ian Carpenter, John Morrison Crombie, David James Griffiths, Nino Mesana Rubas, Sione Kaveiloni Longoaa Vikilani, Erika Jean Wilson, Kelly Sondra Henman, Stacey Thi Whiting, Shivaji Hanumantha Rao, Magalakshmi Shivaji, Tanish Shivaji, who have joined us from six countries including India, New Zealand, United Kingdom, Philippines, Tonga and Canada. Their presence and contribution to the Maitland community has been positively felt and goes a long way to further enriching the diversity and multiculturalism of Maitland. It's wonderful to have these people and their families in the Maitland community as proud Australian Citizens, continuing to contribute to the economic and social development of our community. Congratulations and welcome!

MAITLAND WELCOMES TWELVE NEW AUSTRALIAN CITIZENS

Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland)—On the afternoon of 29 October, 2021 I had the pleasure of attending Maitland City Council's Australian Citizenship Ceremonies which saw seventeen permanent residents become Australian Citizens. The ceremony marks a special chapter in each and every new citizen's migration story and their ongoing commitment to Australia and our shared values. I would like to extend a warm welcome to Eliud Kipchumba Biamah, David Gerard Clarke, Swati Arvindkumar Dhaduk, David Goke, Adele Goke, Jason Goke, Zoe Goke, Sarah Elizabeth Lundgren, Shifa Farvin Mohamed Ifthikar, Gristkamol Pipatrath, Pattarapol Pipat, Jaesuk Shin, Kyung Eun Suh, Carmel Marie Andrew, Isabella Jade Andrew, Joshua James Andrew and Gareth Treemain Andrew who have joined us from nine countries including Kenya, Ireland, India, Nigeria, United States of America, Sri Lanka, Thailand, South Korea and England. Their presence and contribution to the Maitland community has been positively felt and goes a long way to further enriching the diversity and multiculturalism of Maitland. It's wonderful to have these people and their families in the Maitland community as proud Australian Citizens, continuing to contribute to the economic and social development of our community. Congratulations and welcome!

MAITLAND WELCOMES SIXTEEN NEW AUSTRALIAN CITIZENS

Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland)—On the afternoon of 4 November, 2021 I had the pleasure of attending Maitland City Council's Australian Citizenship Ceremonies which saw sixteen permanent residents become Australian Citizens. The ceremony marks a special chapter in each and every new citizen's migration story and their ongoing commitment to Australia and our shared values. I would like to extend a warm welcome to Nour Abdul Hamid Akkoumeh, Samuel Craig Haynes, Melissa Bridget Machimbira, Linimol Ponnappan, Aileen Elza Soni, Ashlyn Treesa Soni, Amna Hafeez, Shahzad Rasul Sandhu, Sharmeen Sandhu, Mohammad Hadi Sandhu, Serene Sandhu, Kersten Bernadette Wilson, Kim Paul Wilson, Navtej Kaur, Baljit Singh Pannu and Taranvir Singh Pannu who have joined us from seven countries including New Zealand, India, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and Zimbabwe. Their presence and contribution to the Maitland community has been positively felt and goes a long way to further enriching the diversity and multiculturalism of Maitland. It's wonderful to have these people and their families in the Maitland community as proud Australian Citizens, continuing to contribute to the economic and social development of our community. Congratulations and welcome!

MAITLAND WELCOMES FOURTEEN NEW AUSTRALIAN CITIZENS

Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland)—On the morning of 4 November, 2021 I had the pleasure of attending Maitland City Council's Australian Citizenship Ceremonies which saw fourteen permanent residents become Australian Citizens. The ceremony marks a special chapter in each and every new citizen's migration story and their ongoing commitment to Australia and our shared values. I would like to extend a warm welcome to Virongrong Pitts, Maricel Salde Allego, Paul John Bell, Jayanthini Ganesh, Preti Ganesh, Whitney Dawn Hannah, Shine Kudilingal Sasidharan, Johanna Catharina McArthur, Hoang Linh Nguyen, Insung Park, Na Ra Park, Charlet Pattiyalil Abraham, Shaminder Singh and Susan Maria Webb who have joined us from ten countries including Thailand, Philippines, United Kingdom, Sri Lanka, Canada, India, South Africa, Vietnam, South Korea and Hong Kong Peoples Republic of China. Their presence and contribution to the Maitland community has been positively felt and goes a long way to further enriching the diversity and multiculturalism of Maitland. It's wonderful to have these people and their families in the Maitland community as proud Australian Citizens, continuing to contribute to the economic and social development of our community. Congratulations and welcome!

COUNCILLOR MARK HONEY

Mr GARETH WARD (Kiama)—Today the NSW Parliament congratulates and acknowledges Kiama Mayor and Councillor Mark Honey on his outstanding civic contribution on Kiama Municipal Council. The Honey family has a strong and proud connection to the Kiama community with Cr Honey being a fifth generation dairy farmer. I have been fortunate to work with Cr Honey on a number of local important projects including the new Bonaira Aged Care facility, upgrades at Kevin Walsh Sports Complex as well as a range of local infrastructure and amenities improvements including the hilarious cutting of toilet paper to open a new toilet block at the aptly named Blowhole Point! Cr Honey attended Hurlstone Agricultural High School and was in the National Service from 1972 to 1974. He enjoyed many years as a successful rugby player for Kiama and the Illawarra regions and he remains incredibly fit and active from bike riding to surfing. Mark Honey also brought a no-nonsense and practical approach to all matters during his time on Council and our community has been incredibly fortunate to have him in our service. He will be sorely missed and I wish him and his wonderful wife Anne well in the future.

COUNCILLOR MARK WAY

Mr GARETH WARD (Kiama)—Today the NSW Parliament congratulates well known and regarded local and Kiama Councillor Mark Way for his incredible service to the people of the Kiama Municipality. Cr Way brought a great deal of vision, passion and enthusiasm in working with our community to deliver local projects including the new Bike Skills Track in Minnamurra, the delivery of the Jamberoo cycleway, improvements to facilities at Kiama Harbour and South Jones Beach viewing platform in combination with Minnamurra Lions Club. I also always enjoyed the annual Children's charity fishing competition at Kiama Harbour which Mark would organise and always invite me along. As a former Media and Community Relations Manager with Sydney Water in the Illawarra region and President of Kiama Game Fishing Club, Jones Beach Board-riders and South Coast Surf-riders Association, Cr Way has many years of experience and dedication to serving our local community and has brought this enormous experience to Council. I thank Councillor Way for his friendship and service over two terms on Kiama Municipal Council. Cr Way can be proud of all he has achieved and I know the community will miss him as their representative as will I.

COUNCILLOR MARK WESTHOFF

Mr GARETH WARD (Kiama)—Today the NSW Parliament congratulates and thanks Councillor Mark Westhoff for his service to the people of the Kiama Municipality. Prior to his time on Kiama Council, Mark was a school teacher for 35 years, teaching at Gerringong Public School for 20 years of that time. He was also heavily involved in a number of local community groups including Gerringong Golf Club, Gerringong Surf Club and Gerringong Lions Club. Mark is the sort of person that just gets things done and was always focused on results and outcomes. I have always been impressed with Mark's genuine decency and care for everyone he speaks with. I thank Mark for his outstanding advocacy for the Kiama Municipality and particularly the people of Gerringong. I wish him well into the future.

COUNCILLOR ANDREW SLOAN

Mr GARETH WARD (Kiama)—Today the NSW Parliament congratulates Kiama Councillor and Deputy Mayor Andrew Sloan. The people of our community deeply appreciate Cr Sloan's great dedication, thoughtfulness and care during his time as a representative of our community. Cr Sloan has brought tremendous experience to important municipal matters having more than 20 years' experience in water and environmental management and holding a Master's Degree in Planning and Local Government Law. I also acknowledge his role as an active member of the Kiama High School Parents and Citizens Association amongst many other local groups over a number of years. Cr Sloan should be particularly proud of his genuine commitment and advocacy for the preservation of our pristine local environment. In particular, I have always been impressed with his focus on preserving ecologically sensitive communities around Gerroa and Minnamurra. Cr Sloan has been a loyal and dedicated servant of our community whilst managing the tricky balance of a young family and work commitments. I thank Andrew Sloan for his outstanding advocacy for the Kiama Municipality and I wish him, his wonderful wife Dr Jacqueline and their family all the best for their future.

TOM COUCHMAN

Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal)—Mister Speaker, today I would like to acknowledge a local resident, Tom Couchman, who has shown community spirit through the creation of the Central Coast COVID News and Stats Facebook group. Tom started the group to share relevant information in an accessible way and it now has over 21,000 members. Tom has dedicated himself to posting into the group every single day to keep the community up to date with COVID related news such as exposure sites, vaccination rates and information about the stay-at-home orders. The recent months have been an incredibly difficult time for Coasties and people across

NSW. Community members across the Terrigal Electorate have let me know how much they have appreciated his valuable contribution in such an uncertain time. Thank you Tom for your initiative and thoughtfulness.

CCAS AWARDS AFL

Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal)—Mister Speaker, in September, the Central Coast Academy of Sport hosted their 2021 Athlete Celebration awards. The awards were held virtually so that athletes and their families could attend in a COVID-Safe way. I would like to place on record my congratulations to three up and coming athletes in my electorate of Terrigal, who were recognised for their performance in AFL. The Under 13s Boys Encouragement Award was presented to Kaiden McNamara from Copacabana. The Under 13s Girls Encouragement Award was presented to Grace Ramanauskas from Avoca Beach. And the Under 17s Boys Encouragement Award was presented to Baxter Beams. Mister Speaker, I want to congratulate Kaiden, Grace and Baxter for this recognition. I wish the best of luck to all the award winners who will be considered for the Central Coast Academy of Sport's Athlete of the Year which will be announced at an event later this year.

CCBA AMELIO HEALTH

Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal)—Mister Speaker, I would like to extend a huge congratulations to Amelio Health, the winner of the 2021 Central Coast Outstanding Start-Up Award at the recent Central Coast Business Awards. Amelio Health is a tech start up founded on the Central Coast by registered nurse Kathy Hubble. Amelio Health provides an online platform designed to provide positive support to people living with chronic pain such as assisting with worker's compensation or income protection claims. I would also like to acknowledge Ducks Nuts Co who produce natural remedies such as magnesium bath soaks, who were highly commended in the same category of awards. Indeed the Central Coast Business Awards cover 10 different categories, Mister Speaker, to recognise the ingenuity, strength and resilience of businesses across our region. Congratulations to all the finalists and I particularly want to wish the best of luck to Amelio Health, who will represent the region in the upcoming State-wide Business Awards.

CCBA PAULA MARTIN ZOE BOSE

Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal)—Recently I was honoured to attend the 2021 Central Coast Business Awards. Despite difficulties leading up to the event, Paula Martin & Zoe Bose from Business NSW Central Coast hosted a spectacular virtual gala event that ensured the safety of everyone in the Central Coast's business community. The event, which had over 150 business leaders in attendance, shone a spotlight on 52 finalists from across the Central Coast who have shown incredible resilience over the last two years. I would also like to acknowledge Emma & James from JC Entertainment for pulling it all together on the night. The Central Coast Business Awards cover 10 different categories which recognise the strength and hard-work of businesses on the Coast. Congratulations to all of the finalists and I wish the best of luck to businesses who will represent the region in the upcoming State Business Awards and a big thank you to both Paula & Zoe.

DANIEL FENECH

Mr GREG WARREN (Campbelltown)—I have lost count of the number of friends and colleagues who have been blown away by how much Campbelltown has to offer. People who had never been here before had this preconceived idea about what our city was actually about. What they had conjured up in the head wasn't always particularly positive. But once they visited, engaged with the community and saw the beautiful surrounding natural environment, those views quickly changed. It's people like Daniel Fenech who are also helping change that perception one film at a time. Daniel teamed up with Campbelltown Council to create a film about Campbelltown's many hidden gems. The film was so successful that it has been nominated for a NSW Tourism Award. The success of the We Are Campbelltown campaign has certainly been big hit for a community. Daniel's campaign focused on a number of areas including the Dharawal National Park – one of my favourite spots in my home town. It also highlighted the various cuisines that are located in Campbelltown. Congratulations on your nomination Daniel. On behalf of the Campbelltown community, we are incredibly proud of what you and the council have achieved with the We Are Campbelltown campaign.

LYN BULLMAN

Mr GREG WARREN (Campbelltown)—There aren't many residents in Claymore who don't know Lyn Bullman. Lyn has dedicated much of her time to advocating for the Claymore community and its residents. The suburb has often been featured in the media for all the wrong reasons, creating a not so favourable public perception. But the problem with perceptions is they often don't tell the full story. There is no doubt Claymore has faced its fair share of challenges in the past. And some of those challenges still exist today. There can be no denying that. But there is also a large number of residents from the suburb who are passionate about their area, passionate about their community, and passionate about improving the lives of others. Lyn certainly covers all those bases. There is no doubt that the community of Claymore is lucky to have such a fierce advocate like Lyn

speaking up for them. Her commitment to her community is nothing short of admirable and I know it is certainly appreciated by many. I would like to take this opportunity to recognise Lyn's efforts in advocating for her community of Claymore.

