



**New South Wales**

# **Legislative Assembly**

## **PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES (HANSARD)**

**Fifty-Seventh Parliament  
First Session**

**Tuesday 22 February 2022**

Authorised by the Parliament of New South Wales



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

|  |      |
|--|------|
| Bills .....  | 8613 |
| Electronic Conveyancing (Adoption of National Law) Amendment Bill 2022 ..... | 8613 |
| Second Reading Debate .....  | 8613 |
| Third Reading .....  | 8621 |
| Announcements .....  | 8621 |
| Legislative Assembly Photographs .....                                       | 8621 |
| Question Time .....  | 8621 |
| Rail Services Disruption .....   | 8621 |
| State Infrastructure .....   | 8623 |
| Rail Services Disruption .....   | 8625 |
| Regional New South Wales .....   | 8626 |
| Rail Services Disruption .....   | 8627 |
| State Economy .....  | 8628 |
| Rail Services Disruption .....   | 8630 |
| State Infrastructure .....   | 8632 |
| Independent Commission Against Corruption Funding .....                      | 8633 |
| Vocational Education .....   | 8633 |
| Committees .....   | 8634 |
| Legislation Review Committee .....   | 8634 |
| Reports .....  | 8634 |
| Business of the House .....  | 8634 |
| Business Lapsed .....  | 8634 |
| Bills .....  | 8634 |
| Motor Sports Bill 2022 .....   | 8634 |
| Major Events Amendment Bill 2022 .....                                       | 8634 |
| First Reading .....  | 8634 |
| Second Reading Speech .....  | 8634 |
| Budget .....   | 8637 |
| Budget Estimates and Related Papers 2021-2022 .....                          | 8637 |
| Personal Explanation .....   | 8640 |
| State Economy .....  | 8640 |
| Budget .....   | 8640 |
| Budget Estimates and Related Papers 2021-2022 .....                          | 8640 |
| Community Recognition Statements .....                                       | 8644 |
| Scott McLachlan .....  | 8644 |
| Coffs Harbour Electorate Higher School Certificate Showcases .....           | 8644 |
| Bashar Hanna .....   | 8644 |
| Australian All School Championship Winner Jack C .....                       | 8644 |
| Tribute to Lawrence Donald Nicholson .....                                   | 8645 |
| Wauchope Palliative Care Fundraising .....                                   | 8645 |

## TABLE OF CONTENTS—*continuing*

|   |      |
|---|------|
| The Sorceress of Percussion Claire Edwardes.....                  | 8645 |
| Hawkesbury Australia Day Awards .....                             | 8645 |
| Maha Abdo .....   | 8645 |
| Tribute to Mandy Skewes .....                                     | 8646 |
| Auburn Electorate Community Organisations.....                    | 8646 |
| Livvi's Place.....  | 8646 |
| Amanda Carle .....  | 8646 |
| Dr John Brabant.....  | 8646 |
| East Campbelltown Eagles Rugby League Football Club.....          | 8647 |
| Tribute to Michelle Hayes .....                                   | 8647 |
| Tribute to Beryl Gillard .....                                    | 8647 |
| Picnic Point High School Higher School Certificate Results .....  | 8647 |
| Wayne Bennah.....   | 8647 |
| Matthew Reid.....   | 8648 |
| Maitland Show .....   | 8648 |
| Fran Mooney.....  | 8648 |
| Chrissy Flanagan .....  | 8648 |
| Guyra Anglers Club .....  | 8648 |
| Projuice Cafe .....   | 8649 |
| Tribute to Neil Balnaves .....                                    | 8649 |
| Star Scientific.....  | 8649 |
| Heathcote Electorate Higher School Certificate Showcases .....    | 8649 |
| Joel Fitzgibbon, MP .....   | 8649 |
| Zaccary Lancaster .....   | 8650 |
| Absec .....   | 8650 |
| Public Interest Debate.....                                       | 8650 |
| Family Support .....  | 8650 |
| Private Members' Statements.....                                  | 8657 |
| Coffs Harbour Electorate Sporting Champions .....                 | 8657 |
| Lunar New Year .....  | 8658 |
| Tribute to Harry Hunt, OAM.....                                   | 8659 |
| Country Shows Support Package.....                                | 8660 |
| Support Class Placements.....                                     | 8661 |
| Affordable Housing .....  | 8661 |
| Tempe Bunnings Development .....                                  | 8662 |
| Warialda Fire Mitigation Plan .....                               | 8663 |
| Wollondilly Electorate Stronger Country Communities Funding ..... | 8664 |
| Tribute to Dr Con Moshegov.....                                   | 8664 |
| St George Community Awards.....                                   | 8665 |
| Blacktown Electorate.....   | 8666 |
| Camden Electorate Australia Day Awards .....                      | 8667 |
| City of Parramatta Council .....                                  | 8668 |

## TABLE OF CONTENTS—*continuing*

|   |      |
|---|------|
| Newcastle Electorate Youth Mental Health Services ..... | 8668 |
| Tribute to Councillor Glenn Taylor .....                | 8669 |
| Central Coast Housing .....                             | 8670 |
| North Shore Electorate Australia Day Awards .....       | 8670 |
| The Greens Agriculture and Land Use Policy .....        | 8671 |
| St Ives Youth Precinct .....                            | 8672 |
| Swansea Channel .....                                   | 8673 |
| Hawkesbury Electorate Flooding .....                    | 8674 |
| Community Recognition Notices .....                     | 8675 |
| Fairfield 2021 HSC Students .....                       | 8675 |
| Seminary of the Good Shepherd .....                     | 8675 |
| Red Mass .....  | 8675 |
| Dan Wilson, ARIA Nominee .....                          | 8675 |
| John Thomas, OAM .....                                  | 8675 |
| Pamela Comerford, OAM .....                             | 8676 |
| Simpson Cottage .....                                   | 8676 |
| Nowra High School .....                                 | 8676 |
| Sharon Hooglan .....                                    | 8676 |
| Telopea Park Award .....                                | 8676 |
| Tsehay Hawkins .....                                    | 8677 |
| Ahmed Daaboul .....                                     | 8677 |
| Betty Hall .....  | 8677 |
| Waratah Private Hospital .....                          | 8677 |
| Mr Tom Drury .....                                      | 8677 |
| Holly Millican .....                                    | 8677 |
| Kathy Norley .....                                      | 8678 |
| Sister Lois Woodcock .....                              | 8678 |
| Aunty Cheryl Penrith, Aunty Mary Atkinson .....         | 8678 |
| Doctor Ian Stewart .....                                | 8678 |
| Mardi Gras Fair Day .....                               | 8679 |
| Haberfield Association – Yasmar Fence .....             | 8679 |
| Gymea North Public School .....                         | 8679 |
| Hopefield Services Incorporated .....                   | 8679 |
| The Point Preschool .....                               | 8679 |
| Lake Munmorah High School 2022 School Leaders .....     | 8680 |
| Northlakes High School 2022 School Leaders .....        | 8680 |
| Pelican Flat Public School Leaders 2022 .....           | 8680 |
| Rotary Club of Wallacia-Mulgoa Valley .....             | 8680 |
| Rob Andrews .....                                       | 8680 |
| Coby Carruthers .....                                   | 8681 |
| Mark Dring .....  | 8681 |
| Marieka Battiato .....                                  | 8681 |

## TABLE OF CONTENTS—*continuing*

|   |      |
|---|------|
| Donna Markulin .....  | 8681 |
| Mr Mark Cotter, OAM .....   | 8682 |
| Vale Steve Yeates .....   | 8682 |
| Local HSC Subject Prize Winners 2021 .....  | 8682 |
| Queenwood 2021 Ib Results .....   | 8682 |
| Sydney Seahorse Art Project .....   | 8682 |
| Hornsby Hero, Hylette Evans .....   | 8683 |
| Northholm Grammar Student Justin Kim .....  | 8683 |
| Northholm Grammar 2021 HSC Results .....  | 8683 |
| #Padupublichealth .....   | 8683 |
| Lugarno Football Club .....   | 8683 |
| Special Olympics Flinders .....   | 8684 |
| Camden Australia Day Citizenship Ceremony 2022 .....  | 8684 |
| NSW All School Athletics Championships .....  | 8684 |
| Robbie Minns .....  | 8684 |
| La Salle Catholic College .....   | 8684 |
| Canterbury Bankstown Chamber of Commerce 2021 Annual Gala Dinner .....                        | 8685 |
| Chester Hill High School .....  | 8685 |
| Flamecoal Chicken Caringbah and Purebred Fitness – Sutherland Shire Local Business Awards.... | 8685 |
| Aboriginal Land on Northern Beaches .....   | 8685 |
| Professor Thomas Maschmeyer Converting Plastic to Oil .....                                   | 8685 |
| Minmi Public School Student Leaders .....   | 8686 |
| Derek Brindle .....   | 8686 |
| Maryland Public School Student Leaders .....  | 8686 |
| Westside Podiatry Clinic - Charles Sturt Excellence Award 2021 .....                          | 8686 |
| Student Surprised to Lead State - Ian Burton Xavier High School .....                         | 8687 |
| Australia Day 26th January 2022 – Tumbarumba and Snowy Valleys Council .....                  | 8687 |
| Mitchell Austin .....   | 8687 |
| Hastings Secondary College Westport Campus House Captains .....                               | 8687 |
| Blake Johnson .....   | 8687 |
| 2022 Laurieton Family Fishing Bonanza .....   | 8688 |
| Bradfordville Family Medical Centre .....   | 8688 |
| Goulburn Doctors .....  | 8688 |
| Goulburn Health Hub .....   | 8688 |
| Elwazze Creamery .....  | 8688 |
| Briana Sinclair .....   | 8689 |
| Marrickville Legal Centre .....   | 8689 |
| Robyn Evans .....   | 8689 |
| Monica Chehab .....   | 8689 |
| Millers Point Community Hub Co-Op .....   | 8689 |
| Gauri Godbole .....   | 8690 |
| Amarli Yeats .....  | 8690 |

## TABLE OF CONTENTS—*continuing*

|  |      |
|--|------|
| Bec Bakes and Our Father - Sutherland Shire Local Business Awards .....          | 8690 |
| Nunu Designs and Cincotta Chemist - Sutherland Shire Local Business Awards ..... | 8690 |
| Frank and Jeune Gersbach .....   | 8690 |
| Kate Jeffery .....   | 8691 |
| Quentin Park Alpacas .....   | 8691 |
| Queens Scout .....   | 8691 |
| 2021 Art Express .....   | 8691 |

# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

**Tuesday 22 February 2022**

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

**The Speaker** read the prayer and acknowledgement of country.

*[Notices of motions given.]*

## *Bills*

### **ELECTRONIC CONVEYANCING (ADOPTION OF NATIONAL LAW) AMENDMENT BILL 2022**

#### **Second Reading Debate**

**Debate resumed from 15 February 2022.**

**Ms YASMIN CATLEY (Swansea) (12:15):** I lead for the Opposition on the Electronic Conveyancing (Adoption of National Law) Amendment Bill 2022, which seeks to amend the Electronic Conveyancing National Law as set out in the appendix of the Electronic Conveyancing (Adoption of National Law) Act 2012. The amendments will further the development of a national scheme for the electronic lodgement and processing of conveyancing transactions and enable interoperability so new lodging network operators can more easily enter the market.

The amendments to the Electronic Conveyancing National Law establish a definition of "interoperability", which refers to the interworking of electronic lodgement networks, known as ELNs, which are run by electronic lodgement network operators, known as ELNOs. The definition of interoperability makes clear that the network of ELNs operated by ELNOs must enable a subscriber using an ELN, referred to as the "first subscriber", to complete a transaction with another subscriber using a different ELN without having to subscribe to the other ELN. Interoperability also requires the preparation of a registry instrument or other document in an electronic form using data from different ELNs. Schedule 1 [3] to the bill inserts a definition of "financial institution" in section 12 of the Electronic Conveyancing National Law. "Financial institution" means either "an authorised deposit-taking institution as defined in the Banking Act 1959 of the Commonwealth, section 5 (1)" or "a bank constituted by a law of this jurisdiction or of another State or the Commonwealth".

Schedule 1 [6] to the bill inserts new section 18A into the Electronic National Conveyancing Law, which covers the responsibilities of an ELNO to establish and maintain interoperability. Subsection (1) provides that a person approved as an ELNO "must, in accordance with the operating requirements, establish and maintain interoperability between the ELN operated by the person and each ELN operated by another ELNO". Subsection (2) empowers the registrar to waive compliance with the interoperability requirement if the registrar believes that granting the waiver is reasonably necessary in the circumstances. Subsection (3) states:

- (3) A waiver under subsection (2) may—
  - (a) be total or partial, and
  - (b) apply to particular persons approved as an ELNO ... or particular classes of those persons, and
  - (c) apply generally or be limited in its application by reference to specified exceptions or factors, and
  - (d) apply indefinitely or for a specified period, and
  - (e) be unconditional or subject to conditions or restrictions.

I move to new section 22 (2) (c), which updates the operating requirements for the ELNOs to insert that an ELNO will be required to enter into agreements with other ELNOs in respect to interoperability. The operating requirements establish technical and operational requirements for an ELN, such as data standards and other requirements related to interoperability. Other changes to the operating requirements include the integration of an ELN with other electronic systems; the separation of services provided by the ELN operated by the ELNO from other services provided by that ELNO; and the fees and charges payable to an ELNO and the circumstances in which fees and charges are not payable. The updated operating requirements also extend to the resolution of disputes between an ELNO and subscribers to the ELN operated by that ELNO, or the clients of those subscribers. This section also includes an operating requirement for the participation of an ELNO in a scheme for an industry code relating to associated financial transactions.



Section 40 (2) of the bill makes clear that, while the operating requirements make provisions relating to data standards for financial transactions and participation of an ELNO in a scheme for an industry code relating to those transactions, the registrar is not responsible for the regulation or conduct of associated financial transactions. Division 4, section 43 of the bill provides that the registrar may disclose information to the Australian Registrars' National Electronic Conveyancing Council, known as ARNECC, another registrar or a person or body who or which has functions or the responsibility for the administration or oversight of this law, or the land titles legislation, in relation to:

- (a) an ELNO's compliance with the operating requirements or the interoperability requirement,
- (b) a subscriber's compliance with the participation rules,
- (c) a compliance examination conducted under Part 3, Division 5,
- (d) any other matter relating to the performance of the Registrar's functions under this Law.

The registrar will also be exempt from any law in New South Wales relating to privacy and confidentiality. The bill will further advance not just the State's but the nation's shift to an eConveyancing model, which began in 2008 when the Council of Australian Governments, known as COAG, committed to creating a single national system to facilitate conveyancing transactions to occur electronically. The former Minister for Finance and Services, the Hon. Greg Pearce, introduced the Electronic Conveyancing (Adoption of National Law) Bill 2012 that established the Electronic Conveyancing National Law as the law in New South Wales. In 2014 the changes were further built on when the now Premier introduced the Real Property Further Amendment (Electronic Conveyancing) Bill 2014 to align paper and electronic conveyancing processes.

In 2019 New South Wales shifted to a 100 per cent electronic conveyancing system, and continued to evolve this system with the Real Property Amendment (Certificates of Title) Bill 2021, which shifted all interactions with the Torrens Title Register to be done electronically. At the time my colleague the member for Canterbury raised two major concerns on the behalf of the Opposition. Firstly, the shift to 100 per cent eConveyancing would create a monopoly for the sole ELNO, PEXA. Secondly, any changes had to have combating cyber security risks at their core. I note that in 2020 the member for Canterbury made clear Labor's support for establishing interoperability standards to promote competition, and I state in the House now that our view on this has not changed. However, we must ensure that we balance promoting competition with risk mitigations for fraud and cyber security breaches.

In consulting with stakeholders, support for the bill has been mixed. As the Minister has stated, both the Law Council of Australia and the Australian Banking Association have expressed support for the need for competition between ELNOs. However, in its letter of support, the Law Council notes that the concerns it raised in a November 2021 submission to the Australian Registrars' National Electronic Conveyancing Council remain unaddressed. I ask that the Minister elaborate on how the Government plans to address these concerns and why they were not addressed in this bill. The Australian Banking Association [ABA] has expressed support for interoperability and competition in the market as a driver of innovation, increased efficiencies, increased customer service and reduced prices. The ABA stated that, in developing and implementing interoperability, it is essential that safety and security in eConveyancing is maintained. The Minister claims industry support of interoperability and the bill in its present form. However, it is my understanding that the Minister via the land registry reached out to the Australian Institute of Conveyancers [AIC] National and the AIC NSW, asking for a letter of support. They declined. Instead they wrote:

... our collective opinion is that the Bill is premature, requires industry consultation and substantial amendments before being enacted in law.

The AIC National and the AIC NSW believe the long and complex development of eConveyancing has always been based on the principle of understanding between the government, regulatory authorities and industry participants that eConveyancing and interoperability will not result in a loss of security in the present eConveyancing system, diminished integrity of the land register or diminished public confidence in the system. Rather, eConveyancing and interoperability should result in the provision of appropriate regulation of approved ELNOs, and speedy dispute resolution procedures for practitioners and their clients. Further, eConveyancing and interoperability should not result in an eConveyancing system of lesser efficiencies or increased risk compared with the present one. As such the AIC National and the AIC NSW's considered view is that the bill in its present form does not meet these requirements and, consequently, is not fit for purpose.

I have consulted broadly. Another ELNO on the market is Sympli, which was licensed in New South Wales in 2019. It has expressed its strong support for this bill and the need to accelerate interoperability to allow other players into the market. PEXA, which is the monopoly provider at the moment, has expressed its support for competition in this space but has also expressed reservations about the current time line for adopting the proposed interoperability model. I was advised by PEXA that the rushed time line could potentially see a market outage,

which would be devastating for not only homeowners but also our economy. To address the issues, PEXA would like to see an independent readiness and feasibility review to ensure the transition to interoperability is done in the safest and most secure manner.

In his second reading speech, the Minister made clear his commitment to competition, but this simply does not stack up against his record as a Minister. This is the Minister who championed Park'nPay, a government-funded monopoly benefiting a single private entity. He is so committed to further this monopoly that he put forward a proposal to legislate the use of Park'nPay for all councils until his Nationals colleagues rolled him on it in Cabinet.

Labor believes in interoperability and the important role it plays in bringing competition to the market. It is vital that we ensure the interoperability model adopted is one that not only delivers a better outcome for consumers but also does not compromise safety. That is why I have met with the Minister's office to discuss this bill, but it is worth noting that, despite the Minister's rhetoric around consultation, the Opposition was not provided with a briefing until just days before the bill was introduced. I have sought to engage constructively with the Minister on this bill to deliver the best possible outcome for consumers but, despite undertakings from the Minister's office to produce a cost-benefit analysis, none has been provided.

We must ensure that in promoting competition in this space, we do not unnecessarily increase risk factors. Before we proceed with this model, consumers should know how much they can expect to save versus the extra risks being introduced into the system. It is vital that we get this right and do not unnecessarily put at risk the biggest investment of people's lives. To do this we have to listen to and take on board the feedback of all stakeholders. Rushing to adopt an interoperability model that fails to adequately regulate the sector and address increased fraud and cyber risks will lead to short-term gain but long-term pain.

Labor does not oppose interoperability but believes regulatory controls must be put in place urgently to ensure the market delivers the best possible outcome for all participants. The bill does not provide a regulatory framework; Labor has been told that that will be dealt with down the line. Too often the Government and in particular the Minister brings legislation to the Parliament that is not holistic but instead piecemeal. As a principle, that is not good legislative practice. The Opposition reserves its right to move amendments in the other place. I trust the Government will take on board the Opposition's concerns.