GRIFFIN SMITH

Mr GREG PIPER (Lake Macquarie)—Known among his family and friends as a "super sniffer", nine-year-old Griffin Smith from Boolaroo has put his naturally good sense of smell to excellent use and created his very own micro-business called 'Griffy's Whiffys'. Griffy's Whiffys comprises a range of hand-crafted essential oils which are mixed together to create unique, pleasant-smelling scents and sold in a colourful spray bottle. Griffy's Whiffys has a wide range of uses including as a body spray, an insect repellent, a room air freshener, for cleaning surfaces, as a pet freshener and as a car air freshener. I recently met Griffin at the Lake Macquarie Farmers Market where he was selling his wears. Incredibly, Griffin has been selling his scents for two years, first through another trader and now as a co-stall holder. Griffin was very shy as a younger boy but since running his small business he's learned how to speak to people with confidence. He's also developed a great sense of salesmanship and is always quick to offer other stallholders assistance in setting up their market stalls. I congratulate Griffin on his motivation and creativity and encourage him to keep up the great work.

MIAH EDWARDS

Mr GREG PIPER (Lake Macquarie)—I'd like to acknowledge the young entrepreneurial efforts of Miah Edwards from Boolaroo. At the age of just 11, Miah has found her passion in designing and creating homemade resin jewellery and has developed that passion into a burgeoning business. I recently met Miah at the Lake Macquarie City Farmers Market where she was selling a series of her fashionable wears. Operating a micro-business titled Miah's Moments, Miah was confidently greeting customers and conducting trade. The idea behind Miah's Moments was born after Miah ordered a resin kit through the NSW Government's 'Creative Kids' program. Miah loved making the jewellery so much that she ordered more products and began making earrings and the like for family members. Her family was so impressed with her natural talent that they encouraged her to start up a business and invested in buying her the raw materials. Through this venture Miah has learned how to budget, operate a business by analysing her cost and profit margins and stocktake. Miah's long term goal is to expand her jewellery business and while I wish her well, I congratulate her on her talent and initiative.

CLR JESS MILLER

Mr ALEX GREENWICH (Sydney)—On behalf of the Sydney electorate, I thank Councillor Jess Miller for her work on the City of Sydney since 2016. Councillor Jess Miller has served on the City of Sydney Council since 2016, bringing the concerns of younger people, nightlife and the environment and climate change. She's advocated that councils need young people actively involved to represent the community and act for the future. Jess has been behind ongoing greening of the city, supporting tree planting, new open green space, roof gardens and hanging gardens and community gardens. Jess has worked with the young campaigners for climate justice, helping to magnify their voices and make sure their concerns are heard and acted on. She's seen her role on council to be a 'changemaker' at this level as well as with community campaigns and advocacy groups. Jess is passionate about active transport and you will see her riding her bike around the city. Her interest in urban ecology and food has contributed to a new Parliamentary Inquiry into food security that I will proudly chair. I thank Clr Jess Miller for her contribution to the City and our future as a Councillor.

CLR PHILIP THALIS

Mr ALEX GREENWICH (Sydney)—On behalf of the Sydney electorate, I thank Councillor Philip Thalís for his work on the City of Sydney since 2016. Philip has been a strong and well-informed advocate for social and affordable housing, for good building and public domain design, and for active transport. As a practising architect and university lecturer, Philip has brought more than 30 years of experience and specialist expertise to council decisions about planning, heritage and development. His work on traffic and transport has helped the transition to prioritise walking and cycling over private motor vehicles in the city centre to give more space to people and make it easier to get around. On council, Philip had additional responsibility as Deputy Chair of the Transport, Heritage and Planning Committee, Chair of the Local Pedestrian, Cycling and Traffic Calming Committee and a member of both the Central Sydney Planning Committee and Green Square Advisory Committee. Councillor Philip Thalís has been behind many of the positive changes to our city and I thank him for this service and the significant investment he's made to making Sydney more liveable and more progressive.

TAIWAN WORLDPRIDE 2025

Mr ALEX GREENWICH (Sydney)—On behalf of the Sydney electorate, I congratulate Taiwan's Kaohsiung Pride on being chosen to host WorldPride 2025. This is the first East Asian country to host the international festival and this will build on Taiwan's successful reform providing marriage equality in 2019, the

first Asian country to legislate this equality. I was proud to work with the Taiwan marriage equality campaign, sharing our experience in Australia. We are looking forward to 2023 WorldPride in Sydney and then passing the baton to Taiwan. WorldPride features parades, concerts and other cultural activities that promote lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer issues at the international level. WorldPride 2025 will boost Taiwan's regional leadership in LGBTQIA+ rights, and provide support to Asian community members and campaigns for equality and removing discrimination in those countries. The handover from Sydney WorldPride 2023 promises to bring a new impetus to LGBTQIA+ rights in southern hemisphere and then Asia. I hope that border and travel restrictions will be over then and allow many Australians to participate in this global event.

CHINESE AUSTRALIAN SERVICES SOCIETY

Mr CHRIS MINNS (Kogarah)—I acknowledge the wonderful work by Chinese Australian Services Society in my electorate of Kogarah. During the last 40 years CASS has grown into a major services provider, offering a comprehensive range of community services and catering to the needs of all people. I would like to acknowledge the work of CASS in supporting our multicultural community during the COVID-19 pandemic and to thank their staff and volunteers for their tireless work. CASS added additional services during the pandemic, including a mental health service and ran online activities to minimise the social isolation of seniors, people with disabilities and people from multicultural backgrounds. CASS also arranged food deliveries for those in need. I commend the leadership of the Board of Directors, including Chairperson Dr. Bo Zhou, Honorary Executive Director Mr. Henry Pan OAM, Dr. Leng Tan, Mr. Anthony Pang and Dr. Stephen Li and key staff members, Mr. Ivan Wong, Ms Kit Chung, Ms Amy Chan, Ms Dorothy Hung, Ms Pauline Kim, Ms Sarah Chang, Ms Jane Lu and Mr. Jimmy Song. I thank CASS for its selfless commitment to the community and for the critical support they provided during this difficult time.

DR FARIHA DIB

Mr CHRIS MINNS (Kogarah)—I acknowledge the incredible contribution of Dr Fariha Dib to our state's fight against COVID-19. Dr Dib is General Practitioner at Greenacre and Lakemba and has been at the forefront of our state's response to COVID-19. In addition to testing, treating, and vaccinating the community, Dr Dib was a leading voice against vaccine hesitancy, working on the production of several educational health videos addressing the importance of vaccines. She was one of the organising doctors and was heavily involved in the Lebanese Muslim Association's highly successful vaccination campaign which vaccinated thousands of Western Sydney residents. Dr Dib also implemented the COVID-19 Return to School Project which provided information to school staff, parents, and students on how to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission at school and on the importance of getting vaccinated. Prior to the pandemic, Dr Dib travelled to Cambodia with Ausrelief to provide medical care to the most disadvantaged communities. It is because of people like Dr Dib that we were able to get through the pandemic and have one of the highest vaccination rates in the world. I commend Dr Dib for her inspirational efforts in the most challenging of circumstances.

KOGARAH ELECTORATE CHINESE LANGUAGE SCHOOLS

Mr CHRIS MINNS (Kogarah)—I would like to recognise the Chinese Language Schools in my electorate for the wonderful work they have done throughout the pandemic. I would particularly like to recognise the Academy of Chinese Culture, CASS Chinese School Hurstville, CASS Chinese School Kogarah, Sydney Victory Mandarin School and Sydney Yu Cai Chinese Language School. Throughout the lockdown, these Chinese Language Schools have worked tirelessly to provide students with high quality learning materials and activities. Teachers have done an excellent job, not only helping students learn the language, but also keeping them engaged in a challenging online learning space. On behalf of the many students who have kept learning a language during this difficult time, I would like to acknowledge and thank the language teachers and principals in my electorate who have organised the many learning sessions and kept students engaged during the extensive lockdown period. These language schools provide an invaluable resource to the local community, and I know that they will continue to work tirelessly teaching our kids important language skills well into the future. I commend them for their efforts.

ST GEORGE MEN'S SHED

Mr CHRIS MINNS (Kogarah)—I would like to acknowledge the important work of the St George Men's Shed in my electorate of Kogarah. The Shed was founded in 2010 under the leadership of Dr Klaus Stelter, who through his medical practice saw the need for a venue where men could meet and socialise in a relaxed and supportive atmosphere. This fantastic initiative provides not only a range of health and wellbeing benefits to men but also utilises the skills and labour of members to make equipment that is then donated to schools, childcare centres, aged-care centres, community groups and people with disabilities. I acknowledge the leadership of President Philip Fague, past President Bernie Dolan and Shed Foreman Allen Brooker. I also appreciate the work of Operations Manager Brian Turner, Secretary Pat Murray, Treasurers Brian Smith, and Terry Martin, Caretakers

Paul Woodberry and John Cowin and the team of highly talented woodworkers including Kevin O'Hanlon and Paul Cox. I commend the team at the Shed for their efforts and thank them for their contribution to our community, particularly retired seniors from all backgrounds.

TARAGO PRESCHOOL

Mrs WENDY TUCKERMAN (Goulburn)—Mr Speaker, I rise today to recognise the staff, students and parents of Tarago Preschool. On March 18 this year the Tarago Preschool Community gathered to thank the organisations who have contributed to the amazing transformation of both the indoor and outdoor areas of the preschool. Tarago Preschool has secured a number of grants over the years thanks to their hard working P and C committee. The P and C committee also produced a cookbook which was an initiative of their own which allowed them to contribute over \$28,000 towards the improvements. The Preschool has had the interior and exterior of the building painted, the installation of shade sails, the replacing of cisterns and tapware as well as additional indoor storage. Tarago Preschool is looking forward to welcoming many more children and their families into their fresh and updated facility for many generations to come. My congratulations to all involved.

ROBERT PLATT

Mrs WENDY TUCKERMAN (Goulburn)—Mr Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Mr Robert James Platt. A Frogmore volunteer firefighter who died in the line of duty in the early 1930s. Bob Platt was the Vice-Captain of the Frogmore Volunteer Bushfire Brigade. He was killed in 1932 while fighting a fire near the Cowra-Boorowa Road, now known as the Lachlan Valley Way. The Burrowa News reported on March 4, 1932 that Mr Platt died as a result of a falling tree branch while fighting the fire. The Deputy Captain of the Frogmore Rural Fire Service, Phillip Baer, discovered the story after researching the brigade's old minute books. After learning about Mr Platt's story, Mr Baer submitted a request to the RFS. Mr Platt's name was immortalised on May 14, 2021 on the National Emergency Services Memorial in Canberra. A plaque was also unveiled earlier this year in the Frogmore Hall. Mr Platt's grandson is 'absolutely ecstatic' about the honours. I would like to pay my respects today to Mr Robert Platt who paid the supreme sacrifice protecting his community.

SUNNYFIELD SEVEN HILLS

Mr MARK TAYLOR (Seven Hills)—I would like to acknowledge Sunnyfield Disability Services at Blacktown for their terrific work in helping individuals across the Seven Hills Electorate and Western Sydney who have disability. Sunnyfield at Blacktown do a great job in supporting individuals from areas around Blacktown, Seven Hills, Lalor Park and Kings Langley. It was great to hear that Sunnyfield were awarded an \$8,000 Community Building Partnership to help with the re-painting of the common areas of a household in Seven Hills. Sunnyfield supports 5 people with intellectual disabilities living together in Seven Hills. The grant will help this house and the residents directly by providing a dignified home for the residents and for their families when they visit them. I would like to thank the team of Sunnyfield workers from the Blacktown facility and across Western Sydney for their continued work in the local areas around Seven Hills. I know it is greatly appreciated by the individuals they work with and their families.

KU CHILDREN SERVICES WENTWORTHVILLE

Mr MARK TAYLOR (Seven Hills)—I would like to acknowledge KU Children Services at Wentworthville, which is a pre-school and day care organisation that provides education and care programs for young children from Pendle Hill, Wentworthville and Westmead. It was fantastic to hear that KU Children Services were recently awarded with a \$14,000 Community Building Partnership from the NSW Government to help with the supply and installation of new front and park side boundary fences. The grant will also be used to supply and install new intercom and access control devices for the facility. These upgrades will increase the security of the KU Children Services property and improve the accessibility for families when arriving and leaving the premises. I know that these upgrades will be greatly appreciated by the families of KU Children Services, who continue to do a terrific job in supporting and preparing local children before they move into primary school education at Darcy Road Public School, Wentworthville Public School and Westmead Public School.

BAULKHAM HILLS BASEBALL CLUB

Mr MARK TAYLOR (Seven Hills)—I would like to recognise the Baulkham Hills Baseball Club, who have been a terrific sporting club within the Seven Hills electorate for many years. It was great to hear that they have been awarded with a \$37,000 grant through the Community Building Partnership program this year. This money will go directly towards funding the new, contemporary fencing they are putting up at Northmead Reserve. The current fence, on the main diamond at Northmead Reserve, has been at the ground for over 50 years and has recently began to break apart. It will be fantastic to see what Northmead Reserve will look like after the fencing renewal reaches completion. I know the families who are part of the Baulkham Hills Baseball Club are very appreciative of the new fence, and cannot wait for the next baseball season. I would like to thank Tim McCallum

for working hard to ensure the Baulkham Hills Baseball Club remains a great sporting organisation within our local community.

BLACKTOWN ARTS ELDERS IN RESIDENCE AND UNCLE WES MARNE

Mr MARK TAYLOR (Seven Hills)—I acknowledge Blacktown Arts for its current Elders in Residence series at The Leo Kelly Blacktown Arts Centre from 9 November to 26 November. Through Old Eyes in screening as part of the residence and all are welcome to have a yarn with local elders: Uncle Wes Marne, Uncle Greg Simms and Uncle Danny Eastwood on Fridays throughout the screening period. In representing the Seven Hills electorate, I represent Aboriginal communities in Lalor Park, Seven Hills and Constitution Hill. I thank Uncle Wes for his service to the local area, particularly being so engaging with smoking ceremonies at local schools such as The Hills Sports High School at Seven Hills. Uncle Wes is well-known as an Aboriginal elder across greater Blacktown and for his work with corrective services and social housing communities as well. I thank Blacktown Arts for showcasing Aboriginal stories and ensuring the rich history of Aboriginal culture in Western Sydney remains talked about and presented by elders from the local community.

PAUL BILLINGS AND TIM DYALL – ARMIDALE PARKRUN

Mr ADAM MARSHALL (Northern Tablelands—Minister for Agriculture and Western New South Wales)—I recognise Paul Billings and Tim Dyall as the Event Directors for Armidale Parkrun, a free, fun, and friendly weekly 5 kilometre community event entirely organised by volunteers. The concept came by way of community in London and an interested party brought Parkrun to Australia. The idea grew, founded on volunteers, providing a social outing and a place to make new friends. Plus it contributes to both mental and physical health since exercise is the gateway to both. It is especially pleasing that this public event has grown in popularity through the commitment of volunteers and I thank the organisers who stepped forward to give of their time. This includes the Run Directors, Daniel Gooch, Michael Singleton, Ada Klinkhamer, Jacqueline King and Aaron McMillan. I congratulate Paul and Tim on establishing Parkrun in Armidale. I commend Paul and Tim for their commitment to this good idea which has contributed to the social cohesion in Armidale and had such a positive impact on the community.

JACQUI STILL AND SUE POOLE – MOREE PARKRUN

Mr ADAM MARSHALL (Northern Tablelands—Minister for Agriculture and Western New South Wales)—I recognise Jacqui Still and Sue Poole as the Event Directors for Moree Parkrun, a free, fun, and friendly weekly 5 kilometre community event entirely organised by volunteers. The concept came by way of community in London and an interested party brought Parkrun to Australia. The idea grew, founded on volunteers, providing a social outing and a place to make new friends. Plus it contributes to both mental and physical health since exercise is the gateway to both. It is especially pleasing that this public event has grown in popularity through the commitment of volunteers and I thank the organisers who stepped forward to give of their time. I congratulate Jacqui and Sue on establishing Parkrun in Moree. I commend Jacqui and Sue for their commitment to this good idea which has contributed to the social cohesion in Moree and had such a positive impact on the community.

RAQUEL CLARKE – MOREE DHIITYAAN CENTRE

Mr ADAM MARSHALL (Northern Tablelands—Minister for Agriculture and Western New South Wales)—I recognise Raquel Clarke, Acting Co-ordinator of the Moree Plains Shire Council Dhiityaan Aboriginal Centre, the most comprehensive archive for First Peoples of the Gamilaroi nation. With some material dating back to 1788, the Centre is home to a fascinating display of artefacts, photographs, and information on family history. Raquel has been central in the management of the Dhiityaan Centre, documenting new material, accessing grants and promoting opportunities to share traditional songs and stories. Exhibitions and visits to the Centre have been hampered by COVID-19 restrictions but Raquel has been available to resource data. The interest in Gamilaroi history is ongoing. I congratulate Raquel on her professional presentation of the Dhiityaan Centre. I commend Raquel on her strong work ethic and commitment to the Centre which has provided information on family history and knowledge of the proud Gamilaroi nation to the wider public.

MELISSA LOWELL – BUNDARRA MULTI-PURPOSE COURTS

Mr ADAM MARSHALL (Northern Tablelands—Minister for Agriculture and Western New South Wales)—I recognise Melissa Lowell of Bundarra for initiating and persevering in the project to rejuvenate the old Bundarra Tennis Courts. Once previously owned the Anglican Church, the property had to be purchased by the Uralla Shire Council before work could begin. With that undertaken, Melissa worked with the local council in securing a grant and eventually after much hard work and planning, the Bundarra multi-purpose courts were officially opened in September 2021. The new courts include basketball and netball hoops, tennis court and handball markings, a gym and table tennis area and includes space for barbeque facilities, a shade shelter, and seating. This attractive facility enhances the entrance to Bundarra and provides entertainment and a place for

social gatherings. I congratulate Mel on this wonderful addition to Bundarra. I commend Melon her foresight as to the potential and the importance of this project and for her commitment to the Bundarra community.

SYLVANIA HIGH SCHOOL

Ms ELENi PETINOS (Miranda)—I acknowledge the outstanding team at Sylvania High School for the innovative ways they have supported the school community during COVID-19. When learning routines were disrupted, the teachers quickly provided online initiatives to keep students supported and engaged. This included virtual science week activities and a custom-built website with new health and wellbeing challenges every week for students to tally their results with their peers. Principal Renee Holz set aside time to meet with each of the year 12 students and create personalised support plans including goals and motivation milestones. Additionally, school counsellor Elise Purnell continued to provide needed support to students and ran workshops to facilitate the readjustment to remote learning. Kerri Wright and her team provided couriers for student artworks and organised the distribution of welfare packages, while Emma Spradbrow ran Masterchef Masterclasses to promote staff well-being, alongside Christine Keene who organised Staff Strength and Stretching for the teaching team. I also take this opportunity to recognise Deputy Principals Dana Quick and Vanessa Turansky for their leadership during this difficult time. I commend the entire team at Sylvania High School for their ongoing dedication to staff and students during this challenging time.

KOALA CHILD CARE CENTRE

Ms ELENi PETINOS (Miranda)—I acknowledge the wonderful team at Koala Child Care Centre ("KCCC") at Sutherland Hospital for their resilience throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Established in 1989, KCCC is sponsored by NSW Health and is an extended hours facility which offers high quality care for children aged from 6 weeks to 6 years. During the COVID-19 lockdown period, KCCC remained in operation with over 60 per cent per cent attendance as many children have frontline workers in their families. I thank the incredible team at KCCC for looking after local children so that our essential healthcare workers could support our community. I acknowledge staff members Libby Huber, Rowena Austin, Amanda Beck, Fiona Black, Emily Morton, Madge Colborne, Monique Cribb, Carolyn Cryer, Renee Gordon, Nikki Hancock, Joanne Davis, Danielle Ivison, Magdalini Karimali, Michelle Longworth, Chloe Cronin, Linda Savi, Therese Smith, Jane Stuart, Tiziana Taglialegna, Agnes Walkow, Sheri Williams, Ellen Northrope, Elise Bolling, Lorraine Dagni, Jane Lynn, Jean Lee, Maree Finnegan, Kim O'Shannessy and Brad Preston for their outstanding efforts. I thank the entire team at Koala Child Care Centre for continuing to support local families.

KAREELA GROCER

Ms ELENi PETINOS (Miranda)—I acknowledge the wonderful team at Kareela Grocer on their success at the 2021 Sydney Markets Fresh Awards. The high quality produce at Kareela Grocer makes it an essential stop for many families across the Sutherland Shire, with 98 per cent of the stores' crops being Australian grown. Paul's passion for fresh fruit and vegetables spans over 35 years, with Paul and his family owning Kareela Grocer since 2010. The Kareela Grocer team won the Service Excellence Award due to their incredible dedication to customer service. Paul and his team offer a home delivery service which has been so important during the COVID-19 pandemic when our community needed to stay home as much as possible. Additionally, Kareela Grocer's website allows customers to build their own virtual shopping cart for ease of access including interesting deli items, sweets, ready-made salads, cheese boards, fruit platters and other delicious goods. I congratulate Paul Moraitis and the wonderful team at Kareela Grocer on their deserved win at the 2021 Sydney Markets Fresh Awards.

KATHRYN TANNER

Ms ELENi PETINOS (Miranda)—I acknowledge the wonderful Kathryn Tanner of Jannali for her outstanding volunteering efforts in our community. Over the past five years, Kathryn has spearheaded the Sutherland District Trade Union Club's ("Gymea Tradies") Learning Links program which supports local children in their learning. Through her work, Kathryn has helped Gymea Tradies donate an incredible \$71,055 for critical outreach programs to schools and commit over 1,200 volunteer hours to support 90 local children. During this time, Kathryn herself has supported 10 children on-to-one with their numeracy and literacy skills, totalling 135 hours of volunteering. Volunteers like Kathryn have an immeasurable impact on our community. Due to her efforts, Kathryn received the Southern Sydney's Club Volunteer of the Year award and was named the overall Southern Sydney Volunteer of the Year at the 2021 NSW Volunteer of the Year Awards. I congratulate Kathryn on her success at the 2021 NSW Volunteer of the Year Awards and thank her for her ongoing work in our community.

COOKS RIVER PADDLE TRAIL

Ms JO HAYLEN (Summer Hill)—I joined the River Canoe Club this past weekend to celebrate four extraordinary milestones: the launch of the Cooks River Litter Strategy, to award the Club \$15,500 as part of the

2021 Community Building Partnership grants; to celebrate the extraordinary public artwork on the Clubhouse by artists Zachery Bennett-Brook and Kim Siew; and to launch the Cooks River Paddle Trail. The Cooks River Paddle Trail is a 25km network of rivers, canals and bays connecting the Cooks River, Wolli Creek Valley and Botany Bay. The trail, an initiative of the River Canoe Club, encourages locals to explore our local waterways, either canoeing the river itself or walking or riding along its banks, discovering local landmarks and opening up a whole new way to experience the Inner West. The trail is yet another way the River Canoe Club is helping to increase access to our beautiful Cooks River. I congratulate President Simon Wilkes and all members of the River Canoe Club of NSW involved in developing this important resource for local residents.

FOUR-YEAR YES-IVERSERY

Ms JO HAYLEN (Summer Hill)—15 November marks the four year anniversary since the results of the plebiscite for same-sex marriage. Over 61 per cent of people in Australia voted yes for marriage equality—including 79.9 per cent in the Grayndler electorate—and we have never looked back. It was reported last year that over 14,000 same-sex couples had tied the knot since marriage equality was introduced. I warmly congratulate all those same-sex couples in the Summer Hill electorate and across NSW who have tied the knot over the past four years. I acknowledge again the important work of advocates, activists and organisations including Equality Australia, the Gay and Lesbian Rights Lobby, ACON, Twenty10, Rainbow Families NSW, PFLAG and more. I also acknowledge the important work we still must do here in NSW to overcome disadvantage, including removing discrimination against transgender and gender diverse people, supporting LGBTQ+ kids in our schools, and seeking justice and healing for victims of gay hate crimes in Sydney. The "Yes" result was a great example of what we can achieve through positive, passionate politics that respects human dignity and the rights of all people to be who they are and love who they love.

MARRICKVILLE SPRINGS

Ms JO HAYLEN (Summer Hill)—I congratulate the team at Philter Brewery for opening their rooftop bar, Marrickville Springs. The rooftop of their warehouse tap house on Sydenham Road has been transformed into an urban oasis of pastels and neons, offering beer slushies, wines and cocktails, all under a retractable roof. Philter intended for the rooftop to be opened last year, but was put on hold due to COVID-19. With the October opening, Marrickville residents and visitors to the Inner West Ale Trail can now relax and enjoy a drink on of the rare rooftop bars in the suburb. Philter is the brain-child of Michael Neil, Stefan Constantoulas and Samara "Sam" Füss, one of Australia's first female head brewers. They made a splash by winning the coveted Champion Pale Ale award at the 2017 Craft Beer Awards and opened their brewery at a converted yoghurt factory in 2020. With local businesses reopening after months of lockdown, there has never been a better time to support our local brewers and to check out the brand new 80s inspired Marrickville Springs. I congratulate Michael, Stefan and Sam on this latest venture and look forward to a beer at Marrickville Springs in the near future.

TRANSGENDER AWARENESS WEEK

Ms JO HAYLEN (Summer Hill)—November 13 - 19 is Transgender Awareness Week, with Transgender Day of Remembrance held on November 20. Transgender Awareness Week is a call to action to learn more about transgender people and their contribution to our community, to share stories and confront ways transgender people continue to experience discrimination, violence and prejudice in our community. Transgender and gender diverse people must feel safe in their homes, schools, workplaces, sporting fields and on our streets, and we must stand vigilant against transphobia wherever we find it, including our parliaments. I acknowledge the important work of organisations that support our transgender and gender diverse communities, including the Gender Centre, ACON, Twenty10, Transcend and Trans Pride Australia. I also acknowledge all transgender and gender people in the Summer Hill electorate across NSW. I know that this week can be a challenging week for many, but assure you that our community stands with you. All transgender people have the fundamental right to dignity, respect and joy, and to live in safety. This Transgender Day of Remembrance, we remember all those transgender people who have lost their lives to violence and recommit ourselves to delivering a safer world for all transgender people.

DUBBO VINNIES OPENING

Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS (Dubbo)—Vinnies shops provide \$70 million for the organisation's charitable works every year, but COVID hit them hard. I was thrilled to open Dubbo's new Vinnies shop recently (the biggest in regional NSW), which will also be a one-stop-shop for people needing disaster recovery assistance, financial support and advice. Well done to the staff: Phil Donnan, Neil Rabbett, Ian Wray, John Dinning, Karen Heidke, Shane Clarke and David Powter. And the volunteers: Lorraine Baker, Lorraine Beacroft, Yvonne Bennett, William Blacker, Sue Boyne, Ross Carolan, Vicki Dawson, John Denning, Fred Dennis, Robyn Duncan, Alexander Francis, Lorraine Grant, Sylvia Hedley, Kristy Henderson, Pauline Hunter, Dennis Jasprizza, Graham Lobsey, Sally May, Matthew McDonagh, Dana McDonagh, Julie McMahon, Josephine Mary Michell, Mel Mohapp, Kathleen Morris, Marie Murphy, Marie Neville, Felicity Oates, Audrey O'Brien, Barabara O'Brien, Pat

O'Dea, Barbara Overall, Yvonne Peters, Veronica Quayle, Tanie Randell, Doug Reichart, Michelle Ridges, Karen Roberts, Dorota Romanowski, Anne Simmons, Janice Smith, Patricia Solomon, Alma Spencer, Ellen Stanmore, Carol Stoddard, Jojo Stueven, Deanne Sultana, Lance J Thornton, Michelle Toole, Paul Trevaskis, Bev Turpin, Rosemary Wheelhouse, Susan Whillans, Trish Williams, Jenny Williams and Anne Woodhead. Thank you for everything you do to support our community.