**Mrs TANYA DAVIES (Mulgoa) (12:30):** I support the Electronic Conveyancing (Adoption of National Law) Amendment Bill 2022. I will focus on the main objectives and key changes introduced by the reform. The object of the Electronic Conveyancing National Law is to promote efficiency throughout Australia in property conveyancing by providing a common legal framework for the electronic lodgement and processing of documents that upholds the integrity of the Torrens system of land title. The reform builds on that objective and marks the next phase for electronic conveyancing: establishing the framework for a competitive electronic conveyancing market that will continue to evolve and innovate to deliver long-term benefits to the people of New South Wales. There is more than one electronic lodgement network operator, or ELNO, in New South Wales. However, the market is dominated by a single incumbent ELNO that has, in effect, gained a de facto monopoly.

The current regulatory framework does not facilitate effective competition and therefore entrenches the incumbent's monopoly. That cannot continue as it could be detrimental to the property sector, the economy and, most importantly, our communities. Proposed section 18A provides a solution to the problem and meets the key objective of the reform by requiring electronic lodgement network operators [ELNOs] to interoperate, or securely connect their back-end systems to enable the seamless exchange of data, so that subscribers who use different ELNOs can complete transactions with one another. It will also create a level playing field for ELNOs to compete in the market. Registrars will be able to waive the interoperability requirement in certain circumstances, including to aid the implementation of the framework, by allowing an incremental rollout so that systems can be built and tested. Importantly, the bill will futureproof the legislation by ensuring that impending innovations and technological developments can be accommodated by the ELNO models.

The bill defines "interoperability" as the interworking of ELNOs in a way that allows a subscriber to conduct an electronic conveyancing transaction with one or more subscribers to other ELNOs. Interworking must also allow for the preparation of a registry instrument or other document in electronic form using data from different ELNOs. That will offer subscribers greater flexibility in undertaking their conveyancing transactions. In keeping with the existing framework for electronic conveyancing, the detailed regulatory requirements needed for interoperability will be established through operating requirements, which are determined by the registrars of each State and Territory. The bill clarifies the existing heads of power in section 22 to allow registrars to resolve complaints and disputes and to determine operating requirements that deal with interoperability agreements negotiated and entered into by ELNOs.

A crucial element of electronic conveyancing is the statutory reliance regime in section 12 of the Electronic Conveyancing National Law, which allows parties to rely on a digital signature without needing to look behind the signature into matters such as who attached the signature and whether they had the required authority. That gives all parties certainty when transacting with other parties in an electronic workspace. While the current drafting of section 12 is adequate for a transaction in a single electronic lodgement network environment, it needs to be extended to cover interoperable transactions, particularly with regard to the associated financial settlement instructions. The bill addresses that by extending the list of parties that can rely on a digital signature to include ELNOs and, for directions for the payment of money, financial institutions. To further aid the transition from a single ELNO to a multi-ELNO electronic conveyancing ecosystem, the bill will allow registrars to require ELNOs to participate in an industry code which will establish a framework for self-regulation for banks and ELNOs in relation to the financial settlement aspects of electronic conveyancing transactions, and will allow registrars from different jurisdictions to exchange information about compliance with electronic national conveyancing law requirements.

This bill and the strengthened regulatory framework it introduces is critical for the development of a secure, efficient and competitive framework for electronic conveyancing. It is the first phase of an ongoing reform, with further changes envisaged to introduce a robust enforcement regime to support the regulatory framework. Ultimately, this reform is an important step towards achieving a resilient electronic conveyancing system that is built for the future. It will inject effective and sustainable competition and innovation and, therefore, create further efficiencies in time and cost savings. Ultimately this will positively impact not only participants in electronic conveyancing transactions and commercial entities but also the economy and New South Wales more broadly.

I focus on a specific example that highlights how this new electronic conveyancing model of transactions improves efficiencies in time savings. Marie Haining, a constituent of mine who lives in Glenmore Park, is a paralegal in conveyancing with Bell Lawyers at Penrith. She was my 2021 Mulgoa Local Woman of the Year award recipient. The reason I selected Marie was multi-pronged. Only last year, at the youthful age of 73, she stepped down from working full-time as a paralegal in conveyancing to working four days a week. Not only was she in effect continuing to work full-time at the age of 73, but in the years leading up to her seventy-third birthday she had also been faced with the transition of moving from a paper-based conveyancing system to an electronic-based conveyancing system using PEXA.

When I spoke with her, she explained in more detail what she was facing at the age of 70. Would she continue in her profession as a paralegal in conveyancing, a job she was passionate about, or would she use the incoming electronic transaction system as a reason for her to retire from the workforce? On 25 March 2021 I spoke in this place about her experience. I again highlight Marie and other older people in our communities across New South Wales who see the benefits of technological change, embrace it and take on the challenge of learning a new system. Initially Marie was very fearful of the change and extremely nervous and she was lacking in confidence that she could learn the new system. But her approach was, "I am going to have a go and see what happens."

I am proud to say that Marie was successful. Having learnt the new system, she told me—and I quoted her in the House on 25 March 2021—that she not only is mastering the database but also is thrilled that she now has the ability to do her job faster, which means that on behalf of her company at Penrith she can provide a faster return of documentation to the community, the people whom she serves and whom we serve in this place. In this place, and in relation to this bill, we talk a lot about complex works and arrangements, the coordination of national jurisdictions and so on. But this legislation provides a system that is not only safe and effective but also more efficient for companies, the people in our workforce and ultimately our communities. I support the bill.

**Mr NATHANIEL SMITH (Wollondilly) (12:39):** I speak in support of the Electronic Conveyancing (Adoption of National Law) Amendment Bill 2022 and the importance of these reforms for delivering competition in the electronic lodgement network operator [ELNO] market. Effective competition is about more than just having multiple providers of service. For competition to work and deliver benefits to customers, providers must compete on a level playing field with equal opportunity to reach customers to deliver their services. This reform will create a regulatory framework that provides that level playing field. There is no doubt that electronic conveyancing reform has been a resounding success.

I cannot believe that MPs who are solicitors are not rushing down to speak in debate on the bill after the years they have done conveyancing. It is a tough gig and extremely detailed. The transition from clunky, paper-based processes to a fully integrated digital experience has increased efficiency, reduced errors and saved time and costs for lawyers, conveyancers and banks, with flow-on benefits for buyers and sellers of property, including cost savings and faster settlement times. Despite that success, competition has not developed in the ELNO market, which continues to be dominated by a single incumbent ELNO. The current regulatory framework allows for more than one ELNO to operate. However, that alone is not enough to facilitate competition.

It does not create a level playing field for two key reasons. First, the incumbent operator has secured an unintended monopoly in the ELNO market, which has been bolstered by the mandating of eConveyancing in New South Wales, removing any competition from paper conveyancing. The incumbent now has close to 100 per cent of the conveyancing market, making it very difficult for any competitor ELNOs to establish a foothold in the market. Secondly, the ELNO market is subject to network effects, which is when the value of the provider's service increases with the number of users of the service. That is because each transaction has up to four parties: a buyer, a seller and their banks. In order to complete the transaction, each party must use the same ELNO.

That makes it difficult for new ELNOs to break into the market because customers can use the new network only if all other parties of a transaction also move to a new network. For existing customers, it is much simpler to stick with the incumbent because it has the largest network. New customers are likely to join the incumbent for the same reason. In this way, network effects entrench the incumbent's de facto monopoly. We saw that with the telecommunications network with mobile phones. We had Telstra and Optus, and then Vodafone came on the market. Then it was Orange and Boost, and now even ALDI has its own. There are many other suppliers but obviously they use the services of Optus and Telstra. That is another question altogether, but it is similar to this.

Interoperability is a means of breaking network effects and removing the incumbent's significant market share as a competitive advantage. Interoperability requires ELNOs to connect their back-end systems to communicate and exchange data, so that a user of ELNO A can complete a conveyancing transaction with users of ELNOs B and C. In other words, users can complete transactions with the ELNO of their choice without regard to which ELNO the other parties to the transaction are using.

Interoperability is so common in other markets that people do not really notice it. They take it for granted that Telstra customers can call and text Optus customers and Vodafone customers, not just other Telstra customers. I am sounding a bit like Sir Humphrey. People take it for granted that if they have an account with the Commonwealth Bank, they do not have to track down a Commonwealth Bank ATM to withdraw cash; they can use an ATM operated by NAB, Westpac or any other bank to access their money. The bill will make it mandatory for ELNOs to establish interoperability with all other ELNOs—to connect their back-end systems so that a user of ELNO A can participate in and complete transactions with users of ELNOs B and C. The interoperability will reduce network effects, creating a level playing field for competitors and new ELNOs to compete in the market and ultimately delivering the benefits of competition to the community through greater choice, innovation and downward pressure on ELNO prices.

Expert economic bodies and regulatory authorities have endorsed interoperability as a solution to delivering competition in the ELNO market. The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission supports interoperability as facilitating competition and providing greater choice to customers. It also notes that interoperability is unlikely to come about through commercial negotiations alone, given that the incumbent lacks any incentive to facilitate new ELNOs entering the market. A legislative requirement to interoperate is essential.

The New South Wales Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal supports interoperability as having substantial potential to promote competition and to break network effects, enabling ELNOs with a smaller customer base to compete with the dominant incumbent. Requiring ELNOs to interoperate is critical to creating a regulatory framework that promotes effective competition in the ELNO market. Without this legislative requirement, the dominant incumbent will continue to enjoy a de facto monopoly, entrenched by network effects. Removing that network effect will allow the new ELNOs to compete on a level playing field, promoting competition that will deliver innovation, choice and lower prices for ELNO users and flow-on benefits for the community as a whole.

As the Chair of the Joint Standing Committee on the Office of the Valuer General, I have seen property prices go up rapidly over the past two years, especially during COVID. Any change Parliament can make to bring in competition and to make the market fairer for buyers and sellers is a good thing. Members heard this year that the market would slow down, but there were record prices over the weekend. My younger brother, who is an auctioneer, has 48 auctions per month at the moment. The property market is not cooling; prices are increasing. The bill will improve transactions between buyer and seller and with banks. It is a good thing, and I commend the bill to the House.

**Mr ADAM MARSHALL (Northern Tablelands) (12:48):** I congratulate you, Mr Assistant Speaker, on your appointment to your office. I wish you all the very best as you chair the debates in this House and guide us as a truly independent Speaker. I have been asked to make a contribution to the debate on the Electronic Conveyancing (Adoption of National Law) Amendment Bill, although I was not intending to. The intent of the bill is good; modernisation and reform of regulation in this area is certainly long overdue. We can all support the creation of a regulatory environment that will allow additional competition in a way that benefits consumers without removing the protections that those consumers need. As a local MP, like many in this House, I have had

communication from industry expressing concern about the speed with which this reform is progressing and concern that, while consultation was undertaken, the bill before this House is largely unchanged from that for which consultation and constructive feedback was given by industry in the hope that there would be some changes. I have great confidence in the Minister whose name is attached to this bill. I know from my previous experience that he will ensure that industry's concerns are not only heard but also addressed in the final edition of this bill as it hopefully passes both Chambers of this Parliament.

I fully support the intent of this legislation. This reform is important and long overdue. I hope that genuine concerns from industry that I have heard as a local member—as I am sure others have—will be taken into account. This is an industry that joins with the Government in wanting reform in this area, but reform that does not come at a cost of creating uncertainty in an industry that has taken a number of years to create certainty and bedding down some previous reforms. I lend my support to the passage of this legislation through this Chamber. It is inevitable that this bill will be amended in the other Chamber. As a member of this House, I look forward to considering the Legislative Council amendments when inevitably the bill returns to this House. I again thank the Minister for bringing this overdue and much-needed reform bill to the House. I look forward to seeing some of the genuine and constructive concerns industry has raised with me being reflected in the final content of this bill when it passes this Parliament.

**The ASSISTANT SPEAKER:** I thank the member for Northern Tablelands for his contribution and for his kind words.

**Ms ROBYN PRESTON (Hawkesbury) (12:52):** I support the Electronic Conveyancing (Adoption of National Law) Amendment Bill 2022. This bill is a crucial first step towards reforming the developing electronic conveyancing market to bring forward true competition for the benefit of consumers. Competition will mean that electronic lodgement network operators [ELNOs] will need to compete on pricing and on reputation and quality of service. It will drive innovation and provide choice for customers. The choice before us today is clear: Support the bill and pave the way for interoperability and effective competition or continue the status quo, delay reform and risk further entrenching the current monopoly market structure, which is unhealthy.

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission [ACCC] is firmly of the view that the status quo should not continue. The 2019 *ACCC report on eConveyancing market reform* noted that it is not in the interests of participants, consumers and the broader economy to forfeit the prospect of competition emerging in the market or to entrench the incumbent near-monopoly service provider, Property Exchange Australia [PEXA]. Stakeholders support interoperability because of the strong competition benefits. That support has been demonstrated in the way the industry has worked together tirelessly and cooperatively on this project since 2019. But, despite the widespread support for interoperability, not everyone supports the bill in its current form. We are aware that PEXA, the current monopoly ELNO, has been presenting its concerns with the bill to its subscribers via webinars and presentations. Instead of remaining at the negotiating table, PEXA withdrew from the industry-based reform process over four months ago. It is not cynical to view this action as an attempt by the monopoly provider to protect its monopoly.

It is in this context that the Law Council of Australia, Australian Banking Association, the ACCC, the Australian Registrars' National Electronic Conveyancing Council [ARNECC] and all State and Territory governments support this bill. This is not to say we take the concerns lightly. The Government has committed to continuing the conversation with stakeholders and addressing any outstanding issues as part of further regulatory reform to come. What are the central issues that have been raised and how will this bill address them? Not surprisingly, security is at the top of the list. It has been suggested that the bill diminishes the security of the eConveyancing system and the integrity of the Torrens register. This could not be further from the truth. The integrity and reliability of the Torrens land register is a prime concern for the land registrars across Australia. Security is built into every aspect of the design of interoperability. There has been a misconception that adding further ELNOs into the eConveyancing environment will somehow threaten the security of the system, which is also incorrect.

By its nature, eConveyancing involves numerous interconnections between different entities. The application programming interfaces [APIs] that will connect additional ELNOs offer as much security as those currently in place between ELNOs, the banks, land registries and revenue offices. The technical solutions for interoperability are controlled by data standards that encode the agreed business rules and processes. These standards are being developed cooperatively between the ELNOs and land registries, and they are embedded with security features that make the system very secure. The data standards will be owned, maintained and updated by a government-owned company that has been established by ARNECC specifically for this purpose. It will ensure that all ELNOs have equal access to the data standards and that the standards are managed effectively. Importantly, the bill will allow the registrars to make operating requirements about technical and operational matters.

Specifically, it will allow the model operating requirements [MORs] to prescribe the data standards that must be used for interoperability, providing the power for the data standards to be maintained and mandated.

Another concern is that the bill lacks appropriate consumer protections and dispute resolution mechanisms. One of the many workstreams set up to further this reform is a group tasked with developing guidelines for the interoperability agreements that ELNOs will enter into to establish their interconnection. These agreements will cover technical and procedural matters, as well as things like privacy and change management. Importantly, the agreements will address dispute resolution and will establish a process for timely and equitable management of subscriber and client claims. Without this bill, the interoperability agreements would merely be private agreements between providers, with no visibility for customers and no input from regulators. The bill will give legislative recognition to the interoperability agreements and will allow registrars to require ELNOs to enter into agreements with other ELNOs. The MORs will specify matters that are to be dealt with in the agreements and, if necessary, could include standard provisions that must be included in all agreements.

A new consumer protection that the bill will help realise is the development of an industry code that will strengthen the regulatory oversight of the financial settlement component of eConveyancing. AusPayNet, Australia's leading expert on financial payment issues, is working with ELNOs and banks on the code. The industry code will require ELNOs to maintain a secure and robust payment system, with strict processes that mitigate the risk of misdirected funds. The code will include dispute resolution procedures and protocols for investigating and resolving questions around the payment of settlement funds. The bill is crucial to this process. It will allow registrars to make operating requirements that will compel ELNOs to sign up to the industry code, providing the legislative backing for this important new component of the regulatory framework. Without the bill, there is no legislative obligation for ELNOs to be part of this key component of the regulatory framework.

Another major concern for users is that interoperability must be seamless and must have minimal impact on the conduct of a transaction. That has been a principle of the reform. Interoperability must allow a subscriber to complete a conveyancing transaction without the first subscriber having to subscribe to an additional ELNO. The bill moves that concept to reality by placing the principle within the definition of "interoperability". In essence, interoperability is defined in the bill to be the interworking of electronic lodgement networks in a way that enables a subscriber using one ELNO to complete a conveyancing transaction with a subscriber using another ELNO without the parties having to subscribe to the same ELNO. The interworking must allow the preparation of electronic registry instruments and other documents using data from different ELNOs. All references to interoperability throughout the bill point back to the fundamental principle that the process must be seamless for subscribers. The design of the system will mean that in any conveyancing transaction, subscribers can confidently engage in a conveyancing transaction without knowing which ELNO other participants will use.

It has also been suggested that the bill provides nothing in the way of real efficiencies for conveyancing practice and procedures. The whole purpose of the bill is to facilitate competition, which by its very nature will drive innovation. The alternative is to retain the status quo and remain dependent on one dominant ELNO. I refer again to the ACCC's report in December 2019, where it said that should PEXA's market dominance go unchallenged or unconstrained over the longer term, it will have few incentives to innovate. [*Extension of time*]

In practical terms, innovation in the eConveyancing sector could include the development of simpler and more efficient interfaces for lawyers and conveyancers. That will give practitioners more time to focus on their clients in a high-volume industry. Another tangible benefit could be that ELNOs will broaden their service offerings, creating new and innovative services to distinguish themselves from other competitors. As the Government has consistently acknowledged in the lead-up to the bill's introduction, it does not solve all issues posed by interoperability. However, it does provide the essential foundation that will allow those matters to be consulted on collaboratively and resolved. Without the bill, the reform will languish without certainty and without the powers to make it a reality.

The bill will not end the consultation process. Rather, it will set up the foundation for further discussions to come. As was noted in the statement released with the support of all relevant State and Territory Ministers before the bill was introduced, the important insights provided by stakeholders will be properly considered and addressed during the development of the second round of legislative amendments that will be progressed later this year. The second round of amendments will consider, among other things, a more robust enforcement regime to further enhance the security of the eConveyancing process. Interoperability is not timetabled to be operational until the second half of 2023. There is plenty of time for important issues to be resolved and for interoperability to be in place before the first interoperable transaction proceeds. However, that will not be possible without the bill.

The bill will provide the powers to mandate data standards that will embed security; require that interoperability be provided in a way that makes it seamless for subscribers without impacting the transaction; compel ELNOs to enter into interoperability agreements that will have transparent dispute resolution processes

so that essential conveyancing functions are not disrupted; and allow a fit-for-purpose industry code to be developed by AusPayNet, providing much needed regulation of the financial settlement aspects of eConveyancing. I commend the bill to the House.

**Mr VICTOR DOMINELLO (Ryde—Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government)**  
**(13:04):** In reply: I thank members for their contributions to debate on the Electronic Conveyancing (Adoption of National Law) Amendment Bill 2022, in particular, the members representing the electorates of Wollondilly, Mulgoa, Northern Tablelands, Hawkesbury and Swansea. As we have heard, the bill is an important staging post on the way to interoperability. It is a central, first step that will deliver this Government's commitment to facilitate competition in the electronic conveyancing market through a secure national interoperability regime. Over the past five years, the success of eConveyancing has seen benefits for home owners, including faster registration and quicker access to sale money, with stricter controls to prevent error and fraud.