PHOEBE WILKINSON

Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS (Dubbo)—I would like to congratulate Dubbo's Phoebe Wilkinson, who has been named 'NSW Young Planner of the Year'. It was growing up in a regional area, and then living in London, that made Phoebe realise the difference between the have and the have nots, and the infrastructure needed to support a community. Studying urban and regional planning at UNE in Armidale was the perfect fit for Phoebe, who now works for Barnson Dubbo. There's a range of diversity within her role, from helping people with their plans, to submitting development applications, to working with the engineering team. Phoebe hopes to inspire others to follow her footsteps into the fast-paced career. She has said that it's important to encourage everyone, but especially women, to join the industry. Congratulations on your fantastic achievement Phoebe!

WESTERN NSW LOCAL HEALTH DISTRICT ALLIED HEALTH AWARDS

Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS (Dubbo)—Speaker. I want to congratulate Stephanie McDonnell, winner of Allied Health Assistant/Support/Technician of the Year for the Western NSW Local Health District. Stephanie is a proud Aboriginal woman working at Dubbo Health Service as an Aboriginal Health Practitioner. Her strong leadership knowledge and capacity building in culturally appropriate care is highly valued across the service. I'd also like to congratulate the other winners: Ash Wright, winner of the Allied Health Leader of the Year Award; Sophie Fletcher, Winner of the Early Career Allied Health Professional of the Year; Beth Schofield, Winner of the Aboriginal Allied Health Professional of the Year Award; Danielle Allen, winner of the Allied Health Researcher/ Educator of the Year; Libby Loneragen won the WNSWLHD Allied Health Professional of the Year Award – extremely well deserved after almost 56 years working for the LHD! Congratulations Stephanie and all of the winners and finalists. We have some exceptional people working in Allied Health across our region, so I'd like to take a moment to say thank you to everyone who works in or supports our Allied Health Teams! You are all amazing!

SHELLHARBOUR COMMUNITY BUILDING PARTNERSHIP GRANTS

Ms ANNA WATSON (Shellharbour)—The Community Building Partnership (CBP) program has awarded more than \$362 million of funding to over 16,600 projects since its creation. It is my pleasure to recognise that a further \$400,000 of funding under this program has extended to 16 projects from the Shellharbour electorate I represent. The program first commenced in 2009 under a Labor Government. We recognised the immense value which carries from providing local organisations the means to initiate much-needed improvements to local facilities at a grass roots level. I would like to extend my congratulations to all of the organisations that were successful in their applications under this round of funding. The calibre and variety of the applications leave me with no doubt that these projects will make a real difference for the local community.

THANK YOU TO RETIRING SUTHERLAND SHIRE COUNCILLORS

Ms MELANIE GIBBONS (Holsworthy)—Mr Speaker, I would like to acknowledge the Councillors that chose not to stand for re-election after this upcoming Local Government election from Sutherland Shire Council. Thank you to Cllr Barry Collier, Deputy Mayor Cllr Tom Croucher, Cllr Daniel Nicholls, Cllr John Riad, Cllr Marie Simone, and Mayor Steve Simpson. These community representatives have served the local area for a long time and their experience and passion for the community will be missed, but I am sure they will help to mentor the new generation of Councillors coming through. They have played a major role in helping to support residents of the Sutherland Shire and have made our local area better to play live and work. Congratulations again to the retiring Councillors and I wish them the best of luck for their future endeavours. I am looking forward to welcoming the new community representatives into the area and seeing what they can achieve.

THANK YOU TO RETIRING LIVERPOOL CITY COUNCILLORS

Ms MELANIE GIBBONS (Holsworthy)—Mr Speaker, I would like to acknowledge the Councillors that chosen not to stand for re-election after this upcoming Local Government election from Liverpool City Council. Thank you to Cllr Tina Ayyad, Cllr Gus Balloot, Cllr Tony Hadchitti and Mayor Wendy Waller. These community representatives have served the local area for a long time and their experience and passion for the community will be missed, but I am sure they will help to mentor the new generation of Councillors coming through. They have played a major role in helping to support residents of the Holsworthy electorate and have made our local area better to play live and work. Congratulations again to the retiring Councillors and I wish them the best of luck for

their future endeavours. I am looking forward to welcoming the new community representatives into the area and seeing what they can achieve.

DUNGOG 2021 BUSINESS AWARDS

Mr DAVID LAYZELL (Upper Hunter)—I would like to congratulate the Dungog District Chamber of Commerce 2021 Business Awards winners that were recently announced by the Chamber. The awards recognise excellence, supporting great service and encouraging quality. I would like to congratulate the following winners: Ride Dungog, The Barracks, Tocal, Billie & Grace, Sassafas, Meg's Kitchen, Dungog Natural Health Clinic, Chic & Antique, Addison Partners, Dungog by Design, Just Been Laid, Shine Hair and Beauty, Ray White Dungog and Clarence Town, Sculpture on the Farm, Up the Creek Plumbing, Charlie Boyton and Nina Williams. Again congratulations to all the award winners and I look forward to personally catching up with them in the near future.

LARA AGED CARE OLYMPIC CHALLENGE

Mr DAVID LAYZELL (Upper Hunter)—I congratulate the residents at Lara Aged Care of Dungog who have shown off their competitive streak and skills with their very own Olympic-style challenge. More than 30 residents took part in the challenge over three weeks which included the bean bag toss, cricket, noodle javelin, target practice, darts and quoits. I congratulate Patrick Redgrove who achieved three gold medals and one silver medal and was awarded Champion of the first ever Olympic Challenge. Also congratulations to Joanne Earley, Lara Facility Manager, the Lara's activities team, physio team and staff who were instrumental in conducting these games for the residents. I am sure the residents of the Lara Aged Care will be looking forward to the next Olympic Challenge which will be held every September.

CALLAGHAN COLLEGE

Ms SONIA HORNER (Wallsend)—The annual NSW Education Minister's and Secretary's Awards for Excellence acknowledged the achievements and outstanding efforts of students, educators, parents and schools. Callaghan College was a recipient of the Secretary's School Achievement Award for its Faculty Leadership Improvement Project (FLIP) initiative, which ran across its three campuses. The award is presented to schools that successfully create a sustainable learning environment through a whole-of-school project. They must have a significant improvement in learning outcomes and opportunities, and excellence in student learning.

Through the FLIP initiative, each of the remarkable College Instructional Leaders have shown the value of efficiently leading for impact. They each effectively led targeted projects to address areas of need in their faculty, and have built the capacity of their teams through distributed leadership, as well as developing a high level skillset themselves. Most importantly, the College Instructional Leaders have positively impacted the learning culture at each of their campuses. Congratulations to the Campus Principals, Hayley Macdonald of Waratah Campus, Paul Taylor of Wallsend Campus, Roger Macey of Jesmond Senior Campus and Kylee Owen, the College Principal and Leader of Initiative. Thank you for your continued support of your Instructional Leaders, teachers, educational staff and students.

ZALIA CAMPBELL

Ms SONIA HORNER (Wallsend)—At just 15 years of age Zalia Campbell of New Lambton is a bona fide tech founder and 'teenpreneur.' Zalia was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes as a young child and there is no cure or prevention for it. In 2016, at the tender age of ten, Zalia came up with the idea of using technology to help others living with diabetes. Like many other Type 1 diabetics, Zalia has to rely on insulin injections every day as her body can't produce enough. But if levels become low she can be left feeling dizzy and fatigued with blurred vision. After five years of fundraising and thanks to many generous, big-hearted people, a bit of research, many developer discussions, design and testing, the Diabetes Emergency App has come to life. The app is designed for diabetics to sound an alarm when they begin to feel ill which will signal emergency contacts and give them their GPS location. It also alarms people nearby and lists steps they should take to help the person in need, including calling the ambulance or giving them a glucose gel. Congratulations Zalia on your work.

WORLDSKILLS CHAMPIONS NSW

Ms SONIA HORNER (Wallsend)—Recently some of our home-grown, best of the best, talented young tradespeople were on show at the WorldSkills competition. The WorldSkills competition is a high-profile event, promoting Australia's skills excellence nationally and internationally. The opportunity to compete is open to all Australian apprentices, trainees and vocational education and training students. Congratulations to the following medallists: IT Network Systems Administration - Liam Spindler, Gold; Luke Creighton, Silver; Aman Vaghela, Bronze. Landscape Construction (Team Event) - Zac Crowe and Issac Zamorano, Gold. Painting & Decorating-Sam Armitage, Silver. Plumbing - Lachlan Kinter, Gold; Hugh Davey, Silver. Retail Baking - Pastry

- Joshua Nickl, Gold. Retail Butchery - William Cabazes, Silver. Signage - Hayden Taylor, Silver; Bradston Linardon-Carabetta, Bronze. Turning - Warwick Reinhardt, Silver; Andrew Vintiner, Bronze. Visual Merchandise (Team Event) - Paige Blandford and Mandelyn Lee, Silver. Welding - Timothy Blackwell, Bronze. Well done on these awards and all the best in your ongoing training. Good luck to those of you heading to China for the WorldSkills competition.

SAUSAGE KING CHAMPIONS

Ms SONIA HORNER (Wallsend)—Run by the Australian Meat Industry Council, the Newcastle Regional Sausage King competition is held annually and open to AMIC butchers across the Hunter. It brings butchers from across the region together allowing them to show off their creations. Officials judge the products based on visual appearance, along with aroma, texture and flavour. There are 15 categories for butchers to enter with each containing its own rules and allowances. Congratulations to Jarrett's Quality Meats who took out first place in best poultry with a chicken, sundried tomato, basil and feta; first place in best gourmet with a wasabi and pickled ginger sausage; first place in best continental with Italian casalinga; and second place in best Australian lamb with a lamb and manuka honey sausage. Congratulations to Dunns Butchers of Lambton who took out silver in the best gourmet with a jalapeno Mexican, beef, pork, jalapeno and Mexican spices sausage; and a bronze in the best continental with a chorizo. Congratulations to Adam's Family Meats of New Lambton who took out best cooked ready to eat product with a chilli cheese kabana. Good luck in the next stage.

UNITING MEDICALLY SUPERVISED INJECTING CENTRE

Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect)—On Monday 1st November 2021, I toured the Uniting Medically Supervised Injecting Centre with my Parliamentary colleague, Steve Kamper MP, Member for Rockdale. The Uniting MSIC, situated in Kings Cross, is the only medically supervised injecting centre in NSW. The centre does not support drug use, but rather prevents injury and death by having medical professionals present while someone injects. Those who attend the clinic must supply their own drugs, but are provided clean needles by the clinic to lower their risk of contracting HIV. Uniting MSIC is located in a convenient location that is easily accessible, but has been purposely designed in a way to look discrete. The clinic is well accepted with 70 per cent of local businesses and 78 per cent of local residents supporting the centre. Since opening, Uniting MSIC have supervised more than a million injections and managed 7,428 overdoses without a single death. This takes an enormous pressure off emergency services and ultimately saves lives. I would like to thank Marianne Jauncey, Medical Director, Uniting MSIC, Emma Maiden, Head of Advocacy and Media, Uniting, and the entire team at Uniting MSIC, for delivering effective and practical harm reduction services that save lives.

BYRON BAY COMMUNITY CENTRE

Ms TAMARA SMITH (Ballina)—Today I congratulate Byron Community Centre's Volunteer Management Committee on winning the 2021 NSW Business Chamber Volunteer Team of the Year Award. Byron Community Centre is an iconic independent organisation that serves our communities across a broad range of social programs. Under the leadership of President Helen Hamilton, the management committee consists of nine tireless volunteers who work to govern the Byron Community Centre, one of the largest not-for-profit of its kind in NSW. The committee oversee operations for the Byron Theatre and the Byron Markets, as well as a raft of community services that support Byron's most vulnerable – in particular Liberation Larder. Navigating the organisation through the last two years of the Covid-19 pandemic has been challenging. Changing risk landscapes has required an average of 80 hours of volunteer support from the members each week. Their expertise and generosity has ensured that the ultimate aim of supporting the local community, particularly the vulnerable, is achieved. The volunteer Management Committee have been successfully guiding the organisation for over 20 years. I thank them for their professionalism and dedication, and for the immeasurable contribution they make to the Byron community.

MARK DUNCAN

Ms TAMARA SMITH (Ballina)—Today I acknowledge the commitment and dedication of club legend and retiring president of Lennox Head Pirates Cricket Club, Mark Duncan. Under Mark's leadership Lennox Head Cricket Club has gone from strength to strength, becoming one of the more dominant clubs in the Ballina electorate, as well as competing strongly across all grades in Far North Coast competitions. Lennox Head Cricket Club is an important part of the local community, contributing to the health and wellbeing of its members, and strengthening the social fabric of the town. The club's ability to function, and achieve success depends upon the commitment and dedication of volunteers, particularly those in the Executive Committee. I applaud Mark for fulfilling the substantial responsibility of Club President, and for using his expertise to strengthen and enhance the success of the sport and Lennox Head Cricket Club during his tenure.

EMPIRE VALE PUBLIC SCHOOL

Ms TAMARA SMITH (Ballina)—Today I congratulate the students and staff at Empire Vale Public School for winning the 2021 Green Innovation Awards. The Green Innovation Awards is an environmental and science competition where students are provided with a platform to develop and present ideas for greener living. The Awards, under the stewardship of founder Dr Bridie Cullinane, make a huge and positive impact to young people and the future health of our planet. Empire Vale's winning entry was created by their senior class under the guidance of teachers Karen Rantissi and Peter Sugden. Student's developed a 'Minecraft' world to teach people about caring for injured koalas. The virtual reality included information about the cultural significance of koalas to the Bundjalung people and the threats facing koalas including bushfires, cars, disease and loss of habitat. With koala populations under increased threat across NSW as critical habitat as more and more forests are cleared, and as the climate grows hotter and drier, the work of the student's at Empire Vale Public School is a vital contribution to koala conservation. I also acknowledge the tremendous support of the sponsors and judges of the Green Innovation Awards for 2021.

SUNNYFIELD INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY SERVICES AND SUPPORT

Mrs TANYA DAVIES (Mulgoa)—I wish to acknowledge Sunnyfield Intellectual Disability Services and Support in my electorate of Mulgoa. Chief Executive Officer and the team at the organisation who continue to create a community that supports children, youth and adults to build independence in every opportunity and build skills for life. I wish to congratulate Sunnyfield Intellectual Disability Services and Support on their recent success in the 2021 Community Building Partnership program where they received \$10,450 in funding for the installation of air conditioning. Congratulations to Sunnyfield Intellectual Disability Services and Support!

ASSYRIAN CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Mrs TANYA DAVIES (Mulgoa)—I wish to acknowledge Assyrian Christian School in my electorate of Mulgoa on their recent success in the 2021 Community Building Partnership program. This program provides funding to successful applicants to deliver positive social and recreational outcomes while promoting community participation, inclusion and cohesion. I wish to congratulate Assyrian Christian School on receiving \$55,000 in funding to install an 8 metre high fence netting for their soccer field. Congratulations to Assyrian Christian School!

CLAIRGATE PUBLIC SCHOOL

Mrs TANYA DAVIES (Mulgoa)—Congratulations to Clairgate Public School in my electorate of Mulgoa who were recently provided with much needed funding through the NSW Government's \$120 million Metro Renewal Program, designed to improve school facilities. Clairgate Public School have received funding that will allow them to upgrade their school canteen. I am thrilled for the staff and students who will benefit from this great upgrade. I look forward to seeing the projects upon completion and congratulate Clairgate Public School on receiving this outstanding funding! Congratulations!

THOMAS AND MARGARET MURPHY

Mrs TANYA DAVIES (Mulgoa)—I wish to acknowledge local St Clair residents, Thomas and Margaret Murphy in celebrating their Golden 50th wedding anniversary on 13 November. Thomas and Margaret were married in the Holy Family Church in Maroubra in 1971. What an incredible achievement and milestone this anniversary is! I wish them both all the best and hope they had a wonderful day surrounded by many family and friends for this momentous occasion. Happy 50th wedding anniversary Thomas and Margaret!

NATIONAL BREAST CANCER FOUNDATION

Ms JULIA FINN (Granville)—On 10 October, I was delighted to join a virtual Pink Ribbon Breakfast 2021 to support breast cancer survivors and patients. I thank Rekha Rajvanshi and Sumati Advani, two inspirational cancer survivors from the Indian Australian community, for holding this wonderful annual event since 2012. I also would like to acknowledge both Bharti Gidwani and Meena Mohanty for sharing their inspirational stories with us and I wish both of them the best for their recovery. This year they have raised nearly \$4,200 to the National Breast Cancer Foundation, and I thank them for inviting me to participate again this year. I was delighted Member for Strathfield Jodi McKay MP supporting the cause again this year along with Cumberland Councillor Suman Saha, City of Parramatta Councillor Sameer Pandey and Liverpool Councillor Charishma Kaliyanda. Cancer does not discriminate. Fighting against cancer is not an easy journey, but survivors are not alone on this journey. Congratulations to Rekha and Sue for their hard work and successful virtual Pink Ribbon Breakfast.

ABLAS COFFEE AND NUTS SHOP

Ms JULIA FINN (Granville)—I am delighted to take this opportunity to give recognition to Ablas Coffee & Nuts shop located at 184 Merrylands Road, Merrylands, owned by Abraham and Theresa Haifa. Laura Haifa, their daughter, has been working at the shop with her father for over 13 years and they sell Arabic coffee, nuts and other essential mixed goods. In addition to operating their business, Laura has provided to assistance to the local community, many from non-English speaking backgrounds. I am aware that Laura assists some of her customers with filling out forms, making contact with government agencies and other services on their behalf and her support has been invaluable. The Haifa family have formed valuable friendships with their customers. Their generosity and kindness needs to be recognised. After 14 long years, their shop will close in December 2021 and it will be sad day for them and they will be missed by many in the local community. I wish the Haifa family all the best for the future.

GRANVILLE WARATAH SOCCER FOOTBALL CLUB

Ms JULIA FINN (Granville)—Granville Waratah Soccer Football Club was born in 1901 when they entered a team in the B grade competition. They are the oldest club in the oldest Association in Australia. Over the decades club enjoyed many successes at both junior and senior levels with the golden period coming between 1965 and 1973 when the All-Age Mens Senior Division 1 team won the Challenge Shield (which is the oldest Soccer Shield still in use in Australia since 1901) 8 out of 9 years and the Cottam Cup (which is the oldest Soccer knock out competition in Australia since 1907) for 7 consecutive years. The club has also produced three Socceroos: Bill Henderson who as goal keeper for Australia at the 1956 Melbourne Olympics, Kenny Vairy and Mark Jankovic. The Granville area was arguably the birth place of soccer football in Australia and certainly the cradle of the game for decades. 2021 has been a tough year for all sports and especially grassroots sport. My best wishes to the club for another successful 120 years.

PLAY FOR ALL AUSTRALIA – SPONSOR A SWING

Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore)—Speaker, I wish to recognise local businesses and individuals throughout Mosman who have partnered with 'Play for All Australia' to sponsor swings and play equipment upgrades across 12 Mosman playgrounds. The 'Play for All Australia' initiative was established by Caroline Ghatt and her Husband, Tim Smith, whose son lived with a significant disability. The aim is to generate awareness and dial-up social inclusion across local communities. The upgrades have included replacements of low-back infant swing seats with Australian made inclusive high-back seats. The high back seats are more accommodating and safer, giving all young children the same opportunity to play and connect in the community, regardless of their ability. Thank you to all the amazing local businesses that have sponsored a swing set. I acknowledge Mosman Council, Mosman Chamber of Commerce, Bendigo Community Bank, Di Jones, Harris Farm Markets, Rotary Club of Mosman, Music N' Me, Mosman Toyota, The Works, and Vine Apparel for their support and help in building a world of play and belonging for all children.

VALE CYRIL CLARK

Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore)—Speaker, It is with great sadness, I acknowledge the passing of Cyril Clarke, a charter member of the Crows Nest Rotary and a valued member of the community. Cyril had been a Charter Member of the Crows Nest Rotary since 1969 and held a 100 per cent attendance record for his first 45 years at the club. He was always the first to volunteer for projects, and had managed the Bunnings BBQ since its inception. Tributes have flowed from fellow Rotarians who described Cyril as a model Rotarian, a kind soul and someone who dedicated his life to the service of others. Cyril had also spent time working as an electrician, and in 2004 went to Narrabri to repair homes damaged in the floods, once again demonstrating his dedication to service. My thoughts are with Cyril's family, and with the Crows Nest Rotary during this difficult time.

2021 BALMORAL SWIM FOR CANCER

Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore)—Speaker, I would like to recognise Mosman local Jackie Bourn and the team behind the Balmoral Swim for Cancer for having raised a total of \$2 million for the Children's Cancer Institute of Australia since 2006. The event has run since the 1990s and has become a staple community event. While COVID-19 presented challenges to the original plan, they still managed to raise over \$136,000 for this year's event. Jackie is one of the 100 volunteers who have worked tirelessly to make the Swim for Cancer possible each year. Some of our local schools also participated this year, so I would like to thank each of them for supporting a worthwhile cause: Mosman High School, Mosman Preparatory School, Queenwood, Redlands, Shore and Wenona. I would like to congratulate Redlands for being awarded the Charity Cup as they raised the most money per team of any school. I would again like to thank Jackie Bourn and the whole team at Balmoral

Swim for Cancer for their work in supporting the Children's Cancer Institute of Australia, and I look forward to seeing its continued success.

2021 AUSTRALASIAN EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT OF THE YEAR

Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore)—Speaker, I wish to congratulate Royal North Shore Hospital's Emergency Department for taking out the 2021 Australasian Emergency Department of the Year Award at the recent College of Emergency Nursing Australasia awards. The outstanding work and care that Royal North Shore's Emergency Department provides are second to none, and this prestigious award is a testament to that. It has been a tough two years for all health personnel, and at the forefront of all of this was our emergency departments, who faced more significant pressure and challenges than ever. On top of keeping us safe during the pandemic, the Emergency Department at Royal North Shore has been busy taking part in the domestic and family violence pilot and played an integral role in the hospital being named in the 10 in Australia and New Zealand for Hip Fracture Registry. This award is a tremendous honour and well deserved. I congratulate General Manager - Alison Zecchin, the incredible Emergency Department, and the Royal North Shore Hospital team for this outstanding achievement.

AMY SLIGAR

Mr PETER SIDGREAVES (Camden)—Today, I inform NSW Parliament of a young and upcoming athlete in the Camden electorate, Amy Sligar and congratulate her on a one-year signed deal with the Giants Netball Club. At only 19-years old, Amy is looking to her third Super Netball cap in 2022 after spending this season as a training partner with the Giants. During the lockdown, Amy spent the time dedicating it to her training with her twin sister, Natalie. I congratulate Amy and wish her all the very best for a successful 2022 season.

AUSTRALIAN SWIM SCHOOL ASSOCIATION NATIONAL AWARD OF EXCELLENCE FOR INCLUSION

Mr PETER SIDGREAVES (Camden)—The Y NSW is a registered National Disability Insurance Scheme (NIDIS) service provider. Since October 2020, enrolments of students with disabilities has increased by over 300 per cent at Mount Annan Leisure Centre. The Y NSW as a part of its commitment to Mount Annan Leisure Centre (MALC) won the Australian Swim School Association (ASSA) National Award for Excellence for Inclusion, announced virtually during the ASSA 2021 Conference on Thursday, August 26. I congratulate the team, Centre Manager Ryan O'Loughlin and Aquatic Coordinator Ned Anson for their well-deserved award in ensuring the benefits, joy and lifesaving skill of swimming is accessible to all.

RONALD STREATER

Mr PETER SIDGREAVES (Camden)—Camden Meals on Wheels famously relies on local volunteers to drive operations in all areas. This could involve delivering meals, visiting clients, local transport and assisting with the regular organised events. Without the local volunteers, this vital service would not have continued so successfully in Camden since 1970. Ronald Streater also known as Ron was recently farewelled by the Board of Camden Meals on Wheels and is one of the organisations longest serving Board members. Ron joined Camden Meals on Wheels as a volunteer in 2006 and took on the role as President of the Board in 2007 through to 2010. Ron further re-joined the board in 2018 and continued his service up until 26th October 2021. Thank you Ron, on behalf of Camden and Meals on Wheels for your valued and wise service to the community.

SHAUN PEREIRA – THE GREATER NARELLAN BUSINESS CHAMBER

Mr PETER SIDGREAVES (Camden)—I take this time to acknowledge the work of Shaun Pereira's committed service to The Greater Narellan Business Chamber. Shaun is the outgoing president at the Greater Narellan Business Chamber. Shaun has served on the board for 5 years, with the last 3 as president. Shaun took over in some difficult circumstances but from that time has positioned the chamber to grow and prosper, leading the chamber through the pandemic, to be in a place where members can support each other to emerge from the lockdown. Thank you Shaun for the countless hours of work you have put into the Chamber and serving the local community.

MOON FESTIVAL

Mr NICK LALICH (Cabramatta)—The past lockdown was tough on NSW communities, especially for those who were unable to celebrate cultural events the way they wished. One event being the Moon Festival. The Moon Festival is a wonderful occasion, especially in the Cabramatta community, and is celebrated on the 15th day of the 8th month on the Chinese calendar. It is a day when the moon is believed to be at its fullest. Due to the lockdown, many people were unable to celebrate the festivities in their community with family and friends, however, I hope that everyone still had an enjoyable time at home with their closest loved ones and ate some delicious moon cake. I wish everyone had a happy, safe and prosperous Moon Festival and hopefully, we will be able to celebrate the festivities together again next year.

QING FONG LION DANCE TEAM

Mr NICK LALICH (Cabramatta)—During the recent COVID-19 lockdown in New South Wales, many organisations in my community faced great lengths of adversity. However, from this adversity, I saw creative and innovative solutions come to life to keep these organisations together – in particular, the Qing Fong Lion Dance Team. Usually, the Qing Fong Lion Dance Team meet twice a week to practise the Chinese cultural dance of lion dance. However, due to the lockdown, they were unable to meet in person. By taking advantage of technology, they moved to their training to an online platform, keeping the young people in their team engaged. I commend the Qing Fong Lion Dance Team for all their efforts in engaging with young people in my electorate and they are a true asset to my community.