All land transactions must now be lodged electronically through an electronic lodgement network operator [ELNO]. But with only one incumbent ELNO operating in Australia, it is now time to reform the ELNO market to ensure that the benefits currently enjoyed can continue in the future. The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission [ACCC] wrote to the chair of the Australian Registrars' National Electronic Conveyancing Council [ARNECC], the national regulator, on the importance of the bill and said:

Further delay will heighten barriers to entry to the market and detract from future possible benefits of competition. Absent this development PEXA's position in the market will likely present ongoing challenges for industry and government alike.

We know that Property Exchange Australia [PEXA] is sharing material and issues via webinars and presentations. We know some of the statements PEXA is making have caused consternation and concern amongst conveyancers and lawyers across the country, particularly in Queensland. This is an historic moment. The stakes are high. If the bill is not passed, PEXA will have no incentive to continue on the journey of resolving the issues which it has raised. It is already clear that, in the absence of a statutory mandate for interoperability, PEXA has tried to derail the process by withdrawing from the industry-based processes over four months ago. PEXA's arguments about the threat that interoperability poses to innovation and customer service need to be assessed by looking at what would happen if the status quo continues—the world of eConveyancing if interoperability and, therefore, competition does not occur: PEXA will remain a de facto monopoly. The chance we now have for competitive entry will be lost and unlikely to return for some time in the face of PEXA's vigorous campaign to protect its monopoly.

We all know from experience that monopolies do not voluntarily give up profit margins. We know monopolies have poorer customer service because customers have nowhere else to go. The reforms in the bill have been subject to extensive consultation with ELNOs, industry and peak bodies that represent customer interests. All jurisdictions have approved its introduction. The bill sets the stage for a resilient electronic conveyancing system, built for the future, with customer service at its core. In summary, the bill provides the powers that will allow a full range of instruments to bolster the regulatory controls for electronic conveyancing. Using the powers in the bill, the registrars will be able to mandate data standards to underpin security of the system. The definitions in the bill will ensure that interoperability is provided in a way that is seamless for subscribers, without impact on the transaction.

The bill will allow registrars to compel ELNOs to enter into interoperability agreements that will have transparent dispute resolution processes so that essential conveyancing functions are not disrupted. Importantly, the bill paves the way for a fit-for-purpose industry code to be developed by AusPayNet, providing much needed regulation of the financial settlement aspects of eConveyancing. The bill is a clear indication of all State and Territory governments' resolve to see interoperability implemented without delay. I will now address some of the concerns that have been raised by some members. The member for Northern Tablelands raised concerns about the speed of implementation, and picked up on some of the comments made by the Opposition. I will cover those comments now.

I note that Labor supports interoperability but wants continued stakeholder consultation and a holistic regulatory framework—which is exactly what we are doing. The bill provides the powers that will allow a comprehensive regulatory package. Without the bill, that backing will not be there. If it were up to Labor, we would still be in the paper age. It is due to the vision and courage of this Government that we are looking to promote digital transformation and competition. I note that the model operating requirements [MORs] have been prepared by the Australian Registrars' National Electronic Conveyancing Council. The MORs have been consulted on and are being revised, with stakeholder consultation being addressed.

The member for Swansea also wants to see a cost-benefit analysis for interoperability, and that is exactly what Property Exchange Australia Limited would have told the member for Swansea because PEXA is there to look after PEXA's interests—i.e., a monopoly. The only people profiting in a monopoly are the people right up

the top and the shareholders making a motza. But ordinary mums and dads who need the competition are not getting the property; they are getting the pain. It is very disappointing that the member for Swansea would choose to back in a monopoly over ordinary mums and dads. The member for Swansea wants a cost-benefit analysis but that has already been prepared by the Centre for International Economics, which found that the net benefit of interoperability will be around \$83.6 million over 10 years. It will provide prices for consumers and innovation in services. I note that the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission, the Australian Banking Association, the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal, and all States and Territories—not just Liberal States and Territories but all States and Territories, including Labor States and Territories—support the bill.

I challenge the member for Swansea and the Opposition to vote against the bill, because they will be absolute barnacles if they do. They will be backing in a monopoly player and more profits for the shareholders' vested interests as opposed to mums and dads. As I said, the member for Swansea has criticised us for going so fast. However, if we do not move, as the ACCC has said, the monopoly player will entrench its position to disadvantage mums and dads and the standard people in the community who are using these services day to day.

Because the ACCC, lawyers, bankers, and Labor States and Territories are backing us in, I would have thought there would be a chorus of harmony in this Chamber. It is very disappointing that vested interests have already reached deep into some members of this House. I hope that common good prevails. I hope that we stand up to monopolies and vested interests and put community interests first, because this is an important moment not just for New South Wales but also—because we are leading the nation on this—for the country. I hope the right call is made. 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 VICTOR DOMINELLO:** I move:

That this bill be now read a third time.

**Motion agreed to.**

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

### *Announcements*

### **LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY PHOTOGRAPHS**

**The SPEAKER:** I inform the House that a media representative has been authorised to take still photographs on a pool basis from the side door of the Chamber this afternoon.

### *Question Time*

### **RAIL SERVICES DISRUPTION**

**Mr CHRIS MINNS (Kogarah) (14:18):** My question is directed to the Minister for Transport. Yesterday the Minister said that he became aware of the decision to shut down the rail network "late last night." Today he said, "I found out with everybody else at 4.00 a.m." When did the Minister first know or learn about Sydney Trains' decision to shut down the train network?

**Mr DAVID ELLIOTT (Baulkham Hills—Minister for Transport, and Minister for Veterans) (14:18):** I thank the Leader of the Opposition for his question. I met with the unions today to discuss this very thing. They send their regards, mate. We had a little moment. We read your maiden speech about how much you really appreciate the work of the union movement. Of course, they are really going to be barracking for you. They have got a very strong commitment to Australian made. They do not want Chinese made, mate. So you better hand those Frequent Flyer points back.

**Mr Ryan Park:** Point of order: If this clown wants to do it, we are happy to bring it on, but he should do so through a substantive motion under Standing Order 73.

**The SPEAKER:** I am mindful of the point of order. At this stage Standing Order 73 has not been contravened.

**Mr DAVID ELLIOTT:** As I said, at the meeting this morning with the union movement they admitted that there is no way in the world I would have been able to find out about the closure before midnight on Sunday night, because a decision had not been made until after midnight on Sunday night. Had there been a dispute—



**The SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Maroubra will come to order. The Minister will be allowed to answer the question.

**Mr DAVID ELLIOTT:** Had there been some discussion about industrial action? Yes, there has been for quite some time. In fact, because I respect the union movement, unlike the Leader of the Opposition, I had been able to talk them around on some industrial issues over recent weeks. But Matt Longland, the CEO of Sydney Trains, the union movement and evidence into my office suggests that there was no way that this decision was made before midnight and there was no way that I would have been able to find out, even if there were allegations that I was told before midnight.

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

**Mr DAVID ELLIOTT:** I am delighted to inform the House that, after discussions with the industrial relations Minister and taking advice from counsel, the Government will be withdrawing the matter before the commission tomorrow. That just goes to show how much of a kind, considerate and benevolent Minister I am. I take great pride in my ability to communicate with people from all walks of life—whether they be members of Her Majesty's family—

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

**Mr DAVID ELLIOTT:** The member for Keira had better watch out because they are still giving me all the files that you set up when you were running the operation in Transport.

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

**Mr DAVID ELLIOTT:** But I am going to save them until the election.

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

**Mr DAVID ELLIOTT:** I do my best killing at the election. I will hold onto all of those things.

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

**Mr DAVID ELLIOTT:** Haven't you got a Klan meeting to go to, mate? How do you reconcile with your leader?

**Mr Guy Zangari:** Point of order: My point of order relates to Standing Order 73.

**Mr DAVID ELLIOTT:** He interrupted me.

**Mr Guy Zangari:** The Minister is not sitting down.

**The SPEAKER:** The Minister will resume his seat.

**Mr Guy Zangari:** My point of order is taken under Standing Order 73. The Minister is trying to impugn the reputation of a member in this place.

**The SPEAKER:** I uphold the point of order. Will the Minister withdraw the comment?

**Mr Guy Zangari:** The Minister is still not sitting down and I have not finished.

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

**Mr Guy Zangari:** My point of order is that the Minister is debating across the table and not speaking through the chair.

**The SPEAKER:** I do not uphold the point of order. Will the Minister withdraw the comment?

**Mr DAVID ELLIOTT:** In the interests of my newfound benevolence, I withdraw the remark. But I still make the point, for those of us who monitor these things, that the difference between the Leader of the Opposition and the member for Maroubra on China is very confusing, to say the least. I am delighted that the matter before the commission will be withdrawn tomorrow. The meeting today with the union was very productive and, if asked, they will tell you that there is no way in the world I would have been advised of the decision on Sunday night, given that it was not made until early Monday morning. If those opposite think that the communities of New South Wales care what time I went to bed on Sunday night, what time that decision was made, they are clearly unfit for government. What the people of New South Wales want is a train system that is safe, reliable and will operate in the interests of those communities. I ask those opposite to start getting on board instead of kicking the union movement and the communities of this State.

**STATE INFRASTRUCTURE**

**Mr MARK TAYLOR (Seven Hills) (14:23):** My question is addressed to the Premier. Will the Premier update the House on how the Government's record in delivering infrastructure is making life easier for families?

*[Opposition members interjected.]*

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

**Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET (Epping—Premier) (14:24):** We will get to that. It is one of many. It is great to be back here in Parliament with a full House for the first time since budget day last year, when that great budget was handed down by the former Treasurer—an all-round legend—who dressed for success. It lasted for one day before we were all in lockdown again. Anyway, form is temporary and class is permanent, as the Liberals and Nationals know and as the member for Seven Hills knows. If we look over the past 11 years, we see that the infrastructure record of this Government does not lead just the nation but also the world. There has been \$154 billion of investment in infrastructure projects since we came to office.

To understand where we sit today, there will be \$110 billion more over the next four years. That is only possible because of the decisions of the Liberals and The Nationals that have been opposed every step of the way by those opposite. That is why that \$154 billion of pipeline built in those 11 years took time to scale up, as we had to deal with turning around the finances we inherited from those opposite. We are now in a position where we are building \$110 billion over the next four years on the back of our wages policy in our State, on the back of the asset-recycling approach we have taken here in New South Wales to unlock capital to invest in productive infrastructure right across the State. None of that would have been possible—

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Cessnock will cease interjecting.

*[An Opposition member interjected.]*

**Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET:** The member for Maitland interjects. Maitland Hospital would not have been possible at all. That is why it was not built under Labor. The approach of the Liberals and The Nationals has been able to turbocharge infrastructure investment in this State. Some 170 new and upgraded schools have been completed over our time in office. That is over 2,800 new classrooms. At a cost of \$7.9 billion over the next four years, we will build another 215 new and upgraded schools. What we are actually seeing is a government that is accelerating infrastructure investment. It is not just building on the past 11 years but accelerating that delivery as we move forward because we have the financial capacity you would not have under Labor, based on the decisions this Government has made, day in, day out. Every one of those decisions has been opposed by Labor and the union movement.

If we look at some of those education projects we see that the Newcastle education precinct is in planning and Canterbury South Public School is under construction. I know the member for Canterbury loves the John Howard hall that is coming to Canterbury. Eastwood Public School in the electorate of Ryde, the customer service Minister's electorate, is under construction. Leppington has a new selective public high school in planning. For Green Square and Gregory Hills there are more schools.

**Ms Lynda Voltz:** Planning.

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Auburn will come to order.

**Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET:** I just said we have constructed 170 new and upgraded schools since coming to office.

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

**Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET:** We have constructed 173 schools, whereas those opposite closed 90. That is what happens when you do not have the financial capacity. In terms of their economic and financial plan, Labor members oppose asset recycling. They oppose fiscal constraint—the decisions that we have made in relation to the wages cap here in New South Wales. They opposed that back in 2011. They have opposed every single measure along the way. What alternative is there? We know what it is with Labor: Increase taxes right across the board. That is what we saw at the last election. Then you go to health. There are 170 capital projects under our great Minister. Everywhere we go around the State, there is hospital construction—once again, it was opposed. Where were we the other day? We get confused; there are so many of them.

**Mr Brad Hazzard:** Campbelltown.

**Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET:** We were at Campbelltown, for the clinical services. We invited the member for Campbelltown to come along to the press conference, but he declined. He got lost. He got caught up in all the construction happening in his electorate.

**Mr Greg Warren:** Point of order—

**The SPEAKER:** I note that the member for Seven Hills has got to his feet. I will give him the call in a moment. I will hear the point of order from the member for Campbelltown first.

**Mr Greg Warren:** My point of order is taken under Standing Order 129. The Premier is misleading the House. The health Minister actually rang me on arrival at Campbelltown Hospital—

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Campbelltown will stop now.

**Mr Greg Warren:** I request the Premier withdraw the comment, correct the record and tell the truth—something he struggles to do.

**The SPEAKER:** I call the member for Campbelltown to order for the first time. I grant the Premier an extension of two minutes.

**Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET:** What was the issue?

**Mr Greg Warren:** You're telling the story, mate.

**Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET:** You're saying you were not invited?

**Mr Greg Warren:** No, I was not.

**Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET:** You were invited. The health Minister invited you on the morning.

**Mr Greg Warren:** The Minister rang me. He said—

**The SPEAKER:** The Premier will direct his comments through the Chair. The member for Campbelltown will not respond to the Premier, who will cease inciting the member.

**Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET:** You were invited.

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Keira will come to order.

**Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET:** The health Minister invited you. My understanding is you were campaigning down in Monaro. How did that go for you? Anyway, over the next four years 110 health capital projects right across the State—

**Mr Greg Warren:** Point of order—

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Campbelltown rises on a point of order. The Clerk will stop the clock. If this is the same as the member's last point of order he will be called to order again.

**Mr Greg Warren:** My point of order is taken under Standing Order 73. What the Premier is stating is, frankly, untrue. I would be delighted to see him move a motion and we could debate this matter, as trivial as it is.

**The SPEAKER:** I do not understand. The member for Campbelltown will speak to Standing Order 73. What was the comment that is in breach of it?

**Mr Greg Warren:** The Premier is misleading the House and making a statement that is not correct.

**The SPEAKER:** That is not a point of order under Standing Order 73. The member for Campbelltown will resume his seat and read the standing orders. The Premier will continue.

**Mr Greg Warren:** Mr Speaker—

**The SPEAKER:** I call the member for Campbelltown to order for the second time. He will sit down now.

**Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET:** Settle down, mate. You were invited; you didn't rock up. Anyway, there is great news in Campbelltown, seeing that hospital out there, which we announced with the health Minister in the 2017-18 budget. It was \$630 million. The clinical services building opens this year, and the full hospital construction opens next year. These are the investments that do take a while to build but ultimately, once they are completed, will make a real difference to people's lives, particularly as those communities continue to grow and continue to prosper. As the transport Minister knows, there is \$71 billion in transport infrastructure, roads infrastructure over the next four years. There are over 900 infrastructure projects in delivery across the State, in every single community across New South Wales. For Sydney Metro West there is a \$12 billion investment. There is \$8 billion for Metro Sydney – Western Sydney Airport, \$6 billion for Metro City & Southwest—

**Mr Michael Daley:** Mention the light rail.

**Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET:** Parramatta Light Rail is looking pretty good—\$672 million. These are projects that Labor members could only dream of delivering because they do not manage money well. These investments demonstrate the difference. We are building all the schools; those opposite closed 90 schools. They closed 2,000 hospital beds across the State, at a time when the population of our State was growing by more than a million. They announced 12 rail lines and did not even deliver half of one in the entire term of their Government. That is the difference between the Liberals and The Nationals—parties of delivery—and the Labor Party, which is the party of misery and failure.

#### RAIL SERVICES DISRUPTION

**Mr CHRIS MINNS (Kogarah) (14:32):** My question is directed to the Minister for Transport. Moments ago he said, "Evidence into my office suggests that there is no way this decision was made and therefore no way I would have been able to find out, even if there were allegations I was told before midnight." Is it true that his chief of staff sent a text message just before 11.00 p.m. informing a senior rail bureaucrat that the Minister had been briefed on the major disruption from the looming shutdown and he was said to be comfortable with the decision?

**Mr DAVID ELLIOTT (Baulkham Hills—Minister for Transport, and Minister for Veterans) (14:33):** Can I have a look at the text? I have to say—

**The SPEAKER:** The Minister will be allowed to respond.

**Mr DAVID ELLIOTT:** I must say that has to be the sloppiest question I have ever heard. If the Leader of the Opposition has evidence to that effect, I think, if he wants to make this allegation, he is obliged to table it. But the decision was made by Matt Longland—it is on the public record—in the early hours after midnight, on Monday morning. That was the decision. The Leader of the Opposition will please let me know if he has anything to the contrary.

**Mr Chris Minns:** Point of order—

**The SPEAKER:** The Minister will resume his seat.

**Mr Chris Minns:** My point of order is taken under Standing Order 129. I asked a specific question. I am interested to know whether the Minister knew about the shutdown and whether he has just misled the House.

**Mr DAVID ELLIOTT:** I stand by my remarks. As I said, it is on the public record—by Matt Longland, the CEO of Sydney Trains. It has been acknowledged by the union that there is no way in the world that I would have known at nine, 10, or 11 o'clock at night. Certainly, that decision was made independently—

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

**Mr DAVID ELLIOTT:** This decision would have been made independently of me, as would be appropriate because I am not an operational expert. It is my responsibility to take the advice of the experts, as we have throughout things like bushfires, pandemics, floods and storms. That is why we have the bureaucracy. But one would have thought that if this was such an important issue, something would be in writing. I have not seen anything in writing to suggest that what I have said in the House is any different. The Leader of the Opposition, now that he has made this allegation in this Chamber, is obliged to table it. If he has any evidence to suggest that documents to that effect were issued on Sunday night, to my mind he is obliged now that he has tried to—

**Ms Yasmin Catley:** Point of order: My point of order is taken under Standing Order 130. The Minister is now trying to debate the question across the table, which is inappropriate. All he needs to do is answer the question: What time did he know?

**The SPEAKER:** The Minister has answered the question and is being relevant.

**Mr DAVID ELLIOTT:** I have answered that a number of times. I knew when I got up very early on Monday morning that this decision had been made and that, of course, communities would be inconvenienced. But these decisions, as important as they are, are always made with a significant amount of communication. As I said, my old China over there, the Leader of the Opposition, is obliged now to table any evidence whatsoever to suggest that what I am saying or what I have been advised is incorrect.

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

**Mr DAVID ELLIOTT:** If he does not, his reputation—

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

**Mr DAVID ELLIOTT:** Matt Longland has said in the public domain that this was his decision and it was made early yesterday morning. If the Leader of the Opposition wants to make allegations, I am more than happy to respond to them, but he has no evidence. All he is saying is that there may have been a text or a telephone call. I would have thought if you are going to close the network at nine o'clock on a Sunday night, you would actually put something in writing.

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

**Mr DAVID ELLIOTT:** So I want to see what he has got to that effect. Has he got something in writing—an email, a text? He is saying yes.

**Ms Prue Car:** You're the Minister. You have to answer.

**Mr DAVID ELLIOTT:** No, do not defend him. He is a big enough boy; he has been to China. If he has evidence, now he is obliged to table it. If he does not, he will have a bigger problem on his hands than a couple of free trips to China.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I call the member for Londonderry to order for the second time. I call the member for Coogee to order for the second time. I call the member for Newcastle to order for the second time.

**Mr DAVID ELLIOTT:** He has made an accusation here, and I am now very keen to see the evidence backing up that accusation, lest he be called a liar.

#### REGIONAL NEW SOUTH WALES

**Mr CHRISTOPHER GULAPTIS (Clarence) (14:38):** My question is addressed to the Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional New South Wales, and Minister for Police. Will the Deputy Premier update the House on what the Government is doing to make life easier for residents of regional New South Wales?

**Mr PAUL TOOLE (Bathurst—Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional New South Wales, and Minister for Police) (14:38):** I thank the member for Clarence for his question. He is a member who actually cares about regional New South Wales and the investment this Government is making to improve the lives of people in our communities. Anyone who travels to any corner of the State in regional New South Wales will see the investment that is being made by the Liberal-Nationals Government. That investment is making life better for people in regional New South Wales. That investment is in projects like roads, bridges, hospitals, schools, rail, sporting facilities, showgrounds and cycleways, all of which are because of the Liberals and The Nationals in government.

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

**Mr PAUL TOOLE:** Whilst the member for Port Stephens might oppose that investment going into regional New South Wales, the investment is needed for our communities because Labor turned its back on the regions for a number of decades.

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

**Mr PAUL TOOLE:** It did not put in the investment that we are making in regional New South Wales right now. I want to talk about some of those projects. Obviously, the member for Clarence is a passionate supporter of the Pacific Highway. That project was delivered under the Liberal-Nationals Government. That project has duplicated the road from Hexham all the way to the Queensland border. It is not about putting down asphalt on the road; it is about making sure the road is safer, smoother and more reliable for the people who are going to use it.

**Mr Michael Daley:** You've been upgrading it for 14 years.

**Mr PAUL TOOLE:** I hear the member for Maroubra. He does not understand the value of that road.

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

**Mr PAUL TOOLE:** We have made a 2½-hour time saving for the people who travel on that road. The member for Maroubra needs to understand that fatalities have been reduced by 75 per cent.

**The SPEAKER:** I call the member for Maroubra to order for the third time because he is ignoring me.

**Mr PAUL TOOLE:** That investment by the Liberals and The Nationals is making our roads safer.

**Ms Trish Doyle:** It bypassed Bathurst.

**Mr PAUL TOOLE:** I hear the member for Blue Mountains. We are investing in the Great Western Highway, which is another project Labor opposes.

**Ms Trish Doyle:** Toole's tunnel!

**Mr PAUL TOOLE:** This is about objecting to duplication of a road from Lithgow all the way through to Katoomba. Investment by this Government is making it safer and smoother for the people who make journeys through the mountains and also for those who travel to the Central West. The Opposition can only dream of those projects. We will continue to invest in them. The Newell Highway project—the freight backbone of New South Wales—includes 40 overtaking lanes. Already, over half of those have been constructed. Cobb Highway is in the Far West of the State, which has had a lot of rainfall.

**Mr Stephen Kamper:** It goes straight to Daryl's place, does it?

**Mr PAUL TOOLE:** You might not know where the Far West is, mate, but let me tell you this: When the Cobb Highway gets some rain, it can be closed for weeks and in some cases months, not days. But this Government's investment is ensuring that we seal that road and keep it open for people who travel on it from time to time. Projects like the redeveloped Murrumburrah-Harden Health Service, a 33-bed purpose-built facility that the Minister for Emergency Services and Resilience, and member for Cootamundra, opened last week, will deliver enhanced health and aged care services in the community. It means that locals do not have to travel or drive long distances to get care, service and support in their own backyard. Those loved ones are being supported by the Liberals and The Nationals in government.

Some people in the city do not understand this because they have the opportunity of using public transport to access such services. They do not have to travel the distances that country people have to travel. As I said, Labor ignored those projects when it was last in power, when we saw our regions fall further behind our city counterparts. The Liberal-Nationals Government is ensuring that investment in regional New South Wales continues. On this side of the House, we have a positive vision for regional New South Wales, which will ensure that investment in the bush continues. Someone has to do that because the Labor Party turned its back on the people of regional New South Wales. I say to the Leader of the Opposition that whilst he may want to travel to places like Hong Kong, he should get out to regional New South Wales. He should get out to Hillston and see cultural exchange. He should go and talk to the communities—the people he turned his back on—and have a look at the investment that is being made by the Liberals and The Nationals in government.

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

#### RAIL SERVICES DISRUPTION

**Ms JO HAYLEN (Summer Hill) (14:44):** My question is directed to the Minister for Transport. What advice was the Minister given about the supposed safety concerns that made him shut down the entire train network yesterday?

**Mr DAVID ELLIOTT (Baulkham Hills—Minister for Transport, and Minister for Veterans) (14:44):** I am really confused as to why the member for Summer Hill is now asking this question. After the Leader of the Opposition made such a sensational allegation against me in the last question, he is yet to table any evidence to suggest that he was right. I just find that appalling for a man who claims to be the alternative Premier. He stands up here and makes allegations based on some text that he may have received, which he will not table or show me. I will not tell anybody who it came from. I suspect I know since a text only goes between two people.

**Mr Ron Hoenig:** Point of order: This is the third answer to a question in which the Minister has been debating across the Chamber. He is not coming to the subject matter of the specific question that he was asked, as ruled by Speaker Rozzoli on 25 May 1988—

**The SPEAKER:** Thank you. I am satisfied that the Minister is making preliminary remarks and will move now to answering the question.

**Mr DAVID ELLIOTT:** To the member's question, I will say to the member for Summer Hill what I have said to the media about four times today and about eight times yesterday, and what I have said to my colleagues and anybody who wants to listen to me. This was an operational decision made by Transport for NSW based on its assessment that the welfare and safety of passengers was at risk because the two parties could not agree on a timetable. I do not want to embarrass members opposite by giving them a lecture in Government 101, but when you have an expert employed by the taxpayers and you are a Minister of the Crown, you have to have a bloody good reason to ignore the recommendations they offer you. You really have to have a good reason. So if, by some freak of political nature, at some stage in the future the member for Summer Hill is in my position and she does not take that advice from the head of her organisation and then, maybe, something bad happens—

**Mr Ryan Park:** What were the safety concerns?

**Mr DAVID ELLIOTT:** I'm getting to that.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I remind the member for Keira he is on two calls to order. He will soon be on three calls to order.

**Mr DAVID ELLIOTT:** There was a risk assessment done around the time that that decision was made. I am yet to see the risk assessment. I have asked for the risk assessment. When I get the risk assessment, I am more than happy—

*[An Opposition member interjected.]*

When the member for Summer Hill is ready. I am answering her question.

**Mr Ron Hoenig:** Point of order—

**Mr DAVID ELLIOTT:** If this is under 129, I am going to get very cranky.

**Mr Ron Hoenig:** Mr Speaker, will you exercise your authority understanding Standing Order 74 and intervene to stop the Minister instigating quarrels? You have been putting our members on calls all day for quarrels that he has instigated.

**The SPEAKER:** I have been because they have been warranted. There is no breach of Standing Order 74. The Minister is being relevant in his answer to the question.

**Mr DAVID ELLIOTT:** The member was interrupting my answer, so of course I am going to respond to it. The assessment done in the early hours of yesterday morning was that there was a safety risk. I am very keen to have a look at that safety assessment, like the member for Summer Hill is, and we can share it together. But it does not matter what the advice said, quite frankly.

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

**Mr DAVID ELLIOTT:** As the Premier has said multiple times, and as I have said multiple times, particularly when it comes to railway safety, we will accept the advice of the Executive Director of Transport for NSW.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I call the member for Macquarie Fields to order for the first time.

**Mr DAVID ELLIOTT:** We will accept the advice.

*[Opposition members interjected.]*

I am going to have to say this for a third time today. It was a safety assessment, which I am yet to receive. When I receive it—

*[Opposition members interjected.]*

I am only taking the advice that there was a risk. There was advice that there was a risk.

**The SPEAKER:** The Minister will direct his remarks through the Chair.

**Mr DAVID ELLIOTT:** There was a safety risk attended to. That is why—

**The SPEAKER:** The Clerk will stop the clock. I call the member for Newcastle to order for the third time. He is lucky he is not out of the Chamber. The Minister is responding to the question asked. Members will allow him to do that.

**Mr DAVID ELLIOTT:** The Premier has said and I have said—and I hope that the member for Summer Hill understands—that when a safety assessment and safety advice is given to a member of the Government they are obliged to follow it.

#### STATE ECONOMY

**Mr PETER SIDGREAVES (Camden) (14:50):** My question is addressed to the Treasurer. Will the Treasurer update the House on how the Government's economic management is supporting jobs and helping families?

**Mr MATT KEAN (Hornsby—Treasurer, and Minister for Energy) (14:50):** Mr Speaker, it is great to see you, and it is great to get a question from the member for Camden—a member who fights for families and fights to create jobs in his community. That is what all of us on this side of the House stand for: creating jobs,

growing the economy and growing the prosperity of everyone in this State. That is unlike the Leader of the Opposition. Today we finally found out what he stands for—Beijing! That's right.

**Mr Ron Hoenig:** Point of order: The Minister is infringing Standing Order 73 by imputing improper motives to the Leader of the Opposition. He can move a suspension of standing orders; we can have a substantive motion right now. We are ready to go. We can talk about the 2,000 Newcastle people who lost their jobs today, too.

**The SPEAKER:** At this stage there is no breach of standing orders, but the Minister is getting very close. He will be careful.

**Mr MATT KEAN:** Again, in the Leader of the Opposition's first act as a freshly minted MP, was he out there visiting school principals? Was he seeing the local priests or maybe visiting the local imam? No, he was in seat 1A of Air China at the hospitality of a banned foreign spy.

**Mr Ryan Park:** Point of order: My point of order is under Standing Order 73. Mr Speaker, you have always said that attacks like this have to be done by way of substantive motion. We are happy to do it. We have no problems; just bring it on. We have a big list.

**The SPEAKER:** I ask—

**Mr MATT KEAN:** Mr Speaker, it is a matter of fact. He was sitting up in seat 1A, chugging back Tsingtaos and having some dim sims.

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr MATT KEAN:** He loved it. It was his first act as an MP, such is his commitment—

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The Treasurer will resume his seat. I decide when the Treasurer resumes his remarks. He is right on the edge. I ask him to come to the question.

**Mr MATT KEAN:** I am talking about jobs and families. Mr Speaker, I know your family loves dim sims but your family does not have dim sims paid for by a banned Chinese spy. That is the reality and that is the point I am trying to make.

**Ms Anna Watson:** Point of order: Mr Speaker, the Treasurer is clearly flouting your rulings. You have told him three times now that he is on the edge. I suggest to you that he has gone right over the edge. You either bring him to order or you do not.

**The SPEAKER:** The Treasurer will return to the question immediately.

**Mr MATT KEAN:** I have digressed slightly. I want to talk about the jobs that this Government has supported during the Omicron wave of the pandemic. This Government handed down the biggest small business support package in the country for those businesses that had a turnover of under \$50 million that have done it so tough during the summer months. They were our restaurants, cafes and small retailers. These are businesses that employ lots of people and create lots of jobs. Just like we did during the Alpha lockdown and Delta outbreak, we too stood by the families and businesses of this State during the Omicron outbreak. We will pay up to 20 per cent of their payroll for those small businesses. That means they can claim up to \$5,000. That is the equivalent of a one-way trip in first class to Beijing. That is the equivalent.

**Mr Michael Daley:** Point of order—

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I call the member for Ku-ring-gai to order for the first time.

**Mr Michael Daley:** These comments are not only in search of someone who can deliver them effectively, they are also in breach of Standing Order 73.

**The SPEAKER:** A slight quip of itself may have been acceptable but, in the context of the earlier history of this question and answer, the member for Hornsby will be directly relevant to the question. The member's time has now expired.

**Ms Jenny Leong:** Point of order: It was bad enough that the Chamber had to tolerate racist comments by the Minister, but for the Speaker to then say it was acceptable for a quip like that to be made, the comment needs to be withdrawn.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The question has been asked whether the Minister will withdraw that remark.

**Ms Jenny Leong:** It was bad enough that the Chamber had to tolerate the Minister saying what he said, but the Speaker said it was okay for quips to be acceptable—



**The SPEAKER:** I did not say that.

**Ms Jenny Leong:** For the Speaker to endorse those quips—

**The SPEAKER:** I beg your pardon?

**Ms Jenny Leong:** —is a serious concern.

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Newtown will resume her seat. I said the quip of itself may have been acceptable, but in the context of the rest of the question and answer it was not. I then asked the Minister to come back to the question immediately. If the member for Newtown has issues, there are ways for her to raise them in this place. That was not the appropriate way.

**Ms Jenny Leong:** I stood four times during the Minister's answer to try to take a point of order. The Speaker called an Opposition member every time and did not call me once.

**The SPEAKER:** Thank you. I have made my point.

### RAIL SERVICES DISRUPTION

**Ms TRISH DOYLE (Blue Mountains) (14:56):** My question is directed to the Minister for Transport. The Minister just advised the House that the rail network he shut down yesterday was because of safety advice, but 36 hours later has the Minister not seen that advice?

**Mr DAVID ELLIOTT (Baulkham Hills—Minister for Transport, and Minister for Veterans) (14:57):** I thank the member for Blue Mountains for her question because it gives me the opportunity to continue on the theme of safety. Even though the Leader of the Opposition has made unsubstantiated allegations about who knew what—

**Mr Guy Zangari:** They are still writing the advice. They are still downloading the risk assessment form.

**Mr DAVID ELLIOTT:** If you listen to this you might get the answer.

**Ms Yasmin Catley:** The clock has not been restarted.

**The SPEAKER:** The clock will be restarted.

**Mr DAVID ELLIOTT:** I think this might clear up the matter for those opposite. This morning on the ABC—one of my favourite media mediums—Matthew Longland, the CEO of Sydney Trains, said:

The operation call was made but the design that was made by my team based on the assessment of what was possible and the risks associated with operating a service, I made the call to shut the network as the chief executive just after midnight.

**Ms Yasmin Catley:** Why didn't he tell you?

**Mr DAVID ELLIOTT:** Quiet! Matthew Longland said:

We made that call and then we spun communications and whatever else into action in the early hours of Monday morning.

This is my evidence: a transcript from a very reputable—

*[Opposition members interjected.]*

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

**Mr DAVID ELLIOTT:** Go home, mate. There's an idiot looking for its village. This is my evidence—

**Ms Jo Haylen:** You are the jokes.

**Mr DAVID ELLIOTT:** —a transcript from the very, very reputable people of the ABC.

**Mr Guy Zangari:** Point of order: My point of order relates to Standing Order 73. The Minister is continually taking aim at members on this side of the House and using Standing Order 73—

**The SPEAKER:** There is no breach of Standing Order 73. The Minister will continue.

**Mr Guy Zangari:** It is offensive language about a member.

**Mr DAVID ELLIOTT:** You have called me worse. Here is my evidence from the chief executive on the record this morning on the ABC. The call was made just after midnight. He said:

I made the call as the chief executive just after midnight. We made that call and then we spun communications and whatever else into action in the early hours of Monday morning—

**Ms Prue Car:** Point of order—

**Mr DAVID ELLIOTT:** I know this might be difficult for you because you are—

**The SPEAKER:** The Minister is being relevant. What is the member's point of order?

**Ms Prue Car:** It is getting embarrassing.

**The SPEAKER:** What is the point of order?

**Ms Prue Car:** It is clearly under Standing Order 129.

**The SPEAKER:** I have ruled on the point of order. The Minister is being relevant and will continue.

**Ms Prue Car:** The question was about when he saw the safety advice and inconvenienced the whole of Sydney.

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Londonderry will resume her seat. I call the member for Londonderry to order for the third time.

**Mr DAVID ELLIOTT:** The question about the assessment was addressed this morning on the ABC by Matt Longland. Yes, I will receive that safety assessment. I have asked for it and I will receive it. But I know it existed because the CEO of Sydney Trains has clarified on the ABC and he has also highlighted—

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Newtown will come to order.

**Mr DAVID ELLIOTT:** Just for the benefit of all those who want to suggest that I locked down the trains on Sunday afternoon or Sunday night, he has clarified, "I made the call as the chief executive just after midnight."

**Ms Trish Doyle:** Point of order—

**The SPEAKER:** I hope it is not about relevance because the Minister is being relevant.

**Ms Trish Doyle:** It is under Standing Order 129.

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Blue Mountains will resume her seat.

**Ms Trish Doyle:** Why do you hate railway workers, Minister? Why are they un-Australian?

**The SPEAKER:** I place the member for Blue Mountains on two calls to order.

**Mr DAVID ELLIOTT:** My great-grandfather was a railway worker; I am very proud of him. I am horrified that the Leader of the Opposition—I know he has an air of confusion around him at the moment because he does not know whether he is from Beijing or Balmain—has made an allegation about me today—

**Mr Ron Hoenig:** Point of order: My point of order is taken under Standing Order 130. The Minister is debating the answer to a very specific question in relation to a very discrete area. The Minister is again intruding into Standing Order 73. If the Minister is not going to answer the question—because you cannot direct him to do so—he should be told to resume his seat. He should stop yelling across the Chamber and creating disorder. The Minister is the creator of the disorder in the House.

**The SPEAKER:** I am satisfied that the Minister is being relevant. The Minister will continue.

**Mr DAVID ELLIOTT:** What an outrageous allegation. The question was: Was there an assessment? The CEO of Sydney Trains says, yes. The question was: Who made the call? The ABC—

**Ms Yasmin Catley:** Point of order—

**The SPEAKER:** The Clerk will stop the clock. The Minister will resume his seat. I have ruled three times already that the Minister is being relevant so the member for Swansea should not raise it as a point of order.

**Ms Yasmin Catley:** No, I would not. I always listen to the Speaker. My point of order relates to Standing Order 59, tedious repetition. The Minister has read the email three times now. We have all heard it. We can receive this information. If the Minister has got nothing to say, he should sit down.

**The SPEAKER:** The Minister is repeating his comments because there are too many interruptions. The Minister is being relevant. The Minister will continue.

**Mr DAVID ELLIOTT:** It is an inconvenient truth to those opposite that Matthew Longland has said that he was responsible for the call just after midnight based on an assessment. The Leader of the Opposition cannot table evidence like this. He has decided to make up false allegations based on rumour and innuendo. It is appropriate for the Leader of the Opposition to go down to the press gallery right now and show us exactly what he has got. I have got the chief executive of a major government statutory authority telling the people of

New South Wales through a reputable media outlet that it was his decision, it was after midnight and it was based on an assessment.

### STATE INFRASTRUCTURE

**Ms ROBYN PRESTON (Hawkesbury) (15:03):** My question is addressed to the Minister for Enterprise, Investment and Trade, Minister for Tourism and Sport, and Minister for Western Sydney. Will the Minister update the House on how the Government is investing in infrastructure to support and improve quality of life?

**The SPEAKER:** Before I call the Minister, I remind the member for Maroubra, the member for Keira, the member for Auburn, the member for Port Stephens, the member for Londonderry and the member for Newcastle that they are on three calls to order. I am very close to removing members from the Chamber as the level of disruption has been unusually high today.

**Mr STUART AYRES (Penrith—Minister for Enterprise, Investment and Trade, Minister for Tourism and Sport, and Minister for Western Sydney) (15:04):** I thank the member for Hawkesbury for her question. The Hawkesbury electorate was substantially impacted by the bushfires a couple of years ago, particularly the apple orchards on the western side of the Blue Mountains, and my recent announcement of \$8 million for a fire control centre for her community has had a profound impact. The Hawkesbury electorate will always be subject to bushfire risk and this Government is all about investing in infrastructure to make the lives of local residents better. When it comes to infrastructure, western Sydney has simply been transformed by what the Government has been able to do over the past 10 years. If I start to think about roads, the one that really stands out for me—

**Ms Trish Doyle:** Tolls.

**Mr STUART AYRES:** Tolls? Yes, the tolls that those opposite will not make a single change to because they keep lying to the people of New South Wales. If they are planning to reduce them then they should tell people, but they do not have a policy. They keep telling people rubbish, and they will get found out over and over again. It is only just starting to come out now. I thought the Leader of the Opposition might have a little bit of support in his team. But given what I read on the front page of the paper and the fact it came from his closest mates—he and Jamie Clements have some really close friends.