LARA MCSADDEN

Ms YASMIN CATLEY (Swansea)—Speaker, Today I acknowledge Lara McSpadden on becoming a Ronald McDonald House North Australia Community Ambassador. Ronald McDonald House Charities began in Australia in 1981 with the goal to provide a house to families of children in hospital whilst they are undertaking treatment. The charity now supports more than 40,000 families each year. Lara is an amazing young woman from Caves Beach and currently plays for the Townsville Fire in the Women's National Basketball League. Lara values the incredible work Ronald McDonald House do to provide assistance to sick kids and their families, as she was diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes as a child. Ronald McDonald House Charities North Australia have a longstanding relationship with Townsville Fire. Due to this, they are thrilled to have Lara on board as one of their Community Ambassadors. I congratulate Lara on this achievement and wish her all the best with her future endeavours.

SWANSEA HIGH SCHOOL 2022 SCHOOL LEADERS

Ms YASMIN CATLEY (Swansea)—Speaker, I acknowledge Jye Bugeja, Imogen McLean, Tyler Gicoso and Claudia McLean, who have been elected as the 2022 school captains and vice captains of Swansea High School. I also acknowledge Isaac Nebauer, Jeslyn Bowman, Olivia McKay and Sirinthra Phanloet, who are the Swansea High School prefects for 2022. Each of these students are hard workers and constantly make contributions to Swansea High School and the local community. They always try to do their best at school and act have shown their leadership abilities by acting as role models for their peers. Being elected to represent Swansea High School is an amazing achievement for each of these students, especially after the difficulties they have encountered as a result of the pandemic. I know that they will carry out their new leadership roles with great pride. I congratulate these students on their achievement and wish them all the best for the year ahead.

BELMONT LAKESIDE HOLIDAY PARK

Ms YASMIN CATLEY (Swansea)—Speaker, Today I acknowledge Belmont Lakeside Holiday Park on being named as a finalist for the NSW Tourism Awards 2021. The NSW Tourism Awards are managed by the NSW Tourism Industry Council and celebrate the dedication and innovation demonstrated by tourism businesses across the state. This year's awards particularly highlight the ability of NSW tourism businesses to persevere through the challenges they were presented with due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Belmont Lakeside Holiday Park are a deserving finalist for this award as they have done their best to thrive regardless of the pandemic. The park is the ideal holiday destination for water lovers, as it is located in close proximity to Lake Macquarie. There are also a number of other recreational, shopping and food facilities nearby. I congratulate Belmont Lakeside Holiday Park on their achievement and wish them all the best in their quest to be one of the 2021 NSW Tourism Award winners.

SWANSEA LAKESIDE HOLIDAY PARK

Ms YASMIN CATLEY (Swansea)—Speaker, Today I acknowledge Swansea Lakeside Holiday Park on being named as a finalist for the 2021 NSW Tourism Awards. The NSW Tourism Awards are run by the NSW Tourism Industry Council and recognise the hard work and efforts of tourism workers and businesses state wide. This year's awards focus on the difficulties endured by the tourism industry over the past 24 months and how workers and businesses have done their best to persevere through the COVID-19 pandemic. Swansea Lakeside Holiday Park truly deserve to be a finalist for this award as they have put in a great effort to continue operating to an extent throughout the duration of the pandemic. The park is the ideal holiday destination for all as it is located close to Lake Macquarie, local restaurants and shops. There are also a number of cycle ways nearby and several recreational activities visitors can undertake. I congratulate Swansea Lakeside Holiday Park on their achievement and wish them all the best at the 2021 NSW Tourism Award ceremony.

TAREE WILDCATS

Mr STEPHEN BROMHEAD (Myall Lakes)—Mr Speaker, I recognise local football club Taree Wildcats. They are celebrating their 50th year and have recently announced Shannon Hall and Josh Ferris as their Coastal Premier League Coaching Team for 2022. Shannon started playing when he was 5 years old for the Gosford City Dragons winning 5 grand finals in a row. In 2013 he started his senior coaching career returning the club to the top division at the first attempt. While Josh has played with the Wildcats for his whole playing career and is a life member of the club. He was a member of the 2009 and 2012 Championship winning sides and also part of the coaching set up in 2012. Josh has been coaching junior teams for the Wildcats over the past few years and will continue to do so. I wish Shannon and Josh good luck in their new positions as the club looks forward to another 50 successful years, promoting football and sport within the Myall Lakes.

OLD BAR CRICKET CLUB

Mr STEPHEN BROMHEAD (Myall Lakes)—Mr Speaker, I recognise players from Old Bar Cricket Club. A number of players have been selected in various age categories for the Mid North Coast Youth Championship Squad: Chase Marron has successfully been selected for the U13s, Mitchell Dachs has been selected for the U14s and Sam Eggins has been selected for the U15s. I congratulate these players and their coaches for their selection to the squad. Meanwhile, Spencer Farland played in the Mid North Coast T20 recently scoring 25 runs not out, while Kyle Marron has made the Bradman Cup Squad. Well done to these players and their coaches for their success in the sport, I wish them all the best with their future endeavours.

OXLEY REGION AMATEUR RADIO CLUB INC

Mrs LESLIE WILLIAMS (Port Macquarie)—I rise in the house to congratulate the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club Incorporated for their successful Community Building Partnership (CBP) grant to connect underground electricity to a repeater site at Telegraph Point. It was a pleasure to recently inform local Port Macquarie resident Henry Lundell from the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club about their successful CBP grant of \$6,800 to light up the airways through a new repeater site at Telegraph Point to boost the signal and strength for its audience. The Club provides encouragement for those interested in the scientific development of radio communications and associated electronics through a coordinated effort to operate and maintain the repeaters at Telegraph Point and Middle Brother. I thank the following members for donating their time and energy to maintain local radio in our community; President and Secretary Henry Lundell VK2ZHE, Vice President Paul College VK2ICQ and Treasurer Dennis Meade VK2DAM. Congratulations to everybody involved.

DAVID SYMONS

Mrs LESLIE WILLIAMS (Port Macquarie)—Today I congratulate local Rotarian David Symons for recently being awarded an Honorary Member of the Rotary Club of Port Macquarie West. Rotarians live and breathe the motto of "service above self" in all their acts of community engagement and participation, often donating hours of work and their own funds to improve outcomes at a local, national and international level. Rotary is the only charitable organisation to have a seat at the United Nations table which is a testament to the high regard in which they are held across the globe and reflects the contribution of Rotarians like David Symons. David joined the Rotary Club of Port Macquarie West on 30th October 1992 and served as Club President in 2008-2009. He was awarded a Paul Harris Fellow in 2007 in recognition of his outstanding service. If there was ever a champion for improving health services through the work of Rotary, it was David Symons. One of the architects of Rotary Lodge in Port Macquarie which offers affordable accommodation for outpatients and families, as Chair he was the driving force for its recent expansion. Congratulations David.

EPETITION – 147 THE RUINS WAY

Mrs LESLIE WILLIAMS (Port Macquarie)—I commend to the House the e-petition submitted by Ms Sunniva Boulton, local resident and member of the Facebook group Guulago Koala Custodians for urging the NSW Government to purchase land at 147 The Ruins Way, Port Macquarie to secure critical koala habitat. The community of Port Macquarie are rallying behind calls to purchase 200 hectares of land which borders Lake Innes Nature Reserve to protect it in perpetuity via a Nature Reserve or other secure, non-reversible tenure. The Koala Custodians agree that this is a prime opportunity for the Government to protect an area of land that is considered to be one of the last significant koala breeding grounds in the Hastings. Spokesperson for the Koala Custodians Les Mitchell has been a tremendous advocate in initiating the parliamentary e-petition and campaigning on the ground to protect our most treasured marsupial from habitat destruction. Les has a wealth of experience, having worked for NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service for close to 30 years so I welcome the initiative and the campaign. I encourage everyone across the electorate and the State to support the e-petition.

MARGARET LAWN – BEACH TO BROTHER

Mrs LESLIE WILLIAMS (Port Macquarie)—Today I congratulate local Port Macquarie athlete Margaret Lawn for her participation in the five kilometre Beach to Brother Trail Running Festival on 14th November 2021. Margaret Lawn is an inspirational woman who loves life and takes every opportunity to challenge and motivate herself while battling an incurable disease. In December 2020, Margaret was diagnosed with brain cancer which she naturally admits was really difficult news to comprehend. Determined to raise awareness and funds for the Cancer Council, the 68-year-old walked five kilometres from the start of the 10 kilometre course to the base of North Brother Mountain without any trouble. The former runner has been training regularly since enlisting in the event, noting her medical appointments have provided an excuse to walk rather than drive to build her fitness up for Beach to Brother. Margaret is champion and she has inspired so many through her courage and determination to succeed in an endurance event and by doing so has given hope and confidence to those battling a similar illness. Congratulations Margaret on your campaign for the benefit of the Cancer Council.

CAROL OATAWAY

Mrs HELEN DALTON (Murray)—Mr Speaker, Today I would like to recognise Mrs Carol Oataway, who is retiring after 37 years of teaching. Mrs Oataway has been a pivotal member of the Hay community since returning to her hometown in 1985 to teach. In her role as a teacher, vice principal, and principal she has introduced numerous programs to the town, including Ready Set Kinder and Stephanie Alexander's Kitchen Garden. Renowned for her musical talents, Mrs Oataway led the school choir for a number of years. She is a much loved member of the school community and her daily presence will be dearly missed by both colleagues and students. I congratulate Mrs Oataway on her dedication to the teaching and learning of her students, and wish her well in retirement.

LEANNE GIANIRACUSA

Mrs HELEN DALTON (Murray)—Madam/Mister Speaker, Today I would like to recognise and congratulate Leanne Giansiracusa for her service to the Balranald community. In her role as a qualified diversional therapist, Leanne holds Adult Day Centre two days a week for senior community members. Those who participate are free to enjoy games, mystery bus tours, luncheons, old time balls, or just simply spend time in the company of others. Leanne has arranged musical concerts for the community through the Centre. Funds raised from these events have then been donated to the local day care, allowing it to offer two days of free day care a week. With Covid-19 restrictions, the Centre came to a halt, despite this Leanne kept in touch with each of her clients, checking if they needed anything and generally having a chat. During lockdowns, she even delivered groceries, personal items and essential items to them. I congratulate and commend Leanne on her thoughtfulness and community spirit.

MOVING FORWARD

Mr MARK COURE (Oatley)—Speaker, I rise today to recognise Moving Forward who are an outstanding local organisation in Hurstville run by the magnificent Jan Christie. Formally known as St George Women's Housing, the organisation has been running for more than 25 years and they provide a range of services to those that have suffered from family and community violence. Earlier this year, I had the honour of meeting with Jan and her team to announce that their organisation would share in \$200,000 to increase their client intake as well as the quality of their services. I was also lucky enough to be joined by NSW Attorney General, Mark Speakman, who provided insight into how our Government is working towards preventing domestic violence and providing the best possible care to victims. It was a fantastic opportunity to sit down with the Attorney General and Jan to discuss the importance of the funding and how it will directly benefit local residents in our region. Congratulations again to Jan and her team. I hope to see your organisation run well into the future.

KATINKA DAY

Mr MARK COURE (Oatley)—Speaker, I rise to thank Katinka Day from the World Wildlife Federation for meeting with me earlier this year to discuss the future of plastic here in New South Wales. As good Non-Government Organisations do, the World Wildlife Federation is looking for practical solutions to both contemporary and longstanding issues on plastic management. Included in this is their targeted solutions for increasingly problematic plastics including cigarette butts, balloons and plastic packaging. They are encouraging our Government to assist in these issues and my discussions with Katinka were both welcoming and inspiring. During her visit, Katinka showcased the work of the World Wildlife Federation by displaying environmentally friendly alternatives including: Hay straws, mushroom based packaging products and even cutlery made entirely from avocado seeds. As the Policy Manager in charge of plastics, I applaud Katinka's work as it is an area of environmental improvement that I am extremely passionate about. Our Government is committed to recycling

more plastic, keeping more plastic out of our waterways and utilising our waste for environmental improvement. Thank you Katinka for all of your hard work.

NEW NURSES FOR ST GEORGE HOSPITAL

Mr MARK COURE (Oatley)—Speaker, I rise to acknowledge St George Hospital for receiving a total of 95 new graduate nurses and midwives. This is made up of 60 which started in February and a further 35 which started in April this year. These graduate nurses and midwives join more than 2500 graduates who are commencing work across 130 public hospitals in NSW. Given the difficult past 18 months that we have had, it is exciting to see that we have the next generation of eager new staff ready for action. I had the privilege of meeting with these new frontline staff and it was encouraging to see how eager and excited they were for the work ahead. I also want to thank the Member for Rockdale, Steve Kamper and the Member for Kogarah, Chris Minns, for joining me on the day. I recognise that St George Hospital is also important for your local communities and it was great to see your enthusiasm and excitement as well. Congratulations again to all of these new nurses and midwives for being a part of the team at St George Hospital.