The Northern Road has completely transformed the way people move from the south-west of Sydney up through the greater Penrith area. There is a complete duplication of the road between Camden and Penrith, which has massively saved travel times. When Government members supported the Commonwealth Government's investment in the new western Sydney airport, which will be a jobs bonanza for the people of western Sydney, we said that we did not just want an airport; we wanted to make sure we got a road network and transport infrastructure that would add value to the lives of people across western Sydney. That completed road has already saved massive amounts of travel time for people moving in and around Sydney, and it builds on the fantastic work that we have done with road projects like Camden Valley Way and Bringelly Road—great examples of roads that we are continuing to invest in. The M12 will allow greater access into the new growth area across western Sydney.

I heard members opposite talk about tolls, but people in western Sydney are really happy that the Government built the tunnel that extended the M4 because it makes the entire motorway network function better and has substantially reduced travel times. Before that tunnel was opened, a person travelling from the electorate of Mulgoa would travel on the M7, the M2, the Lane Cove Tunnel and across the Harbour Bridge. It would cost them over \$22 to do that. Half of those tolls came from those opposite; half of them came from the Government. No-one has clean hands when it comes to tolls in this city, but the Government has always wanted to make travel times faster.

When the Government opened up that tunnel, it meant people could move back onto the M4. They got a faster travel time, they got to work quicker and they came home faster to their families, and they did it for half the price. Making the road network more efficient is creating a cost-of-living benefit for people across western Sydney. Government members will continue to do that when we open up the Western Harbour Tunnel, but we have also invested in rail transport. The community in north-west Sydney will benefit from the North West Metro, which has literally been part of our transport plans since J. J. Bradfield was designing electrified rail across Sydney but which no-one could deliver until this Government came to power. The Government got control of the budget by recycling the assets that were available to the taxpayer and putting new infrastructure on the ground that improved the quality of people's lives, both in Sydney and across the State.

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

**Mr STUART AYRES:** Government members have also made sure that we controlled expenses. Whilst everyone loves a pay rise, we have to continue to pay people what we can afford. The 2.5 per cent wages policy

has allowed the Government to continue to invest in infrastructure that improves the quality of people's lives. Beyond transport, trains and roads, we have invested in new high schools and primary schools in the growth areas across western Sydney. We have invested in new cultural facilities. The new Powerhouse going into Parramatta will be a world-class cultural facility that people across western Sydney will be proud of. They will want everyone from across the country to visit those things. Coming next will be the \$5 billion WestInvest Fund, investing lower to the ground and closer to communities to improve amenities. The Government has a strong economic record in New South Wales, and it continues to invest in infrastructure to improve the quality of people's lives across the west.

#### INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION FUNDING

**Mr JAMIE PARKER (Balmain) (15:08):** My question is directed to the Premier. Former Premier Berejiklian committed to respond to the Auditor-General's report into ICAC funding over 12 months ago. When will the Government respond to the report and finally act to implement an independent funding model for the ICAC?

**Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET (Epping—Premier) (15:09):** I thank the member for Balmain for his question and his focus on integrity in our State. I inform the member that the New South Wales Government is completely focused on ensuring that the integrity agencies—not just the ICAC but all five, being the ICAC, the Ombudsman, the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission, the Auditor-General and the NSW Electoral Commission—have appropriate funding to continue the important work they do for the people of our State in maintaining integrity in New South Wales. Since becoming Premier, I have personally met with each of the integrity agencies and discussed the issues that they have raised with the Government regarding the funding model. There has been further engagement, and I believe the proposal that we will put in place will adequately address the concerns that the individual agencies have raised. There are obviously different issues affecting all five of them, including the ICAC. In terms of timing, those arrangements will be in the place ahead of the 2022-23 budget process and will be implemented in the budget.

#### VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

**Mr JUSTIN CLANCY (Albury) (15:10):** My question is addressed to the Minister for Skills and Training, and Minister for Science, Innovation and Technology. Will the Minister update the House on how the Government is supporting skills and jobs for the hardworking people of our State?

**Mr ALISTER HENSKENS (Ku-ring-gai—Minister for Skills and Training, and Minister for Science, Innovation and Technology) (15:11):** I thank the member for his question, and I look forward to getting down to Albury to see firsthand the great work that he is doing. He is a great example of a hardworking local member with a small business background who knows what it means to get skills, work hard and get ahead in life. The New South Wales Government is backing hardworking people to get the skills they need for the jobs they want. They are the sorts of people that Labor have entirely forgotten. Whether people are leaving school and looking for their first job or looking to upskill and change careers, the Liberal-Nationals Government is here to support them. The Government has created Careers NSW, following a recommendation of the Gonski-Shergold review into the vocational education sector.

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

**Mr ALISTER HENSKENS:** It is one of the ways the Government is creating a stronger network of career information and guidance for people who are looking for work and training. Yesterday I had the pleasure of joining a live webinar with industry leaders such as chef and author Adam Liaw and Hireup founder Jordan O'Reilly to hear insights and give advice to people who are exploring their career options. More than 45,000 people have visited the website since it went live in November, with people from western Sydney accounting for the most clicks. This comprehensive platform goes hand in hand with the work that the Government is doing to fund free courses and to help deliver more training options for people across our State.

This week the Government announced that it will fund 750 free swim instructor training courses to help meet skyrocketing demand. The Government is encouraging people to take the plunge and join the aquatics industry because teaching kids to swim is a fun, rewarding and flexible career. Government members are also seeking strong take-up of the 5,000 free responsible service of alcohol courses that we announced earlier this month. Those free courses have proven more popular than happy hour at the local pub or club.

Those initiatives are examples of the Government backing people who want to work hard to get the skills they need for the jobs they want, but hard work is not something that those opposite really understand. The Opposition leader is a case in point. In his inaugural speech he said that he supported "the best education money cannot buy". He said that after going to one of the world's most expensive private universities, Princeton, paid for by hardworking union members. He has never had anything in life that has not been handed to him on a platter.

He has never earned anything, and he certainly does not represent those who work hard. Why has he disclosed to Parliament free tickets to the footy but not a five-day overseas junket that was paid for by a property developer and the Communist Party? Why has he not disclosed that?

**Mr Ron Hoenig:** Point of order: It is under Standing Order 73. If the Leader of the House wants to impute motives and make personal reflections against the Leader of the Opposition, he can move the suspension of standing orders or move a substantive motion and we will debate it now. Question time is not cowards castle where you can have a shot across the Chamber.

**The SPEAKER:** I will uphold the point of order. The Minister will come to the question.

**Mr ALISTER HENSKENS:** He told Ben Fordham this morning that he did not disclose it. I do not know what is controversial about it.

**Mr Ron Hoenig:** Point of order—

**The SPEAKER:** The Minister is coming directly to the question.

**Mr Ron Hoenig:** He is, but—

**The SPEAKER:** Stop the clock. The Minister will resume his seat. I have ruled and I have told the Minister to come to the question. I upheld your point of order.

**Mr Ron Hoenig:** You did, but it is not for the Leader of the House to reflect adversely on the Chair because he does not like the ruling. He should know better; he is the Leader of the House.

**The SPEAKER:** The Minister has the call.

**Mr ALISTER HENSKENS:** I was simply making the point that Labor has no policies on skills and training for the hardworking women and men of this State. Our Government is investing more than \$100 billion in infrastructure to create jobs and real economic prosperity for the hardworking people of this State. Labor built nothing and supported no-one during its time in government. This Government will continue to support hardworking people while those opposite continue to take dodgy, disguised handouts to help themselves.

#### *Committees*

### **LEGISLATION REVIEW COMMITTEE**

#### **Reports**

**Mr DAVID LAYZELL:** As Chair: I table the report of the Legislation Review Committee entitled *Legislation Review Digest No. 39/57*, dated 22 February 2022. 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. 38/57*, dated 23 November 2021.

#### *Business of the House*

### **BUSINESS LAPSED**

**The SPEAKER:** I advise the House that, in accordance with Standing Order 105, general business notices of motions (general notices) Nos 2901 to 2970 have lapsed.

#### *Bills*

### **MOTOR SPORTS BILL 2022**

### **MAJOR EVENTS AMENDMENT BILL 2022**

#### **First Reading**

**Bills introduced on motion by Mr Stuart Ayres, read a first time and printed.**

#### **Second Reading Speech**

**Mr STUART AYRES (Penrith—Minister for Enterprise, Investment and Trade, Minister for Tourism and Sport, and Minister for Western Sydney) (15:19):** I move:

That these bills be now read a second time.

I am pleased to introduce the Motor Sports Bill 2022 and the Major Events Amendment Bill 2022. Over the past two years, the pandemic has substantially impacted major events. The Government has continued to support events throughout the course of the pandemic, and its focus has consistently been on getting the economy moving again, getting people back to work and getting visitors back into New South Wales. Supporting major events through a contemporary form of legislation will position New South Wales as not only the premier visitor economy but also the events capital of the Asia-Pacific. That is particularly relevant to changes that we are proposing through the creation of the Motor Sports Bill.

Motorsport events are a key part of the New South Wales Government's annual major events calendar. In this State, we host a number of motorsport events on public roads, such as the Newcastle 500, the World Rally Championship and those held at Bathurst's iconic Mount Panorama racetrack, including the Bathurst 1000 and the Bathurst 12 Hour. These events attract tens of thousands of people to New South Wales and inject millions of dollars into our economy. They also showcase New South Wales destinations to global audiences through widespread television coverage of these events. The delivery of motorsport events is often complex, but even more so when hosted on public roads, public land or public venues over multiple land tenures and council jurisdictions, with large volumes of temporary infrastructure.

Three Acts and several associated regulations have been instituted over time to facilitate major motorsport events in New South Wales. Each Act is specific to a geographical location and requirements of each existing event, which limits our ability to easily attract new event content into New South Wales. The Motor Sports Bill 2022 consolidates these Acts to achieve a holistic legislative framework for the conduct of motorsport events in New South Wales. The bill will provide one set of powers and a consistent approach to similar activities across motorsport events; the ability to account for the unique characteristics of an event and its location, if required, through the use of race authorisation conditions and an event specific regulation; a consistent approach to track safety inspections, facilitated by a New South Wales Government-approved sanctioning body, which will be one of the industry peak bodies; clear articulation of the roles and responsibilities of various government and non-government stakeholders to improve event oversight; and a streamlined and efficient approvals pathway for authorisations across the events.

The bill repeals the existing Acts and associated regulations for the Motor Racing (Sydney and Newcastle) Act 2008, the Motor Sports (World Rally Championship) Act 2009 and the Mount Panorama Motor Racing Act 1989. The bill enables motorsport activities to occur on public roads through the suspension of certain road legislation, principally the Roads Act 1993 and the Road Transport Act 2013. It also streamlines the approval of activities over multiple jurisdictions and/or landholdings through interactions with other legislation, such as the Local Government Act 1993, the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974, the Forestry Act 2012 and the Crown Land Management Act 2016. I think you are slowly starting to get a flavour of the level of oversight and regulation that exists for motorsport.

Motorsport events have the potential to temporarily affect some residents, businesses and communities during the preparation work and during the event itself. The bill allows for conditions to be imposed on the event to reduce or avoid potential impacts on the event and non-event community. Conditions may include matters related to public safety and environmental protection, particularly things like noise. Event organisers must comply with any of these imposed conditions. The bill provides confidence and certainty to event organisers through an enabling legislative framework and provides protection of event promoters' commercial rights through advertising and marketing controls in and around the event precinct. This avoids the use of things like guerrilla marketing tactics. New regulations will be made for existing motorsport events to enable them to continue in their current location and format.

I now turn to the issue of how safety is going to be managed for larger motorsport events. The bill requires that the promoter—often a private company running the event—must produce a race safety plan and have that signed off by an authority nominated by the Government. This is set out in clause 8 of the bill. In practice, we will nominate one of the peak motorsport bodies. I will take the example of the Newcastle 500. In this case, the race is run by Supercars, as the promoter, under the safety rules set out by Motorsport Australia. Motorsport Australia is recognised by the Federal Government as a National Sporting Organisation and is also affiliated with the International Automobile Association, meaning it has significant skills and expertise, drawn worldwide, to issue a safety code and assess Supercars' safety plan, which is under that code.

The design of these safety codes and the assessment of safety plans under them require deep expertise and it is not for a New South Wales government agency to try to assess such a safety plan effectively. That is why the bill requires that the expert assessment of the safety plan be by an organisation which has this specialist knowledge. This is the first time we have legislated this requirement. But, in practice, the promoters of these major races all race under the auspices of one of these peak bodies. They take their safety reputations very seriously. It is also worth noting that previously we have tried to use the NSW Police Force to oversee safety for such events.

But one of the clear pieces of advice that we have had during the preparation of the bill is that the police do not have the expertise to be able to oversee these safety plans, which is why we are utilising the national peak motorsport bodies.

More broadly than this race safety plan, the Government can impose general public safety requirements under the race authorisations, which is included at clause 7 of the bill. This can include such matters as public health, or service of alcohol, or the provision of security guards. In this way, the specialised assessment of the race safety code is carried out by a specialist peak body nominated by the Government, but the Government can set any other, broader safety conditions if it requires them. Operationally, a multi-agency team from agencies such as police, transport, ambulance and health, will work with the promoter in the lead-up, and be there when the race happens, to make sure that these more government-centred safety issues are managed properly. To give added strength to these safety measures, the bill contains various powers to be used by security guards or authorised officers to regulate access, search bags, or remove drunk or disorderly persons. These can be seen in division 4 of the bill. The Motor Sports Bill 2022 will enable the safe and successful conduct of existing events and motor vehicle racing activities in a more consistent manner, while facilitating the smoother delivery of new world-class motorsport events in New South Wales.

I add that we have provided appropriate settings in the bill to allow the Mount Panorama location to continue to function as a race circuit as consistently as it has under the Mount Panorama Motor Racing Act 1989. Bringing it in line with other motor races under this legislation is a more streamlined approach. It will mean that motor races are treated equally and fairly across the State, but the unique Mount Panorama arrangement is recognised and will continue under the proposed Act. Where Mount Panorama is different to other major motorsport events conducted on public roads is that, instead of being a public road which is converted into a race track on race days, the Mount Panorama circuit is a race track which functions as a public road on all non-event days. The bill accounts for this reversed setting.

In a similar way, the Major Events Amendment Bill 2022 will update the Major Events Act 2009 to ensure that it remains contemporary and relevant for attracting and hosting major events in New South Wales. The Major Events Act 2009 has now been in place for over 10 years and is really the linchpin of our major event strategy. Before the Act commenced, special legislation was enacted to facilitate new major events, in a similar way to motorsport events, which we propose to consolidate into one Act through the Motor Sports Bill 2022. The Major Events Act 2009 established a standard set of provisions to facilitate major events more generally, based on the provisions that had been regularly included in previous special legislation. The Act ensures that major events are conducted in a manner that is safe and enjoyable for participants and spectators. It also facilitates better coordination of major events and protects event organisers from exploitation, through such things as ambush marketing, as does the Motor Sports Bill 2022.

Other jurisdictions have now enacted similar legislation, after taking New South Wales' lead. The Major Events Act 2009 must only be enacted for international-, national- or State-level events, and only when it is necessary and in the public interest to do so. As a result, the Major Events Act 2009 has been used only for seven events held in Sydney thus far: FIFA Fan Fest 2010, AFC Asian Cup 2015, ICC Cricket World Cup 2015, World Polo Championship 2017, ASEAN-Australia Special Summit 2018, Invictus Games Sydney 2018, and the Women's T20 2020 World Cup. The Act made hosting these world-class events in New South Wales possible, as they could not be facilitated through any other laws. The legislation is an important policy lever for attracting major events to New South Wales and we believe it should continue. The Act is important both in supporting social and economic outcomes, but there is scope to improve it and to ensure that it remains contemporary and relevant.

The Major Events Amendment Bill 2022 will update the Act by refining the definition of the locations of the major event to which the Act's provisions may apply to accommodate events that are held in more than one venue or area; streamlining the process for activating provisions contained in part 4 of the Act through the making of regulations; ensuring that the Act interacts appropriately with planning and environmental legislation and that major event developments and activities can, where necessary, be carried out with the approval of the Minister for Planning; enabling the regulations to provide that compensation is not payable by the event promoter in respect of major event-related matters, and to prohibit the delegation of the responsible authority's key regulatory functions, so providing more certainty to event stakeholders; consolidating some definitions to ensure consistency and simplicity; making minor amendments to keep pace with social and technological change, such as requiring certain public notices to be published online rather than in a newspaper; and including drones and other unmanned aerial vehicles in relation to certain aerial advertising matters.

The amendments will improve the overall function and use of the Act in major event facilitation, while providing more certainty to the event promoter, responsible authority and other stakeholders involved in a major event. In New South Wales, Destination NSW plays a key role in attracting and facilitating over 100 major events

annually. Major events are big business for New South Wales. In New South Wales in 2019, event visitors stayed 5.9 million nights and spent \$2.4 billion. The New South Wales Government is committed to investing in world-class events that drive visitation and enhance the social wellbeing of our residents, in line with our NSW Visitor Economy Strategy 2030. Ensuring that New South Wales has a streamlined and efficient legislative framework for major events and motorsports is critical to delivering this commitment.

These bills will deliver a contemporary major events legislation that will enable us to host the world's biggest and best events, while ensuring a sustained legacy for New South Wales communities. The improved legislative framework will be particularly important as we continue our recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic when stimulus into the New South Wales economy generated by major events will be even more crucial. These bills put New South Wales firmly in front in attracting new events and drawing visitors from around the country and overseas to our great State. These bills will set New South Wales up well for the future and provide a stronger and safer framework within which to conduct these events. I commend the bills to the House.

**Debate adjourned.**

*Budget*

### **BUDGET ESTIMATES AND RELATED PAPERS 2021-2022**

**Debate resumed from 17 February 2022.**

**Mr RAY WILLIAMS (Castle Hill) (15:35):** After I was so rudely interrupted previously, I continue my take-note debate with an important point on behalf of the communities of New South Wales in regard to the response from this New South Wales Government to the COVID pandemic. Today I was alerted to the fact that the amount of money injected into the State by the New South Wales Government alone was \$46 billion. This amount was injected into the community on behalf of families, on behalf of employees struggling with employment throughout the past two years and on behalf of businesses, many of whom I acknowledge are still struggling today and many of whom are doing much better. I acknowledge the 4.2 per cent unemployment rate across the country, which is an extraordinarily low unemployment rate. However, I also recognise that some businesses—particularly in hospitality and tourism—are still struggling to come to terms with the conditions that they have faced in the last two years.

That funding has kept many people employed. It has injected additional services on behalf of our health networks. No doubt the PCR screening centres and quarantine hotels would have contributed to quite a significant amount of that \$46 billion cost. I note those particular hotel isolations from travellers coming back to this country, many of whom were from other States. I acknowledge that some of those States, such as Queensland, have not repaid the funding that the New South Wales Government provided on behalf of having those people in quarantine. This is very sad because as a country, we have been in this together and our contribution of \$46 billion has been extraordinary. I refer also to the injection of funding in respect of the rapid antigen tests, which we still undertake to this day. We all look forward to a time in the near future where those tests will not be necessary.

I acknowledge the Speaker in the chair doing the appropriate thing and wearing his mask. I take on board the importance of wearing masks. I do not say that tongue in cheek. I say that for all the important reasons. Once again, the investment in the personal protection equipment provided throughout our health networks on behalf of emergency service workers has been nothing short of phenomenal. The \$46 billion would have gone a long way when you consider the cost of the Metro Northwest that I have talked up many times in this House and advocated for strongly prior to entering this House and then during my term in Opposition. It is a vital network that cost some \$7 billion, which puts into perspective what this one-off investment over a couple of budgets of \$46 billion could have provided.

This Government, since being elected in 2011, has already invested \$156 billion into infrastructure projects across New South Wales and has earmarked an additional \$110 billion during the next four years over the forward estimates. When you look at that phenomenal amount of money injected into COVID and what it would have meant in terms of infrastructure alone if we had not had the COVID pandemic, it is clear that this Government recognises the importance of injecting that money to keep this State on track to keep our people working, to keep our businesses viable, and to ensure that we have the appropriate health services, the protections and the emergency services personnel in place. Everybody was involved in this. We were all as one across this country. It is very sad that some of our funds that we invested into quarantining measures on behalf of communities from other States around this country were not met and not backed up by other governments.

Out of that funding, some \$3.1 billion was delivered directly into health infrastructure and \$27.1 billion in recurrent health spending. At all times the focus has been on not only the protection and the wellbeing of our communities but also our economic recovery. Some \$108.5 billion in infrastructure spending—or just under \$110 billion over the next four years—is certainly going to keep the provision of infrastructure on behalf of the



people of this State, which includes those in Greater Sydney and across the western suburbs where my electorate is located in Castle Hill, receiving \$1.7 billion in business support.

I bring that to the attention of the House to outline the effectiveness of that particular investment. Some 52,000 businesses were helped through the Small Business Support Program, 36,000 businesses were supported through the Small Business Recovery Grant and \$441 million was claimed through Dine & Discover vouchers. We have all enjoyed the Dine & Discover vouchers, a direct injection into certain businesses in the hospitality industry, which was hurt the hardest by the pandemic.

There were some \$2.1 billion in savings through reduction in payroll tax, which would have been a huge relief to the many small, medium and large businesses paying payroll tax. Some \$45 million was given to arts organisations through the arts industry Rescue and Restart package. Throughout the past two years of turmoil and struggle of the Government and our community, those many people who suffered the effects of COVID—sadly, people passed away; we sympathise with their families—this Government has retained its triple-A credit rating, which is extraordinary. It shows that the financial capabilities, the financial management and the work that has been done by this Government has put this State in great shape to retain its triple-A credit rating.

There is our statewide infrastructure, \$108.5 billion in our drive to recovery, which includes the start in the Bradfield City Centre, \$12 billion for the Sydney Metro West, which will link up with my Northwest Metro and provide greater connectivity for my electorate, and \$2.1 billion in capital expenditure to build new schools and upgrade old schools. I have spoken before about the many millions of dollars out of that capital expenditure going into new schools in my area, which is greatly appreciated. On top of that, very importantly, this Government has set about putting in savings measures on behalf of families.

Sadly, some expenses cannot be avoided. But whenever we can give back to our communities and in some way relieve them of cost-of-living pressures, we have done that. We have invested no less than \$6 billion in a total of 130 cost-of-living savings. They include the newly introduced \$100 First Lap vouchers. Nothing is more important for families, especially when they have newborns, than to teach their children how to swim so they are ready for the water, which has saved a countless number of lives. The time to use the \$250 regional seniors travel card has been extended and funding for two days of free preschool each week has been provided. They are part and parcel of that \$6 billion package that are particularly targeted towards families, especially those with young children. It builds on our extensive cost-of-living measures, which are being continued this year. Mr Speaker, I ask for an extension of time. [*Extension of time*]

I cannot ask for any more in this Parliament. It keeps getting better and better. The longer I am here, the nicer people become. I appreciate the indulgence of the House. As I said before, there is \$6 billion of cost-of-living savings. It also expands on what we have already introduced, which is the toll relief for families. People cannot avoid some expenses and, sadly, tolls are one of them. They can always use alternatives, such as public transport or other roads. Tolls are one sure-fire way to improve the speed with which we move around our city, get to and from work so that we get home quicker to our families, but it comes at a cost. So toll relief is continuing, including free or discounted registration for those who incur the high cost of paying tolls. I can state for the record, Mr Speaker, as you can also, that our electorates are the direct beneficiaries of much of that funding because they use those toll roads, as I did this morning. I used the M7 and the M2 to come to work. Sadly, at one point in time I was interrupted as a result of there being more vehicles on the road today because of other issues, which will remain the subject of question time and do not need to be canvassed in this debate.

We also funded the extremely successful Active Kids and Creative Kids vouchers. There is no better example of this Government's investment directly into families than relieving them of the cost of sport equipment and registrations, whether they are summer or winter sports or involve other cultural and creative aspects. Those vouchers are a direct result of this Government focusing on the need for our children to remain healthy at all times. There is an increase in diabetes and obesity across our communities. The vouchers are having an incredible effect on young people. They making sure they are out on the paddock each Saturday morning and undertaking a very healthy life. The Family Energy Rebate and the pensioner gas and water rebates will continue. Registration rebates for apprentices and discounted licence renewal for safe drivers are just some of the items included in the \$6 billion package to lower cost-of-living expenses for families. They have been very successful and will continue to remain in place under this Government.

I will go through some budgetary items that affect my community and fall under different grants. There is a myriad of different grants programs, not just the Community Building Partnership program but many other grants. I speak of none other than the Greater City Sport Facility Fund. I have one of the largest basketball associations in my electorate, Hills Basketball Association, located in Fred Caterson Reserve. Thousands of people go through that basketball facility each and every week. They have been the beneficiary of half a million dollars in funding from the Greater City Sport Facility Fund. Hills Basketball Association did not get the lot; it received about \$200,000. Kenthurst Park received funding to upgrade its cricket and soccer fields, including

additional floodlights, drainage and irrigation. The park had been waiting an exceptionally long time for those upgrades, which will make a difference for that community. It will certainly encourage more people onto the sporting fields. The Community Building Partnership is grant funding that just continues to keep giving.

**Ms Tania Mihailuk:** Thanks, Labor. We set it up.

**Mr RAY WILLIAMS:** It has provided so many opportunities to upgrade and improve our local facilities, playgrounds and playing fields. There is a myriad of opportunities for which our communities can access that funding. That money is well invested in our communities and it has saved them coming back, knocking on our doors seeking more funding. They can access those grants, which will continue. It is a wonderful outcome for this Government to increase those grants from \$300,000 a year by \$100,000, to \$400,000.

**Ms Tania Mihailuk:** Back to Labor.

**Mr RAY WILLIAMS:** I take on board the kind comments from the member for Bankstown. She and her community will certainly benefit from that additional \$100,000.

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Bankstown will remain silent.

**Mr RAY WILLIAMS:** With interjections from both sides of the House, I am struggling to even hear myself go through these items. An investment of \$15,000 was made to Rotary Club of Kenthurst; Rouse Hill Scout Group received \$25,000; St Bernadette's Parish, which is a wonderful Catholic church in Castle Hill, received \$10,000; Castle Hill Heritage Park received \$15,000; Our Lady of the Rosary School at Kellyville received \$10,000; one of my lovely primary schools, Sherwood Ridge Public School, received \$25,000; and Castle Hill BMX Club received \$35,000. That club has a wonderful, outstanding BMX facility, which hosted the State titles recently. As I have mentioned before on record, I continue to be involved. Back in the day, I was one of the manufacturers of the only Australian BMX bike, which was a Quicksilver bike. I maintain those links, and I love my BMX. Castle Hill BMX Club put on a great display. It has a wonderful facility and, as I said, recently hosted the State titles. It has hosted the national titles before that. The club will use that funding.

The Kellyville soccer club received \$25,000 for an upgrade and refurbishment of the toilet block; the Endeavour Foundation received \$5,000 for young people with disabilities—again, that is money well spent—the Churches of Christ received \$7,500; and one of my very favourite organisations, Riding for the Disabled at Tall Timbers, which is only minutes from my home, received \$33,000. I just adore that particular facility and the work it does for people with disability. The Scout Association, who always puts money to good use, received \$8,600. The new venturer program of the Scout Association also received funding of \$15,500. Sunnyfield Disability Services received \$5,000. Disability services in my area were the great beneficiaries in the last round of funding under the Community Building Partnership program. Rouse Hill Anglican Church received nearly \$9,000. The Hills Basketball Association, which has been flush with money, received \$30,000. But it costs a lot to keep up its facilities with 5,000 or 6,000 members in the association.

The Australian Foundation for Disability was the beneficiary of \$20,000. Kellyville United Football Club received \$10,000 for more storage area for its equipment. The Fit Kidz Foundation at Dural received \$10,000; Care & Concern Ministries at Dural received \$20,000; and Kellyville Preschool received \$15,500. It just keeps going on. The wonderful Dolphins Swim Club, located at Castle Hill RSL, received \$10,000; North Kellyville Public School received \$10,000 for its outdoor kitchen and barbecue area; and Castle Hill United Football Club received \$5,000 for a ride-on lawnmower. Those clubs never stop giving back to the community. They even mow their own lawns, or they do now because they have a brand-new ride-on mower. The Kellyville Rural Fire Brigade received \$5,000. That is a total of \$400,000 in grants just in the past year, which is an absolutely phenomenal investment in our area.

Of course, on top of that—it almost sounds like I am about to roll out steak knives—are the local sports grants. As I said, myriad funding is coming from this Government. For the record, I note that Castle Hill Bowling Club was awarded \$2,000 for the purchase of bowls. The sports grants are smaller amounts of money than the Community Building Partnership grants. The Castle Hill RSL Cricket Club received \$2,000; Castle Hill United Football, \$5,000; Hills Hornets Touch Football Association, \$2,000 to provide education for its touch football referees; Kellyville Supersonics Sports Club, \$5,000 for uniforms for junior players; Kellyville United Football Club, \$7,000; and Lankan Islanders Cricket Club, located in our area, received \$5,000.

Rouse Hill Rams, a great sports club just round the corner from me, picked up \$5,000. The Rouse Hill Rangers Football Club received \$2,000. It is an up-and-coming soccer club that does a great job and has around 350 members now. Rouse Hill Sports Club-Netball received \$2,000; Rouse Hill Sports Club-Soccer, \$3,700; and St Pauls Netball Club, \$4,300. The great news never ends. That is only the funding for my local area. My community in Castle Hill has certainly been a beneficiary as have the communities of New South Wales more broadly. I commend the budget to the House.

**Business interrupted.**

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Hornsby and Treasurer has sought leave to make a personal explanation. Normally, under Standing Order 62, the member needs the leave of the Speaker, which I have granted in the circumstances. Also, no question should be before the House. However, in the circumstance where the concurrence of the House is clear, I will allow the member to make a personal explanation.

*Personal Explanation***STATE ECONOMY**

**Mr MATT KEAN (Hornsby—Treasurer, and Minister for Energy) (15:56):** By leave: During question time I made some comments in jest. The member for Newtown took a point of order because there was some offence caused. I never intended there to be any offence caused, so I withdraw my comments unreservedly and want to make sure that no offence was caused to anyone.

*Budget***BUDGET ESTIMATES AND RELATED PAPERS 2021-2022****Business resumed.**

**Ms GABRIELLE UPTON (Vaucluse) (15:57):** I welcome the opportunity to contribute to debate on the budget estimates. When I look back over the 10 years that I have served as the member for Vaucluse and consider all the benefits of this Liberal-Nationals Government—creating opportunities, making people's lives better, investing in community sport, local infrastructure and roads—I realise the depth of the benefit of a Liberal-Nationals Coalition being in power. The awards to my electorate represent a better life and a better experience of work, school and family commitment. That investment makes a difference to how people in my electorate go about their daily lives. We had some very serious wins in the 2021-22 budget.

For a long time before the Liberal-Nationals Coalition took government in 2011, people in my electorate had wanted transport to the city and to other areas in metropolitan Sydney to be a little easier by capitalising on access to the harbour. Of course over the past 10 years that was made possible by the serious investment in the Transport portfolio in New South Wales to create extra ferry services across the harbour and new ferry infrastructure. Now many people in my electorate use ferries to get out and about in the city. From Double Bay in my electorate, it takes only 15 minutes or a little less to reach Circular Quay. Using the express services from Rose Bay, it is about 15 minutes to the CBD, which is such a small amount of time. If those travellers were sitting in their cars on the main roads, it would probably take double that time. I was keen to make sure we had the right regular services and ferries so that people could use our harbour access to more quickly get to the city, up the Parramatta River and now to Barangaroo.

It made sense to upgrade the wharves in my electorate. For some time investment was put into the new Rose Bay ferry wharf, which had a smooth construction and delivery. It was built parallel to the old wharf so that people could continue to use the ferry service while the new wharf was shipped in and attached at the hip to the wharf area. Because our ferry services have been stepped up over the past 10 years due to that investment, the upgrade of two other wharves in my electorate was made possible. They have been sorely missing the accessibility that we want for all members of our community. Also, they needed functionality to enable people to stand out of the rain and, of course, a good ticketing system that links in with the Opal card system. The Opal system is a massive success for our Government. It provides a quicker and more efficient way for people to pay for ferry services and for services more broadly across our transport system.

In our last budget, just under \$16 million was allocated to upgrade Darling Point and Double Bay ferry wharves. The Double Bay wharf has no special shelter or access facilities. That money will enable work on that upgrade to begin soon. We have completed a community consultation around the wharf and what it should look like. I am proud that the work that was done earlier—investing in extra services and extra ferries—has brought alive the whole network of ferry services in my electorate. We have also just closed a consultation on a Darling Point wharf upgrade, which is a more challenging upgrade because access to the wharf is through an historic park at the end of Darling Point Road. Accommodation will need to be made for a lift to move people from the ferry wharf up to street level on Darling Point Road, but we are navigating all the issues.

Of course, we must be mindful of the heritage features of that Darling Point area, which is an historic part of Sydney. I am pleased that just under \$16 million will be invested in the upgrade of both of those wharves. I am hopeful that in the future we will invest in an upgrade of the Watsons Bay ferry wharf, which is used a lot as a gateway to all the wonderful things that Watsons Bay offers, including the Watsons Bay pub, the historic area of South Head, The Gap and the beautiful clifftop walks. It is the gateway to those experiences, not only for visitors from all across Sydney but also for international travellers. We have many services, including a private commuter

service that comes to Watsons Bay, which I was proud to announce. Now we need an upgrade of Watsons Bay wharf. I am confident that will happen, now that the Darling Point and Double Bay ferry wharves have been upgraded.

The 2021-22 New South Wales budget included \$360,000 for an upgrade to State heritage listed Vacluse House, which is significant on a number of levels for me as the member for Vacluse. It was the ancestral home of William Charles Wentworth, who is staring down at me from his oil portrait, which is hanging across from me in the Chamber. In the time that I have been a member of this Chamber, that painting has been renovated, upgraded and restored, which is magnificent because William Charles Wentworth played such a significant role in our early economy. He had a view that there should be democracy here in the early days of our colony and he backed that in with forceful rhetoric. He had lots of plans and lots of arguments to make. He was one of the first movers to establish the University of Sydney, what is now Sydney Grammar School and *The Australian*. He was a significant contributor to the early days of our colony. He had a vision for us to become a democracy.

Vacluse House, which has an investment of just under \$400,000 for upgrades, was his ancestral home. In those days when William Wentworth was an important member of our colony, he used to have quite a long journey out to Vacluse and Vacluse House. It was quite a way from the city in those days and he had a big property. The interesting thing is that he called it Vacluse House after Vacluse, which was a name given by Petrarch—an early philosopher, going back quite some time—to Petrarch's refuge, where he would decamp from the difficult responsibilities he had all those years ago in Europe. So William Charles Wentworth called his ancestral home, where he and his wife, Sarah, raised their many children, Vacluse House, harking back to Petrarch and the naming of the place he would take his summer and other holidays. Petrarch had also named that place Vacluse House.

Now we have a wonderful facility. It is looked after by Sydney Living Museums. It is a place where people can see the way that people like the Wentworth family used to live. Young schoolkids get taken on wonderful excursions to Vacluse House to acquaint them with how people lived at that time. It has a wonderful tea house, and I totally commend it to members if they are looking for somewhere to have an afternoon tea or a meal. Adjacent to the old Vacluse House is a wonderful cafe that has some great views over Vacluse Bay and to the harbour.

I move to investments into health. Out of the last budget \$50 million was rightly invested into the Neurosciences Comprehensive Care and Research Centre at the Sydney's Children's Hospital at Randwick. We must focus on neuroscience as an aspect of health research and the health clinical benefits that come from it, because the brain is probably the least understood part of our bodies. It has the most control over the things that we do. I feel very passionately about the work that we do in neuroscience. Before I came into politics, I served on Neuroscience Research Australia, which was a medical research institute based at the Prince of Wales Hospital. Its mission is to ensure that we have a lot more research into the neurosciences and the workings of the brain. The things that impact our loved ones and members of our community, such as Alzheimer's disease or dementia, are things that we understand very little about and that will require further studies of the brain. The fact that we are investing into the Neurosciences Comprehensive Care and Research Centre at Sydney's Children's Hospital to help our young people is so very important, given that we do not understand as much as we would like to think about the sciences and biology of the brain in young people.

When it comes to matters of law and order, like any community, my community is very concerned about living in a safe place. The last budget allocated \$10.1 million to upgrade the Waverley Police Station. Detective Superintendent Martin Fileman does a great job. He is relatively new to the police area command but, over the time I have been the member for Vacluse, we have had a series of amazing detective superintendents who have gone on to bigger and greater things within the Police Force. I have a good relationship with the Police Force at Waverley Police Station, which is on Bronte Road. That \$10.1 million for the police command is rightly deserved. The building at the moment is a seventies design and features a lot of steps. It is not really functional or good for the needs of a modern police force.

The police station sits next door our courts. Waverley Local Court does a lot of work. It is a court that services the south-eastern suburbs in Sydney, and so it is an intensely used justice precinct. Part of the reason it has taken a little while to get up and running is due to the major renovations that need to be carried out for the police station. Being adjacent to the court facility means that those renovations, how they are timed and how they interfere with the workings of the court had to be very carefully planned. But I am gratified that just over that \$10 million will now go into that upgrade.

Along with upgrade, since June 2020 we have had 85 additional police officers join the eastern suburbs and the eastern beaches police area commands. The Eastern Beaches Police Area Command stretches out to Malabar and areas in south-eastern Sydney. It has been fantastic. Every year I make a point of visiting and meeting with the new recruits, when COVID permits. What I always find inspiring about the police officers who we have

assigned there, who are new after having graduated from Goulburn, is their diversity and the backgrounds they bring. There are some who are mid-career and some have aspired to be police officers all of their career; for others, it has been a transition from other careers. But, like the representation we have in our local MPs in this House, the fact they are such a diverse group of people with lived experience in other areas of the community is important to our police area command locally. They can bring a maturity and other perspectives to the difficult work they do.

The police do some of the hardest work in our community. Whether it is helping women, or men perhaps, who are the victims of domestic violence, interrupting drug supply, or intervening in the very distressing things that can go on at The Gap where people, with more regularity than any of us would like to see, take their lives, they do a terrible but absolutely necessary job of assisting people in tragic situations. I admire the work they do and that is why I am gratified that, as I said, those 85 additional police officers across the two local area commands are so welcome by my local community.

In my community there is a large Jewish population. They are the largest grouping of Jewish community across the State, and I am very proud of that. In the last budget \$6.25 million was allocated for a new education building, exhibition space and expanded archive at the Sydney Jewish Museum in Darlinghurst. That was gratifying because the museum organisation had been speaking to me. Although I am not the local member there, when it comes to their community, I listen and assist wherever I can. The Jewish museum is a marvellous facility that reminds us of the horrors of the Holocaust and the lessons we must never forget, not just in our communities who were touched by it but also in our broader community across New South Wales. It teaches us about man's inhumanity to man and how we must remain ever vigilant. The Sydney Jewish Museum is a visible facility—a visible museum—where young people and adults from across New South Wales come to be educated and reminded of the lessons of the Holocaust. That \$6 million into the new educational building and exhibition space was incredibly welcome.