KIM WHYTE - SOUTHCOMBE

Dr MARJORIE O'NEILL (Coogee)—I congratulate Kim Whyte-Southcombe on a wonderful career in education. Kim is the Principal of St Anthony's Catholic Primary School, Clovelly and delightful school in my electorate and a school that Kim's mother had in fact attended when she was a primary school student. Kim always wanted to be a teacher and let nothing stand in the way of that dream and teaching has been her passion for 44 years. Another of Kim's passions is travelling and she has been able to combine the two well either through dedicated Catholic Schools pilgrimages. Kim would always recount the wonder of travel and exploration to her students. Kim would share her experiences in developing countries, to help expand their understanding of our world and all the progress we can still make. Kim has always looked out for what is best for her students. She gets to know them on a personal level, wants them to have fun and learn at the same time. Kim is one of those teachers that leaves a permanent and wonderfully positive impact on each of her students and she has done so for generations. Congratulations and thank you to Kim on a wonderful career.

WAVERLEY COUNCIL REMEMBRANCE DAY

Dr MARJORIE O'NEILL (Coogee)—Remembrance Day is an incredibly important day for Australians and for many nations and peoples across the world. Remembrance Day marks the end of fighting on the Western Front on November 11, 1918 and commemorates those who have died in wars, conflicts and peacekeeping operations. On Remembrance Day we also don a red poppy. The poppy has been a symbol of hope since World War I, when the bright red flowers grew in their hundreds of thousands across the broken and muddy battlefields of Western Europe. The Waverley Council ceremony was poignant and moving and was a fitting testament to all those from the Eastern Suburbs community who have been impacted by the terrible curse of war and a touching tribute to all those who have paid the ultimate price for our freedom. I wish to thank Waverley Council, the Bondi RSL Sub-Branch, the Bondi Junction RSL Sub-Branch, the Bronte RSL Sub-Branch and the Eastern Suburbs Legion Club for their work in putting together this year's ceremony.

ABORIGINAL MATERNAL INFANT HEALTH SERVICE

Ms JANELLE SAFFIN (Lismore)—I congratulate the Aboriginal Maternal Infant Health Service on winning this year's Northern NSW LHD's Overall Quality Award. The wonderful women won the award for their art project My place is your place - Art on Bundjalung country. This outstanding project brings the over 65,000 years of Bundjalung culture to the heart of Lismore Base Hospital. The art pieces run the full length of the Women's Care Unit corridor and birthing rooms in the Lismore Base Hospital. The project's aims are to welcome Bundjalung families to the unit, enhance cultural inclusiveness and to pay respect to the Aboriginal land where we all live. Each piece of art tells a story and the women artists are all born on Bundjalung or Guithabul Country. I'd like to acknowledge AMIHS Aboriginal Health Workers Tahlia Brice, Justine Irving, Carmel Kapeen, Justine Irvine, and Laurel Rogers. Lismore Base Hospital Women's Care Unit Midwifery Manager, Jacinta Felsch as well as AMIHS midwives Danielle Torrens, Bree Forsyth, and Jess Simms. AMIHS Project Officer Emily Raso, Kylie Caldwell (Arts Northern Rivers), Aboriginal Health Workers Doreen Kelly and Lillian Khan who no longer work with Health however gave their strength to this incredible team.

NAOMI WORRALL ASU ORGANISER

Ms JANELLE SAFFIN (Lismore)—I pay tribute to Naomi Worrall who recently finished as our local organiser for the Australian Services Union (ASU) after 10 years of service. I have known Naomi for many years as an activist, comrade and friend. For 10 years prior to working as a union organiser Naomi worked in the community services sector herself. She is a true unionist who has come from the shop floor. Naomi has been involved in countless campaigns. She was a key organiser of the 2007 Your Rights at Work campaign which will

be seen for many years to come as one of the most successful union campaigns in history both locally and across Australia. She has also been involved in spearheading ASU campaigns locally including the We Won't Wait campaign for 10 paid days domestic violence leave, Equal Pay for women and the ongoing campaign to save penalty rates. Naomi has been a lifelong feminist, environmentalist and has served as President of the Lismore Labor party branch for 5 years. Naomi is a talented cake maker and has changed career to open her cake shop Season and Whim in Lismore. I thank Naomi and wish her all the best.

NORCO DAIRY AWARDS TRIFECTA

Ms JANELLE SAFFIN (Lismore)—I congratulate the Northern Rivers Dairy Cooperative, called NORCO on winning an impressive trifecta of awards at the annual DIAA Dairy Product Competition 20221. NORCO is a local institution and is known, loved and trusted to deliver the best dairy products whilst supporting local farmers. The awards just confirmed what locals already know about NORCO. NORCO's Lactose Free Milk won the white milk and modified milk categories and their Full Cream Fresh Milk took out the unmodified full fat milk category showing the depth and quality of NORCO's products. The DIAA Dairy Product Competition is a nationwide competition and these awards show that NORCO can take it up to the big players any day and win. NORCO is the only 100 per cent Australian Owned farmer dairy cooperative in Australia and has 292 cooperative members. I congratulate CEO Michael Hampson, CFO Sean Southwood and board directors Michael C Jeffery, Heath BJ Hoffman, Matthew Trace, Heath Cook, Paul Weir and Ken Bryant for their leadership of this outstanding cooperative in the Northern Rivers. I also want to thank NORCO's best asset their cooperative members, who give our region such a sense of local pride whilst delivering great dairy products.

KAT HARVEY – ARTISAN CHEESEMONGER

Ms JANELLE SAFFIN (Lismore)—I acknowledge the incredible talents of Murwillumbah local Kat Harvey who is a fantastic artisan cheesemonger. Kat recently opened her shop Kat Harvey Cheeses in the Regent Building at M-Arts 105 Wollumbin St Murwillumbah. This makes a wonderful addition to Murwillumbah which is fast becoming a hub of all things artistic, including cheeses. After spending 23 years as a chef in some of Sydney's best restaurants Kat has finessed her skills and now specialises in cheese. I am so pleased that after doing market stalls both locally and on the Gold Coast Kat has decided to take the plunge and set up her own shop in Murwillumbah. Kat has a focus on using local produce and also makes cheeses for the fabulous Nimbin Valley Dairies. Kat said recently in the Tweed Valley Weekly that COVID can't stop your dreams and whilst it hasn't been easy she decided to take the plunge and follow her dreams. I am so glad she has. Kat makes a range of wonderful and interesting cheeses with 43 cheese flavours divided into seven different product types. I congratulate Kat and wish her every success in her cheese mongering business.

NGUNUNGULA ENTRY PAVILION

Mr NATHANIEL SMITH (Wollondilly)—I have previously spoken about the fantastic new art gallery Ngununggula in Retford Park, Bowral in my electorate of Wollondilly. The gallery's Entry Pavilion installation opened last week and is an ongoing commitment to celebrating the Gundungurra language and culture. Annually the gallery will invite an Aboriginal artist or collective to work with the community to create site-specific installation in the Entry Pavilion, which will welcome visitors to the gallery whilst giving them a glimpse into the region's rich cultural heritage. The inaugural Pavilion Commission artist is Quandamooka woman Megan Cope. Ms Cope's art consists of site-specific sculptural installations, video work and painting, that explore issues surrounding identity, the environment and mapping practices. In this installation, Ms Cope has worked in collaboration with the local Aboriginal community and has created an installation that celebrates language and Dreamtime stories. I congratulate Ms Cope and Ngununggula Gallery on this fantastic integration of local heritage and Aboriginal culture, culminating in a wonderful artistic and educational display for all to enjoy.

PHEASANTS NEST RFS

Mr NATHANIEL SMITH (Wollondilly)—I wish to acknowledge the ongoing hard work of the Pheasants Nest Rural Fire Brigade members, the everyday Aussies that volunteer their time and skills protecting and serving the local community. Rural Fire Brigades are a great part of our community in the Wollondilly electorate, and I know we all appreciate and notice their efforts come bushfire season! The work of the RFS is however much broader than just fighting the major bushfires. They respond to a wide range of emergencies including structure fires, motor vehicle accidents, and storms such as the recent hail storm in Thirlmere. They also work to mitigate and manage fire risks by creating programs that reduce bush fire hazards, reduce fire ignitions, and develop regulations for bush fire prone areas. The NSW RFS is the largest volunteer fire service in the world. To ensure high levels of competency in emergency situations, RFS members undergo rigorous training all year round. I congratulate the following Pheasants Nest RFS members: Anthony Dennis on receiving BF (bush firefighter) certificate; Matthew Schuberg on receiving VF (village firefighter) certificate; and Jim Douglas for Crew Leader certificate. Well done and thank you for serving our community.

STANLEY AND MAVIS LUTMAN

Mr NATHANIEL SMITH (Wollondilly)—I would like to extend my congratulations to Mavis and Stanley Lutman, Wollondilly residents who will celebrate an incredible 75 years of marriage on November 30. Stan Lutman was stationed in Australia with the Royal Navy during WWII, instructing Australian sailors on mine sweeping techniques. In July of 1945, he met Mavis dancing at Petersham Town Hall in Sydney. The couple were married in 1946 and began their life together at Lakesland, before building a home in Picton. There they raised two sons, who attended Picton Public and Picton High schools. After moving to Nowra for some years, the Lutmans returned to Wollondilly in 2017 and now reside in Thirlmere. The Lutmans have contributed to the Wollondilly communities over many years. They had a poultry farm at Lakesland for ten years, and Mr Lutman worked as a building maintenance man for coal companies in Wollondilly for nearly 30 years. He is a member of the RSL and was involved in the Picton Public School P & C as well as the Police Citizens Boys Club and the Picton Swimming Club. He was also a valued member of the Lakesland/Rockbarton Rural Fire Brigade.

KALINYA ESTATE

Mr NATHANIEL SMITH (Wollondilly)—I want to congratulate one of Wollondilly's most coveted getaway locations Kalinya Estate for being named a finalist in the prestigious NSW Tourism Industry Council Awards for 2021. These awards signal a return to the booming tourism industry that our community relies on and having Kalinya named as a finalist in such a competitive award is a great testament not only to Kalinya, but also to the region as a tourist destination. The stunning five star private estate is owned and operated by Chris and Mandy Barnes, whose passion for providing the ultimate luxury experience is evident in every detail of the estate. Kalinya is located on the edge of the Southern Highlands, in Bargo, and makes for a fantastic Sydney escape. Kalinya has previously hosted TV programs *The Bachelorette* and *Married at First Sight*, but also caters for large corporate events or small private getaways. Congratulations to the Chris and Mandy Barnes and Kalinya estate on becoming finalists, and I wish you the best of luck when the winner is announced in February!

GRAYS POINT SOCCER CLUB

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla—Attorney General, and Minister for Prevention of Domestic and Sexual Violence)—Grays Point Soccer Club has been part of its local community since 1965 and in 2021 had almost 650 registered players across 51 teams. The club's numbers were the highest seen in several years and I commend the hard work of the committee and all volunteers for everything they've done behind the scenes to give players of all ages the opportunity to enjoy their football. I particularly acknowledge the tireless work done in 2021 by club officials, including Kirk Barden, Derek Gray, Michelle Battam, Annette Floyd, William Bray, Mick Corran, Richard Hayes, Scott Button, Kay Bellingham, Georgia Dowie, Kim Barden, Rakel Tansley and Rodney Shoblom. I also congratulate Paul Rankin and Scott Button for being recognised for their years of dedicated service by being awarded life membership of the club in 2021. The Grays Point Soccer Club is a key part of its tight knit local community and I acknowledge the important work it does in bringing people together. After the disappointment of the 2021 season being cut short, I look forward to seeing everyone at the club have an enjoyable, successful and uninterrupted season in 2022.

PETER THOMSON

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla—Attorney General, and Minister for Prevention of Domestic and Sexual Violence)—I commend Peter Thomson of Caringbah South for his hard work as a volunteer for the Caringbah Sports Cricket Club over more than 10 years. Peter is dedicated to helping kids and their families have a great experience playing cricket and he can regularly be found in the gear shed in Caringbah packing team kits, arranging match balls or finding an extra piece of equipment to make sure a weekend game goes ahead. He is known as the 'Mr Fixit' of Caringbah Sports and as well as his role as gear steward for all teams, he has jumped in to do a range of jobs including webmaster and team selector, as well as contributing to the club on the committee. Peter became a volunteer when his son was playing for the club and years later he is still working hard behind the scenes. Local sporting clubs are built on their hardworking volunteers and Peter's love of the game of cricket and willingness to lend a hand has helped make Caringbah Sports the successful club it is today.

GYMEA UNITED FOOTBALL CLUB

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla—Attorney General, and Minister for Prevention of Domestic and Sexual Violence)—I acknowledge the excellent work of GyMEA United Football Club to provide an enjoyable environment for people of all ages to play football. The club has been established since 1960 and it has grown to be one of the largest in the Sutherland Shire, with 1575 players across 135 teams in 2021. I commend the dedicated committee and all volunteers for the work to plan for season 2021 and their efforts to help make sure the teams, grounds, uniforms, equipment and canteens were ready week after week. Your selfless and tireless work made a difference for all players, families and spectators. I want to particularly acknowledge the committee

members for their commitment to the game and the community including Anthony Severino, Paul Worthy, Penny Hummerston, Michelle Nagy, Jenny Adair, Michael New, Amanda Behrendt, Lisa Brown, Sian Wallis, Kristie Baker, Enzo Torrillo, Jacob Rua, Gary Rigney, Jake Rigney, Sue Brann, Joel Grove, Paul Assirati and Matthew Chapman. The early finish to the season was no doubt a great disappointment, but congratulations to everyone at Gympie United Football Club on another great year of football and service to our community.