An important issue for my electorate is clean, quality water, both to consume and on our beaches, in our harbour pools and across the harbour that I am lucky to have as part of my electorate. Some \$14 million from the last budget is going to continue the work closing the deep ocean wastewater outfalls at Vacluse and Diamond Bay. It may be shocking for members of this House to learn that Vacluse and Diamond Bay are the last deep ocean wastewater outfalls left in New South Wales. What does that mean? It means that raw sewage is discharged out to the sea from those two outfalls. Others in the State have been closed off but sewage is still pumped directly into the ocean at Vacluse and Diamond Bay.

At the last election I was very proud to stand with former Premier Gladys Berejiklian to announce an \$80 million program of works overseen by Sydney Water to close those deep ocean wastewater outfalls. That water deserves to be cleaner than it is, for not only my electorate but also the whole of the coastline in New South Wales. We have drawn to a conclusion what I think is one of the most exemplary community consultation programs that has taken place over the past two years on how that work should be undertaken and when it should be undertaken, because it is a deeply complex project. I thank the chairman of Sydney Water, the CEO, the local representatives, my local councils and local stakeholders who served on that community consultative committee. It is one of the best that I have seen.

The issue of how it should be accomplished had been a political football in times previous to our current government. It had been lost in the war of ideas as to whether we should do this. Gratefully, we got beyond that and then we found the money. I thank the Liberal-Coalition Government for that. Now the work has been rolled out so that we will no longer see wastewater discharged out to our oceans. This is a benefit not only to my community but also beyond. That wastewater will be taken to a sewerage treatment plant in Bondi and treated in the way it should be treated. *[Extension of time]*

I want to go on because there is so much to talk about and I have only started on one page. I focus on the fact that the things I have spoken to in the last 20 minutes or so were really things from the last budget. When members come before the House and make speeches, we talk about achievements over the last period of government, which is now almost 11 years, and the benefits they have brought in a coordinated way. Why has that been possible? It took our Government to bring to heel the fiscal approach that is required by governments that are responsible. It is about bringing your expenses into order, spending only when you can and recycling infrastructure into new infrastructure, and I have no doubt that the legacy that this Government leaves in my electorate relates very much to the recycling of older assets into new. That has been made possible by the investment of \$80 million into the deep ocean wastewater outfall closure. That will benefit the whole of the New South Wales coastline, not just my local electorate.

I talk now about the achievements in the past two years, since I have not had that opportunity as we have been dealing with COVID. Parliament has been remote at times and the opportunity to speak before the House on the benefits of the past two years' achievements has not been available. I go back to February 2020 when just over \$1 million was invested into maintenance funding for six local schools, including Rose Bay Secondary College,

the only public high school in my electorate of Vacluse. Money was also invested into Woollahra Public School, Double Bay Public School, Rose Bay Public School and Bondi Beach Public School for repairs and upgrades. It included things like roof works, new floor coverings, upgraded drainage, electrical works and painting—all of those essential things that make teaching and the delivery of education into the fine schools that are part of my electorate more enjoyable for teachers and less impactful for the students. They show a pride that we have as a State in the public education that we deliver into our communities.

There was an investment of just under \$800,000 into Woollahra Preschool, run by my local council. It was a marvellous thing to see the new rooms, a new preschool room and new outdoor play space for 40 additional families in my electorate. I saw all of those things built with that money at the preschool, which I visited back in September 2020, 18 months ago. Many of us in the House have families in our electorates who seek preschool education. It has been encouraged by education policy in the State. It is gratifying to see the provision of more places in smaller electorates that are densely populated like mine. Forty additional families had their children able to take up opportunities which were not otherwise available at Woollahra Preschool.

I turn to the fact that I have had a number of heritage listings in my electorate. It comes back to a point I made earlier about William Charles Wentworth. My electorate is an older part of Sydney and there are many features of it, including Vacluse House that I spoke to, that are a proud part of the heritage of broader New South Wales. In June 2020 I was happy to announce a heritage listing of Rushcutters Bay Park, and Yarranabbe Park and the seawall that has been there for a very long time. The park has had various uses over time, which tell a story about the evolution of Sydney. They were originally swamps; they then became part of what was sporting infrastructure of the State; now they are big, open, green spaces prized by my local community. Those of us who have small, dense electorates in metropolitan Sydney know how important our green space is. Rushcutters Bay Park and Yarranabbe Park had a proud history and after some work by me and my local community we were able to ensure that we had a State heritage listing.

A little earlier there was a State heritage listing of the Hermitage foreshore reserve, which links up with the national park estate, Strickland House and now Nielsen Park. Through work that I was able to do when I was environment and heritage Minister, this means we now have a contiguous piece of green, open space that is beautiful and historical, and stretches from the Hermitage foreshore reserve all the way out to Shark Beach, which is in Nielsen Park. That is now in the hands of the National Parks and Wildlife Service, which means it cannot be frittered away, it is safe from development, and we can then create a more holistic management plan over them.

In fact, in relation to Strickland House and Nielsen Park, we now have on foot, which will kick off shortly, a consultation with my local residents over the management plan. We are going to go through what is a good piece of work, because I have seen this work in other areas of my electorate, where we say, "What are the uses that are consistent with the community that they can live with, yet give some life to our areas which are the subject of heritage and national parks protection?" That Hermitage foreshore reserve means we can have a unified approach to those beautiful areas of Sydney that overlook the harbour.

On Sunday I took my elderly father out for a drive in the car, which he likes. He was very much a man who studied the history and heritage of the local area. He worked for the Department of Public Works many years ago before he retired and I had the pleasure of showing him the signal station at Watsons Bay in Vacluse. I was there with Minister Stokes in his former portfolio and we were dedicating \$1 million to restore the State heritage-listed South Head Signal Station. I took some photographs of the signal station on Sunday afternoon. It is very old. It needed repairs to be made to its roof, windows, doors, handrails, walkways and kitchen. About 18 months ago I visited there with Minister Stokes and we saw what a dilapidated condition it was in. We met the tenants and people interested in the local historical aspects of the signal station. It is still in use, and it was being used even when it was in a bad state of disrepair.

I saw on Sunday that the signal station now has all the hoarding around it, that there are major maintenance works made possible by that \$1 million, not only to make proud the history and heritage of the signal station and what it has done over time but also to make possible a better discharge of its current responsibility for signalling ships that go up and down the east coast of New South Wales. The cliff face at South Head and along from Vacluse has a very sad and tragic history, with a number of ships having run aground and causing loss of life—not in modern times but in times gone by. If members walk down to South Head and The Gap, there are reminders along the way of people who perished in those tragic incidents. The South Head Signal Station still plays a really important role in navigating ships up and down the southern and eastern coast of New South Wales, so it was good to see that work has already kicked off.

The last thing I mention to the House is that Clean Up Australia Day is coming up. Every year I have held an event at Bondi Beach. Although it is a pretty clean beach and the council does a good job, we always manage to find those really irritating pieces of small plastic and cigarette butts when we do our Clean Up Australia Day. That is why I have been very gratified to hear our new environment Minister is rolling out programs that will

support our local councils to help local businesses repurpose some of the plastic waste that they make in their businesses, and to hold their hands while they are doing that. We do not collect a large volume at Bondi Beach on Clean Up Australia Day, but we collect a large number of items such as the tops of sushi bottles, little water bottles like we use in the Chamber and cigarette butts. For some reason people do not think they are litter or rubbish, but we know they are a problem when we see them in the volumes that we collect on Clean Up Australia Day.

A number of my colleagues and I will be heading out on Clean Up Australia Day to do that work. Litter reduction is important, ongoing work in our community. I do that job on Clean Up Australia Day because I think it is important to lead the local community in those efforts, and in a couple of Sundays I will do it for the ninth or tenth consecutive year. With those remarks, I take my leave—although I would be happy to go on because I have many more pages of notes about my electorate. I appreciate the opportunity to talk about a small part of the benefits the Coalition Government is delivering to quality of life, services and investment for my local electorate.

**Debate adjourned.**

*Community Recognition Statements*

**SCOTT MCLACHLAN**

**Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal) (16:27):** I congratulate Scott McLachlan on his appointment as the new CEO of Central Coast Local Health District. Scott is well qualified for the job, having recently spent nine years as CEO of Western NSW Local Health District. He is also no stranger to the Central Coast, having worked as deputy CEO of Brisbane Waters Private Hospital a number of years ago. Scott also has clinical experience, starting his career around 27 years ago as an exercise physiologist working with children with spina bifida. It has been a very difficult few years for healthcare workers not only on the Central Coast but across the State. I commend them all for their tireless efforts to keep the community safe and healthy. The Central Coast is in very capable hands with Scott and with the record investment from the Government in exciting projects such as the ongoing redevelopment of Wyong hospital and the new clinical school at Gosford Hospital. We are seeing record investment in the local health district and record numbers of new staff, including new doctors and nurses. I look forward to working with Scott to maximise the outcomes for patients and families across the Central Coast. I welcome him and his lovely wife, Rebekah, to the Central Coast.

**COFFS HARBOUR ELECTORATE HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE SHOWCASES**

**Mr GURMESH SINGH (Coffs Harbour) (16:28):** Six Coffs Coast creators and innovators from the 2021 HSC will be celebrated in the HSC Showcases. Each year the HSC Showcases display a selection of top major works from students across visual arts, performing arts and technologies. It is a great opportunity for local young people to have their achievements, creativity and innovation shared with the local and broader community. Three of our local ambassadors were selected for ARTEXPRESS, which celebrates outstanding work in visual arts. Liana Marie Cook from Coffs Harbour Christian Community School, William Mackie from Bishop Druitt College and James Thompson from Coffs Harbour Senior College will have their work displayed at the Bank Art Museum in Moree from 12 April until 25 June. Amy Leigh Knott from Coffs Harbour Senior College was selected for Callback, an annual showcase of performances and compositions in dance. Francoise Dik from Coffs Harbour Senior College was selected for Shape 2021, which celebrates major projects in design and technology, industrial technology, and textiles and design. Connor Duncan McMillan from Bishop Druitt College was selected for Textstyle, which showcases textiles and design projects.

**BASHAR HANNA**

**Mr GUY ZANGARI (Fairfield) (16:29):** I congratulate Mr Bashar Hanna, who was awarded the honour of 2022 Volunteer of the Year at the Australia Day Community Awards and Citizenship Ceremony at Fairfield. Bashar has been recognised for his volunteer efforts, which focus on assisting refugees from Middle Eastern backgrounds. He founded the Australian Mesopotamian Cultural Association in 2019 with the aim of providing the Middle Eastern community with a forum to express themselves and to celebrate their cultural achievements. Bashar has also been an active volunteer throughout the pandemic, communicating NSW Health orders to the Middle Eastern community via media outlets. He received a Medal of the Order of Australia in 2019 for his services to the refugee community in western Sydney and was named Influencer of the Year at the Third Sector Awards. I congratulate Bashar once again on his award and wish him all the very best in his future endeavours.

**AUSTRALIAN ALL SCHOOL CHAMPIONSHIP WINNER JACK C**

**Mr PETER SIDGREAVES (Camden) (16:30):** I congratulate Mater Dei School student Jack C. on his incredible results at the NSW All Schools Championships for athletics. Jack's amazing haul included gold medals in New South Wales for discus, shotput, 100 metres and 200 metres. Jack also claimed a silver medal in the 800 metres. Jack's incredible efforts saw him deservedly selected to compete at the 2022 Australian All Schools

Championships. What a fantastic achievement. I again congratulate Jack and wish him the most success at the Australian All Schools Championships.

#### TRIBUTE TO LAWRENCE DONALD NICHOLSON

**Mr STEPHEN BALI (Blacktown) (16:31):** Lawrence Donald Nicholson, affectionately known as "Laurie", recently passed away and a few hundred people attended his funeral, which is a testament to the respect that he had in the local Doonside community. Laurie is survived by his wife, Ruth; children, Fay, John and Des; as well as their partners; children; grandchildren; and great-grandchildren. Laurie grew up in Blacktown and was very much a mischievous larrikin. All that changed in 1967 when he met and married Ruth, the love and inspiration of his life. Laurie loved his football. He coached at Blacktown Workers Club and Blacktown RSL, and finally settled at Doonside Junior Rugby League Club. He knew every player, where they were from and where they were going, helping out in various duties around the grounds and filling out team sheets. Laurie's legacy of a wonderful family and service to the community will ensure that he will live in our hearts forever. Vale, Laurie Nicholson.

#### WAUCHOPE PALLIATIVE CARE FUNDRAISING

**Mrs MELINDA PAVEY (Oxley) (16:32):** Wauchope is known for its generosity and, once again, the community's spirit has shone brightly in support of palliative care patients. During Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Bardi's Cafe's dynamic duo of Belinda West and Taryn Hilan approached local businesses to create a hamper in the hope of raising funds for the Wauchope District Memorial Hospital's palliative care unit. Combined with a Pink Night at Beechwood Hotel, the community effort has raised a remarkable \$2,255 for patient comfort items at the highly regarded unit. The fundraiser was a bittersweet reminder of what it means to be part of a caring community as the palliative care unit looked after Tanya's mum, Cass Hay, eight years ago and Taryn's friend Lorraine Eady two years ago. Taryn presented the donation to Dr Lee and nurse unit manager Mary. I once again thank the Wauchope community, particularly Belinda and Taryn, for supporting the Wauchope District Memorial Hospital's palliative care unit, its patients and their families.

#### THE SORCERESS OF PERCUSSION CLAIRE EDWARDES

**Mr RON HOENIG (Heffron) (16:33):** I congratulate local Tempe resident Claire Edwardes, otherwise known as "The Sorceress of Percussion", on her inclusion in the 2022 Australia Day Honours, being awarded an Order of Australia Medal. Claire was recognised for her service to music and her dedication to percussion and the dissemination of music. From piano to *Play School* and percussion to *Spicks and Specks*, Ms Edwardes' career has been sustained, diverse, productive and successful. Ms Edwardes learnt to play the piano at five. She completed a Bachelor of Music at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music before her talents took her abroad, completing a Master's degree on a scholarship in the Netherlands. Seven years later Ms Edwardes returned to Australia and co-founded the Ensemble Offspring, for which she is the artistic director. In 2016 she won two Australasian Performing Right Association Art Music Awards, one as part of the Ensemble Offspring and another an individual award for performance, advocacy and artistic leadership. Ms Edwardes is currently the Australian Keychange Ambassador and Donne Women in Music Ambassador.

#### HAWKESBURY AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS

**Ms ROBYN PRESTON (Hawkesbury) (16:34):** I commend the 2022 Hawkesbury Australia Day Awards winners. The awards honour and recognise the achievements of everyday Australian citizens and their dedication to the community. I congratulate all of the Hawkesbury award winners, including Diane Williams, who won the Citizen of the Year award for her commitment to Girl Guides; Sophie Wills, who won the Young Citizen of the Year award; Anne Robbie, who won the Volunteer of the Year award; Penny McKinlay, who won the Local Hero award; Michael Payne, who won the Sports Person of the Year award; Lillian Page, who won the Junior Sports Person of the Year award; Phillip Routley, who won the Community Arts Award; and the NSW State Emergency Service Hawkesbury Unit, which won the Community Organisation of the Year award.

#### MAHA ABDO

**Ms TANIA MIHAILUK (Bankstown) (16:35):** I recognise and pay tribute to Maha Krayem Abdo, OAM, for her recent appointment to the expert reference panel that guides the New South Wales Government's Women's Economic Opportunities Review. Maha Krayem Abdo has spent over 40 years working to support her community, through her active leadership and the social services sector. Throughout her tenure as CEO of the Muslim Women's Association, Maha has provided support to multicultural communities, migrants and refugees. She has particularly supported vulnerable women seeking refuge and safety. In 2008 Maha received an Order of Australia for her services to western Sydney's Muslim community. In 2021 she was awarded with the Committee for Sydney's Unsung Hero award, recognising everyday Australians who make a significant contribution to their community. Later this year, Maha will retire from her role. I thank her for her incredible service to our community.



and congratulate her on her new position. I have no doubt that her wisdom and insight will be invaluable to the panel.

#### TRIBUTE TO MANDY SKEWES

**Mr KEVIN ANDERSON (Tamworth—Minister for Lands and Water, and Minister for Hospitality and Racing) (16:36):** Today I pay tribute to Mandy Skewes, a fierce advocate and spokesperson for a small town along the Namoi River, Manilla. I borrow the words of Mandy's son, Rhys, when I say that Mandy was always scheming, always planning and always discovering ways to make Manilla a better place to live, to grow up, to raise a family and to retire. I met with Mandy often, and I can attest to the fact that she was always in my ear with bright ideas. Whether it was a youth hub in the town or to save the historic Manilla Viaduct, Mandy was always leading the charge for Manilla. She led the charge because she loved her town. She loved the history of the place, she loved the people who called Manilla home, she loved its natural beauty and she loved her home, smack bang in the middle of town. Mandy fought tirelessly for her neighbours, and I know that she was an inspiration to so many. To Allan and her family, we know that her memory will endure. She will be missed, but she will also be celebrated. Vale, Mandy Skewes.

#### AUBURN ELECTORATE COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS

**Ms LYNDIA VOLTZ (Auburn) (16:37):** I acknowledge three of my electorate's many local organisations that have been lending a helping hand to those who need support. Once again, on Christmas Day, I joined Evelene and the great team of volunteers from St Peter Chanel at Berala for their Christmas lunch, where they take donations from the local church community to put on a Christmas feast for people who are needing a friendly face on Christmas Day. I thank them for another great Christmas effort. I also thank Reverend Mosese and the team at the Auburn Parish of the Uniting Church, who have been supporting locals in need throughout the year with food hampers and Christmas presents. I was fortunate to join them for their Christmas party, where we handed out great goods and a sausage sanger or two. I also thank Dr Mike Mahendran Ratnam and the Sri Durga temple in Regents Park. Aside from being a central pillar in our Hindu community, they were also looking after those in need during the COVID crisis, running a soup kitchen through the temple. I thank them for all their hard work.

#### LIVVI'S PLACE

**Ms MELANIE GIBBONS (Holsworthy) (16:38):** Recently I was honoured to be at the official opening of the Variety Livvi's Place Liverpool's first inclusive playground. Livvi's Place is located at Lieutenant Cantello Reserve in Hammondville, and it was great to see so many local families and children at the ribbon cutting ceremony earlier this month. Having this space in our local community means that families with children who have additional needs can come to a playground and feel safe and comfortable. They can just have fun. Children of all ages and abilities are able to enjoy the space, and it gives them the opportunity to build connections with others. Livvi's Place has some Australian-first equipment and attractions, such as an inclusive seesaw, a custom-built embankment slide and an inclusive exit. There is also a custom-built tower with an eight-metre slide, a pod swing and an inclusive carousel and trampolines. My kids have given it the thumbs up, and I know many others in our community have. It was highly anticipated, and it is great to see it open for everyone in our community to enjoy.

#### AMANDA CARLE

**Ms LIESL TESCH (Gosford) (16:39):** Amanda Carle has served our community for many years and is celebrating her 10-year anniversary at the Benevolent Society in her role as a caseworker. She has been providing services to young families across the Central Coast and is being recognised for her passion and expertise in helping and connecting under 25-year-old parents with important services. Her contributions have been particularly notable throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, as young families have struggled with isolation, mental health issues and insecure housing. Amanda is one of many across the Central Coast who continue to do their utmost in very challenging circumstances to shapeshift their work and support people in need in our community. The important work done by caseworkers like Amanda ensures that our community's needs are addressed in a meaningful and human way. I thank Amanda again. I am sure she will continue to uplift the lives of those she comes in contact with through her profession.