CARINGBAH REDBACKS FOOTBALL CLUB

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla—Attorney General, and Minister for Prevention of Domestic and Sexual Violence)—I commend Caringbah Redbacks Football Club for the work it does to encourage people from the Cronulla electorate to participate in local football. In the heavily shortened season in 2021, the club had 481 players registered across 45 teams. I acknowledge the people who have done the jobs that make sure all of those teams could take the field. To the volunteers who prepared grounds and canteens, arranged playing strips, and coached and managed teams, your work has been very much appreciated. The committee has again worked hard on behalf of players and families in 2021 and I commend them for their efforts – Andy Neudegg, Andy Crawford, Andrew Lawler, Howard Fox, Elizabeth Spink, Rob Ivanovski, Kim Doyle, Steve Loxley, Steve Smith, Scott Milsted, Claudia Trotter, Giulio Di Stefano, Ryan Pike, Jodie Backhouse, Melissa Rommel, Sam Stenning and Natalie Hawkins. Caringbah Redbacks is focused on being family friendly and providing a safe and fun environment and I commend the club for what it does to bring the local community together. I look forward to seeing all of the players and officials back on the grounds of the Sutherland Shire for an uninterrupted season of football in 2022.

REMEMBRANCE DAY 2021

Ms LIESL TESCH (Gosford)—I wish to pay my respects to all service men and women who have fought in battle for Australia; who have paid the ultimate price; those who have been injured and those continuing to serve our nation wherever they may be. Australia is the strong, free and open country it is today because of your service. I would also like to thank and commend all those involved in organising, running and ensuring Remembrance Day 2021 ceremonies went ahead smoothly and without a hitch. Your diligence and commitment to honouring those lost in battle and those continuing to fight for Australia's freedoms are admirable and so appreciated. A particular mention to the Vietnam Veterans', Peacekeepers' & Peacemakers' Association of Australia Central Coast Sub-Branch Incorporated and Gosford RSL Sub Branch, and the Members of the Ocean Beach Surf Club for facilitating poignant and moving commemoration services this year. Lest We Forget

CWA WOY WOY

Ms LIESL TESCH (Gosford)—I would like to send extend 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.

CWA UMINA BEACH RAISES MONEY FOR HOMELESS

Ms LIESL TESCH (Gosford)—As the housing affordability crisis continues to push more Australians into homelessness, the recent fundraising done by the Country Women's Association of Umina Beach that raised over \$2,000 has never been more important. I would like to thank them and their donation to the local charity Mary Macs Place so that those sleeping rough will at the very least have brand new swags with sleeping bags. I would also like to extend special thanks to the efforts of their branch president, Rikki McIntosh, who raised the funds through a sleep out that was held on the 6 October. Thank you to all who donated and organised this fundraiser for both providing critical resources to the homeless as well as raising further awareness for this ever-growing issue that our communities face.

KAREN JONES – MERITORIOUS AWARD PUBLIC SERVICE MEDAL

Ms LIESL TESCH (Gosford)—I congratulate Karen Jones on having been recognised in this year's Queen's Birthday 2021 Honours List with a meritorious award public service medal. Karen is a phenomenal teacher, principal and community leader, she has committed decades of her career to improving the education of thousands of students around the State, notably in the area of Aboriginal education. During her time as principal at Wyoming Public School, under her leadership, the school was able to improve students' literacy growth from twelve per cent to over eighty-six per cent – an amazing feat. Karen has been devoted to providing the best quality

public education that is specifically tailored to individual needs of each student in NSW. I commend Karen on her many years of service to strengthening and improving public education in NSW and wish her every success.

SHELL COVE MARINA

Ms ANNA WATSON (Shellharbour)—It's been over thirty years in the making, but I was so proud to be on hand to witness a special moment in Shellharbour's history, the official opening of the Shell Cove Marina and Waterfront precinct. On Friday, 29 October 2021, the very first boat arrived in the Shell Cove Harbour. It was a sight to see. The marina and waterfront precinct is a truly spectacular and wonderful asset for such a beautiful area. The opportunities offered from this development will be endless for not only residents of Shell Cove and the Illawarra region, but for the rest of NSW. In the 1980s, the concept of Shell Cove was the largest coastal-tourist residential development initiated by a local government authority in Australia at the time. The first lots of land went on sale in 1997. Now, this unique project culminates in the opening of the Waterfront Precinct and Marina, over 30 years later. Such a historic and monumental occasion deserves recognition, and my thanks go out to everybody, past and present, that has been involved with this project and ensured that this vision has come to fruition.

GEORGES HALL PUBLIC SCHOOL

Ms TANIA MIHAILUK (Bankstown)—In June 2021, schools and students across the state were required to shift to online learning as a result of the recent lockdowns. I take this opportunity to recognise the efforts of Principal Ms Poppy Cassimatis and her staff at Georges Hall Public School for their terrific work in assisting their school community throughout the Pandemic. Despite most students learning from home, Georges Hall Public School ensured its school community remained well-connected despite online learning, helping students to reach and in many cases exceed their learning targets and in devising several initiatives to keep students engaged. I also acknowledge the efforts of parents and guardians of students of Georges Hall Public School who have worked tirelessly throughout the pandemic to support their children with online learning. I am delighted that all students have now resumed face-to-face learning, and are able to be reunited with their friends, peers, and teachers. Once again, I congratulate Ms Poppy Cassimatis, teachers, staff, parents, students and indeed the whole Georges Hall Public School community for their exceptional efforts in navigating through these most challenging times.

GEORGES RIVER GRAMMAR

Ms TANIA MIHAILUK (Bankstown)—In June 2021, schools and students across the state were required to shift to online learning as a result of the recent lockdowns. I take this opportunity to recognise the efforts of Principal Ms Raquel Charet and her staff at Georges River Grammar for their terrific work in assisting their school community throughout the Pandemic. Despite most students learning from home, Georges River Grammar ensured its school community remained well-connected despite online learning, helping students to reach and in many cases exceed their learning targets and in devising several initiatives to keep students engaged. I also acknowledge the efforts of parents and guardians of students of Georges River Grammar who have worked tirelessly throughout the pandemic to support their children with online learning. I am delighted that all students have now resumed face-to-face learning, and are able to be reunited with their friends, peers, and teachers. Once again, I congratulate Ms Raquel Charet, teachers, staff, parents, students and indeed the whole Georges River Grammar community for their exceptional efforts in navigating through these most challenging times.

HOPEPOINT CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Ms TANIA MIHAILUK (Bankstown)—In June 2021, schools and students across the state were required to shift to online learning as a result of the recent lockdowns. I take this opportunity to recognise the efforts of Principal Ms Linda Spence and her staff at HopePoint Christian School for their terrific work in assisting their school community throughout the Pandemic. Despite most students learning from home, HopePoint Christian School ensured its school community remained well-connected despite online learning, helping students to reach and in many cases exceed their learning targets and in devising several initiatives to keep students engaged. I also acknowledge the efforts of parents and guardians of students of HopePoint Christian School who have worked tirelessly throughout the pandemic to support their children with online learning. I am delighted that all students have now resumed face-to-face learning, and are able to be reunited with their friends, peers, and teachers. Once again, I congratulate Ms Linda Spence, teachers, staff, parents, students and indeed the whole HopePoint Christian School community for their exceptional efforts in navigating through these most challenging times.

GEORGE BASS SCHOOL

Ms TANIA MIHAILUK (Bankstown)—In June 2021, schools and students across the state were required to shift to online learning as a result of the recent lockdowns. I take this opportunity to recognise the efforts of Principal Ms Louise Gomersall and her staff at George Bass School for their terrific work in assisting their school community throughout the Pandemic. Despite most students learning from home, George Bass School ensured its

school community remained well-connected despite online learning, helping students to reach and in many cases exceed their learning targets and in devising several initiatives to keep students engaged. I also acknowledge the efforts of parents and guardians of students of George Bass School who have worked tirelessly throughout the pandemic to support their children with online learning. I am delighted that all students have now resumed face-to-face learning, and are able to be reunited with their friends, peers, and teachers. Once again, I congratulate Ms Louise Gomersall, teachers, staff, parents, students and indeed the whole George Bass School community for their exceptional efforts in navigating through these most challenging times.

VERONA SCHOOL HSC STUDENTS

Mr GUY ZANGARI (Fairfield)—I wish to take this opportunity to acknowledge the efforts of Higher School Certificate (HSC) students and Preliminary HSC students from Verona School Yennora who undertook their studies in 2020 and 2021 under difficult circumstances due to the COVID-19 pandemic. When classes moved to online learning, these students were faced with having to change the manner in which they studied and most importantly the way in which they interacted with their peers and teachers. For many if not all HSC and Preliminary students, this was a challenging time, fraught with uncertainty and anxiety for their future. I commend these students for rising to the challenge and completing their academic requirements, despite two years of uncertainty and major changes to their learning model. I wish them the very best of luck in the HSC examinations and express my pride in their efforts on behalf of the Fairfield community. I also thank Principal Carla Scott for her leadership throughout the pandemic and I commend the teachers at Verona School for their outstanding contribution in delivering the HSC content in a remote setting.

CANLEY VALE HIGH SCHOOL HSC STUDENTS

Mr GUY ZANGARI (Fairfield)—I wish to take this opportunity to acknowledge the efforts of Higher School Certificate (HSC) students and Preliminary HSC students from Canley Vale High School who undertook their studies in 2020 and 2021 under difficult circumstances due to the COVID-19 pandemic. When classes moved to online learning, these students were faced with having to change the manner in which they studied and most importantly the way in which they interacted with their peers and teachers. For many if not all HSC and Preliminary students, this was a challenging time, fraught with uncertainty and anxiety for their future. I commend these students for rising to the challenge and completing their academic requirements, despite two years of uncertainty and major changes to their learning model. I wish them the very best of luck in the HSC examinations and express my pride in their efforts on behalf of the Fairfield community. I also thank Principal Deborah Santucci for her leadership throughout the pandemic and I commend the teachers at Canley Vale High School for their outstanding contribution in delivering the HSC content in a remote setting.

FAIRVALE HIGH SCHOOL HSC STUDENTS

Mr GUY ZANGARI (Fairfield)—I wish to take this opportunity to acknowledge the efforts of Higher School Certificate (HSC) students and Preliminary HSC students from Fairvale High School who undertook their studies in 2020 and 2021 under difficult circumstances due to the COVID-19 pandemic. When classes moved to online learning, these students were faced with having to change the manner in which they studied and most importantly the way in which they interacted with their peers and teachers. For many if not all HSC and Preliminary students, this was a challenging time, fraught with uncertainty and anxiety for their future. I commend these students for rising to the challenge and completing their academic requirements, despite two years of uncertainty and major changes to their learning model. I wish them the very best of luck in the HSC examinations and express my pride in their efforts on behalf of the Fairfield community. I also thank Principal Kathleen Seeto for her leadership throughout the pandemic and I commend the teachers at Fairvale High School for their outstanding contribution in delivering the HSC content in a remote setting.

FAIRFIELD HIGH SCHOOL HSC STUDENTS

Mr GUY ZANGARI (Fairfield)—I wish to take this opportunity to acknowledge the efforts of Higher School Certificate (HSC) students and Preliminary HSC students from Fairfield High School who undertook their studies in 2020 and 2021 under difficult circumstances due to the COVID-19 pandemic. When classes moved to online learning, these students were faced with having to change the manner in which they studied and most importantly the way in which they interacted with their peers and teachers. For many if not all HSC and Preliminary students, this was a challenging time, fraught with uncertainty and anxiety for their future. I commend these students for rising to the challenge and completing their academic requirements, despite two years of uncertainty and major changes to their learning model. I wish them the very best of luck in the HSC examinations and express my pride in their efforts on behalf of the Fairfield community. I also thank Principal Charles Borg for his leadership throughout the pandemic and I commend the teachers at Fairfield High School for their outstanding contribution in delivering the HSC content in a remote setting.

WYONG CREEK PUBLIC SCHOOL

Mr DAVID HARRIS (Wyang)—Well done to Wyong Creek Public School for their participation and fundraising efforts for 'Jump Rope for Heart'. "Jump Rope for Heart" is The Heart Foundation's skipping program that's helps primary school students move more and have fun, while they raise funds for heart research, patient support and programs that help save lives. This November Wyong Creek Public School raised \$2500 for the program, "Jump Rope for Heart". The director of the program "Jump Rope for Heart" was so impressed that she sent a video thanking the school for their efforts in fundraising. I wish Wyong Creek Public School all the best for 2022.

WYONG MUSICAL THEATRE COMPANY

Mr DAVID HARRIS (Wyang)—Congratulations to the Wyong Musical Theatre Company for being selected in this month's Greater Central Coast community funding program. The program is run by Greater Bank and they are giving away \$3,000 every month to locals helping make the Central Coast Greater and giving away over \$50,000 to over 50 community organisations. Wyong Musical Theatre Company is an amateur community musical theatre group from North Wyong which produces 2 musicals per year showcasing the talents of the Central Coast from the ages of 8 years. Congratulations Wyong Musical Theatre Company and Merry Christmas, wishing you all the best for 2022.

HAROLD KRATZ

Mr CHRISTOPHER GULAPTIS (Clarence)—I offer my congratulations to Mr Harold Kratz who was awarded an OAM in this year's Queen's Birthday Honours List. Harold, who is 93 years young, received his OAM for his services to rowing within the Lower Clarence area. Harold has quite a list of honours to his name having been inducted into the Clarence Sporting Wall of Fame, receiving Life Membership of the Lower Clarence Amateur Rowing and Sculling Club, Life Membership of Combined High Schools, Satellite Coach for the North Coast Academy of Sport and Maclean High School Rowing Coach. I wish Harold many more years for being able to participate in the sport that he loves.

**The House adjourned pursuant to resolution at 20:57 until
Wednesday 17 November 2021 at 09:30.**