#### DR JOHN BRABANT

**Mr JUSTIN CLANCY (Albury) (16:40):** Congratulations are in order for Dr John Brabant on a standout career of 40 years as an orthodontist, serving the Albury community, putting smiles on faces and changing many lives. After completing his degree in dentistry, Dr Brabant decided to pursue his career as an orthodontist and, in doing so, positively impacted many lives. Dr Brabant's career has led him to educating disadvantaged countries on dental hygiene and providing free treatment to up to 20 people each year with serious cases. Most importantly, his enjoyment in giving back to the community saw the formation of the Carevan Foundation in 2009. It is a

remarkable, community-driven grassroots organisation that has supplied more than 150,000 meals to the community and is an important source of connection for people. I wish Dr Brabant a wonderful retirement, with more time to enjoy with family, friends and his continued involvement with the Carevan Foundation.

#### **EAST CAMPBELLTOWN EAGLES RUGBY LEAGUE FOOTBALL CLUB**

**Mr GREG WARREN (Campbelltown) (16:41):** There are not many scenes like Waminda Oval on a Saturday or Sunday afternoon during the depths of winter. Why? That is because the ground is home to one of Macarthur's most successful sporting clubs—the mighty East Campbelltown Eagles Rugby League Football Club. Every year is a big year for the Eagles, who are regularly in the hunt for premiership glory in September, but 2021 was extra special, as the club, its players and its dedicated fans celebrated 60 years. The club was originally formed at the East Campbelltown Public School and home games were played out of Orana Park, now known as Campbelltown Stadium. The club has had a lot of success over the years. However, it will be hard to topple the winter of 1980, when eight of the 18 Eagles teams tasted premiership glory. I congratulate the mighty Eagles and thank all of the volunteers, especially Daniel and Tammy Draper.

#### **TRIBUTE TO MICHELLE HAYES**

**Mr NATHANIEL SMITH (Wollondilly) (16:42):** Today I pay my respects to a wonderful mum, wife, teacher and community member who tragically passed away last week, two days after testing positive to COVID-19. Michelle Hayes had only recently become part of our community, having moved to Bowral in January, but she had already captured the hearts of locals and will be sorely missed. Michelle taught at Bowral Public School and was a passionate educator. I can only imagine the shock and grief that her family and students must be feeling, as well as the impact that this has had on the school and wider community. There has been an outpouring of heartfelt messages and memories on social media by those who knew Michelle for her kindness, zest for life, sense of adventure, integrity and warmth. One fellow teacher, who was inspired by Michelle to go back to teaching, wrote, "Your dedication and commitment to every child that passed through your classroom is something I now strive for." My heart goes out to those affected by her tragic and untimely death, especially Michelle's husband, Ben, and their two children, Harry and Matilda. My thoughts and prayers go out to them. May she rest in peace.

#### **TRIBUTE TO BERYL GILLARD**

**Ms YASMIN CATLEY (Swansea) (16:43):** I acknowledge Lake Munmorah Rural Fire Brigade life member Beryl Gillard, who sadly passed away earlier this year. Beryl joined the NSW Rural Fire Service in 2002, a member of the then Wyong Comms Support Brigade. She held a number of positions within the brigade such as secretary, training officer, incident management team [IMT] officer, deputy captain and senior deputy captain. Beryl went on to join the Lake Macquarie Communications Brigade in 2009, where she also held positions as secretary, training officer, IMT officer, senior deputy captain and captain. Beryl went on to be the deputy captain of the Central Coast Communications Brigade. For many years, Beryl also did after-hours monitoring, receiving 000 calls and dispatch of brigades to incidents. Beryl achieved many awards for her service including the NSW Rural Fire Service Long Service Medal for 10 years' service, life membership of the Communications Brigade, the Premier's Bushfire Emergency Citation, the National Medal for 15 years' service and the Commissioner's Certificate for Service. Beryl was highly respected within the NSW RFS and the local Central Coast community. Vale and thank you, Beryl Gillard.

#### **PICNIC POINT HIGH SCHOOL HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE RESULTS**

**Ms WENDY LINDSAY (East Hills) (16:45):** I congratulate the staff, students and leadership team of my former high school, Picnic Point High School, on their outstanding 2021 HSC results. Picnic Point High School achieved a ranking of 17 in the State in the HSC Top Comprehensive Public Schools list. I acknowledge the school's highest-performing students: Victoria Sarkis, who was named dux of the school and achieved a whopping ATAR of 99; Lara Ri; Blake Macdonald; Hayley Linabury; Jack Pike, an exceptional young man whom I had the great pleasure of hosting as a work experience student a couple of years ago; Gemma Borkowski; Yaseen El-ge-dawy; Raahat Shaik; Kayleen Tang; Henry Quach; Camille Orogan; Angela Ri; Zayne Saleme; Emily Parmaxidis; and Danielle Zidan, who interviewed me for her personal interest project for Society and Culture, so I hope that helped her achieve her ATAR of 91.05. I congratulate them all on their outstanding results, considering the challenging circumstances under which they undertook the HSC.

#### **WAYNE BENNAH**

**Mr DAVID MEHAN (The Entrance) (16:46):** I acknowledge Wayne Bennah for his tireless efforts maintaining the Tuggerah Dog Park at 105 Church Road, Tuggerah. The Tuggerah Dog Park provides an off-leash area for dogs to roam around and play. Over the past five years Wayne has voluntarily tended to the maintenance and conservation of the park, due to a lack of attention by our local council. Mr Bennah regularly mows the grass,

trims the vegetation, fills holes and picks up the dogs' waste. On behalf of The Entrance electorate and the Central Coast's dog community, I thank Wayne for his dedication and his hard work maintaining the Tuggerah Dog Park for our community for all these years.

#### **MATTHEW REID**

**Mrs TANYA DAVIES (Mulgoa) (16:47):** Matthew Reid is set to take on a challenge that will see him walk almost 300 kilometres to raise much-needed funds to support The Children's Hospital at Westmead. Matthew is participating in the Walk for Terry Fox. Terry Fox was a young Canadian athlete who, despite having a defective heart and a cancer diagnosis that led to his right leg being amputated and replaced with an artificial leg, began a run across Canada to raise money for cancer research and awareness in 1980. Over the course of 143 days, Terry ran more than 5,000 kilometres, before stopping due to the cancer spreading to his lungs. In continuing Terry Fox's legacy, which has seen over \$850 million raised for cancer research since his death in 1982, last year Matthew organised walks at Glenmore Park High School and has plans to involve more schools this year. The goal is to raise a total of \$40,000. So far he has raised over \$25,000 for the charity. I wish Matthew every success in his journey and I join with the community in cheering him along as he completes this huge undertaking for those in need.

#### **MAITLAND SHOW**

**Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland) (16:48):** It was a genuine pleasure to attend the official opening of the 160th anniversary of the Maitland Show by Maitland legend Mr Norm Burton, OAM, this past weekend. The Hunter River Agricultural and Horticultural Association's first female president Mrs Margaret Enright, CEO Brett Gleeson and all the directors put on an amazing array of activities for the weekend. The Maitland Show is the premier event for celebrating the diverse agriculture and produce of Maitland and our region. I loved the new slow food exhibition in the McDonald Pavilion, but I was especially inspired by the cookery and arts pavilion with amazing scarecrows—including a Spiderman, a whole stable of rocking horses, and some delightful-looking treats. I was so inspired that I got up early on Sunday morning and baked my first batch of scones since year 7 home science to donate to the Country Women's Association's Little Teapot Cafe. Maitland CWA President Barbara Heckman told me they went down a treat. I feel I have truly graduated to full membership of the CWA, and next year I look forward to entering my famous Maitland marmalade in the show. Grow on, the Maitland Show!

#### **FRAN MOONEY**

**Mrs SHELLEY HANCOCK (South Coast) (16:49):** I congratulate Mrs Fran Mooney, the Shoalhaven Australia Day Citizen of the Year for 2022. This year the ceremony was held at the Ulladulla Civic Centre. I also congratulate the recipients of all awards for the 2021 year, and congratulate Shoalhaven City Council for once again hosting and facilitating the event. Fran Mooney has been widely recognised for her volunteer and charity work in the central Shoalhaven, in particular. She is an RFS and SES volunteer and works with young people alongside groups such as Community Champions and Sanctuary Point Community Pride Inc. Fran's dedication to the community has been long term and much appreciated. Her Australia Day award is so well deserved and widely acknowledged. Congratulations to Fran Mooney once again on her Shoalhaven Australia Day Citizen of the Year award.

#### **CHRISSY FLANAGAN**

**Ms JO HAYLEN (Summer Hill) (16:50):** I am very proud to announce that Chrissy Flanagan, co-founder and owner of Sausage Queen Brewing and Sausage Factory, is the 2022 Summer Hill Woman of the Year. Chrissy is a local business owner and entrepreneur who has built and grown her restaurant, snaggery and brewery into a popular local institution. She taught herself how to make sausages and, after perfecting her snaggery, expanded into microbrewing. Chrissy continues to lead and excel in these traditionally male-dominated industries, attracting customers from across the city. In addition to her own business, Chrissy has supported local community groups and P&Cs, as well as built networks and resources to support other businesses in her community through the not-for-profit Dully Locals, which was established to promote Dulwich Hill small businesses and to build community connections. Dully Locals has been a vital source of support and income for local businesses in Dulwich Hill during the past two years of lockdowns. I am proud to recognise Chrissy as Summer Hill Woman of the Year for her commitment to local businesses and for ensuring that the Dulwich Hill shopping strip remains vibrant and eclectic.

#### **GUYRA ANGLERS CLUB**

**Mr ADAM MARSHALL (Northern Tablelands) (16:51):** I recognise Guyra Anglers Club for its consistent contribution to the Guyra community. President Grant Roberts is rightly very pleased with the committee's efforts in promoting local fishing and supporting members with continual improvements of local

waterways by restocking them with cod, trout and other local fingerlings. Among the club's many projects is a town dam on the golf course, which was drained, cleaned, refilled and restocked, making it an accessible fishing spot for youth and families. Ben Jones, the junior vice president, has said the club's encouragement of youth is growing positive family engagement across generations. The club's Gone Fishing Day has been supported by the OzFish Unlimited Northern Tablelands Chapter, CWP Renewables' Sapphire Wind Farm, and BCF Armidale—all organisations interested in teaching sustainable and responsible fishing. A good catch can pretty much be guaranteed in the district, thanks to the Guyra Anglers Club. I congratulate Grant, Ben and all the members of the Guyra Anglers Club on the work they do in our region.

#### PROJUICE CAFE

**Ms LIESL TESCH (Gosford) (16:52):** Local entrepreneur Kate Toon and staff at ProJuice cafe have donated \$742 to Coast Shelter in an effort to combat the rising levels of homelessness on the Central Coast. I thank them for their contribution and for showing the power of local business in upholding our community. The amount was raised through the ProJuice cafe's initiative of donating 50c for every coffee sold, with Ms Toon matching each donation. ProJuice cafe is a fabulous, locally owned and innovative cafe with a tasty menu. It also offers uniquely decorated treats to celebrate special days such as Australia Day and Valentine's Day. Coast Shelter is an iconic Central Coast organisation with a great team who do fabulous work supporting homeless and vulnerable people across our community. The commitment of Kate and her staff to achieving this result is a testament to their compassion. It is an example of a local business recognising a need in our community and finding a solution.

#### TRIBUTE TO NEIL BALNAVES

**Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore) (16:53):** I acknowledge the life and death of Mosman resident and art philanthropist Neil Balnaves. It was confirmed yesterday that Mr Balnaves died on a cruising holiday in Tahiti. People in my community know him quite well as a philanthropist. In 2010 he pledged to donate \$1 million worth of paintings from his art collection to the Mosman Art Gallery and the municipality. Mosman Art Gallery is the premier regional gallery in New South Wales. He was a former chair of the Ardent Leisure group, which brought shows including *Blue Heelers*, *Water Rats* and *Big Brother* to Australian television screens while running the Southern Star Group production house. The Balnaves Gift at the Mosman Art Gallery features 16 Australian impressionist and early twentieth century artworks significant to Mosman, including works by Arthur Streeton, Conrad Martens, Will Ashton, Henry Fullwood, Elioth Gruner and a number of other outstanding Australian artists. The Balnaves family has contributed to Mosman and the local community for a very long time. I send my heartfelt wishes to them. Vale, Neil Balnaves.

#### STAR SCIENTIFIC

**Mr DAVID MEHAN (The Entrance) (16:54):** I acknowledge and congratulate the hydrogen company, Star Scientific, based in Berkeley Vale, for its selection as a finalist in the twenty-fourth annual SXSW Innovation Awards. The SXSW Innovation Awards will take place in Austin, Texas in March 2022, and recognise the most exciting tech developments in the world. The Star Scientific comprises one of 65 finalists, selected in the economy category for pioneering the Hydrogen Energy Release Optimiser [HERO]. The HERO converts hydrogen into continuous industrial heat without combustion, reducing emissions while allowing the plant to continue operating. The Star Scientific refers to the HERO as "the catalyst for a zero-emissions future". The winners of each category of the awards will be announced on 14 March 2022. On behalf of The Entrance electorate, I wish the company all the very best in its work and for the ceremony.

#### HEATHCOTE ELECTORATE HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE SHOWCASES

**Mr LEE EVANS (Heathcote) (16:55):** Six Heathcote students from the 2021 HSC have been selected in one of the eight HSC showcases. Each year the HSC showcases celebrate the exceptional talent and creativity of recent HSC graduates. A selection of top major works of students across visual arts, performing arts and technologies is displayed for the public to enjoy and provides a platform for them to launch their future careers. The Heathcote HSC students showcasing their major works are Monica Jornales from Aquinas Catholic College, Felix Middleton from Inaburra School, Tahlia Gibson from St John Bosco College, Phoebe Anevski from Heathcote High School, Matthew Wheatley from Engadine High School, and Georgia Long from Inaburra School. These local students were part of only 260 HSC graduates to have been selected from across the State to be featured in the HSC showcases. I commend these students for their talent and wish them well for their future success.

#### JOEL FITZGIBBON, MP

**Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland) (16:56):** Last week Joel Fitzgibbon, MP, gave his valedictory speech in Federal Parliament. I thank him for his service to the Maitland community. Meeting him as a wide-eyed staffer in Canberra in 1997, I never imagined I would share a community with him as an elected representative,

as I did in 2015. I especially appreciate the great personal support that he and his team gave my community during the difficult period of the April 2015 superstorms. Throughout his extensive career in Federal Parliament, Joel has put the needs, aspirations and wishes of our community first, from big infrastructure projects such as Fitzy's Freeway—the Hunter Expressway—and the Weakley's Drive Overpass, to advocating for a pedestrian bridge over the New England Highway after two schoolchildren died in Thornton. We have had some bang-up disagreements at times but, more often than not, in the end we agree because we are passionate defenders of our respective communities and Labor ideals, and the need to create economic opportunity for all. I respect and thank Joel for his contribution to Maitland and the Hunter, and wish him and his family all the best for the future.

#### **ZACCARY LANCASTER**

**Ms MELANIE GIBBONS (Holsworthy) (16:57):** I recognise Zaccary Lancaster for being named Young Citizen of the Year at this year's Liverpool Council Australia Day celebrations. Zaccary is a member of the Australian Air League Moorebank Squadron and volunteers his time to many other organisations such as New South Wales Youth Parliament and other social justice and charitable initiatives through his school. He holds a position of senior cadet member in the squadron and has played a role in implementing a leadership development program that offers training and development to younger members. He has also played a pivotal role in raising funds through his school and has helped raise over \$9,000 over four years for those in need. I congratulate Zaccary Lancaster on receiving the award. It is a deserved recognition and I commend him for all that he has achieved in helping to support our local community. I join with the member for East Hills, Wendy Lindsay, in congratulating all the members of the Australian Air League at Moorebank for what they do. It is lovely to have her on side with that charity group.

#### **ABSEC**

**Ms JO HAYLEN (Summer Hill) (16:58):** Each year, local residents generously donate toys and books for my Annual Christmas Toy Drive, with donations going to kids and families supported by AbSec, the NSW Child, Family and Community Peak Aboriginal Corporation. AbSec does incredible work to ensure that Aboriginal children in out-of-home care across the State are supported and nurtured within their communities. The importance of this work cannot be understated—keeping Aboriginal children in the care of their communities must be a number one priority. I am proud to support organisations like AbSec to achieve that goal in any way that I can. In a year where it was easy to feel disconnected from those around us, it was heartwarming to see the Summer Hill community go out of its way to donate toys. Every year, the pile of toys, books and gifts continues to grow and the success of the drive is a testament to the generosity and goodwill of inner westies. I extend my deepest thankyou to everyone who donated this year and also extend my sincerest gratitude to the staff and families working with AbSec.

#### *Public Interest Debate*

#### **FAMILY SUPPORT**

**Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore) (16:59):** I move:

That this House acknowledges the Government's ongoing commitment to making life easier for families across New South Wales.

Today in this public interest debate I will talk about how we as a government are making life easier for families. We know that the past couple of years have introduced a range of additional challenges to families and people across this State. We know that the impacts of COVID, lockdowns, furloughing, the challenges of learning from home and the challenges of working from home, particularly with children in tow, has left its mark on families across New South Wales. When Dominic Perrottet became the Premier in late 2021, he spoke to the community of New South Wales and said that he wanted to be the Premier for families. That is what this Government is—a government for families.

Everybody is a part of a family, whether they have children like me and other colleagues in the Chamber, or they are a grandparent, an aunt, an uncle, or have nieces or cousins. We all know the importance of the our family networks and ties in keeping us safe, well and supported. But we also know the costs families incur and the challenges they face with the responsibility of keeping people fed and the obligation of keeping a roof over their heads while managing the cost-of-living pressures that continue to increase, particularly in recent years when we know that 300,000 people have lost their jobs. We also saw a number of small businesses taken to the wall during the pandemic.

This Government is committed to making life easier for families across New South Wales and it has done so in a range of ways. Parents and carers have had to help organise home learning for children. They have had to navigate a disrupted school year, dealing with lockdowns, while often still having to work themselves, which created additional challenges. I felt quite fortunate that my children were young enough not yet to be in school. The past couple of years have been challenging for my two small children, one of whom was born during a COVID

lockdown. But the challenges we have seen families face across the spectrum have been significant. It is not just those families that have found it difficult, it is everybody that supports them: teachers, school staff, early childhood educators and carers, sporting associations, volunteer clubs, churches and religious organisations. The challenges have flowed throughout our community through a range of different activities, whether it be the co-curricular activities of science, tech or language development.

Our focus is to ensure that we can support families to emerge from this pandemic with a greater confidence in managing their cost of living and feeling secure in their financial and economic situations at home. This Government has put a couple of initiatives in place that will help not only families but also our economy recover, including small businesses. They include the Parents NSW voucher, which is a \$250 voucher per household with children. They can be used at similar venues to the Discover NSW vouchers, which have been incredibly popular. Not only are they helping reduce the cost-of-living pressures for families across New South Wales but they are also helping the community to invest in local businesses, which will ensure that the capital contributed to them will keep them operating so they can emerge from the pandemic.

In addition, we have the new \$50 Stay NSW voucher and the broader suite of Dine & Discover NSW vouchers. Now that I have a three-year-old, I was recently able to claim the \$100 voucher for the First Lap program. I acknowledge the member for Holsworthy, who was an advocate for this initiative, ensuring that we focus on reducing the cost of swimming lessons for children aged three to six. We know how vital water safety is for children, particularly in those pre-school years. My three-year-old, Eleanor—she turned three just after Christmas—is now having weekly lessons, which is particularly exciting for us. She does not want to leave the house when it is raining, but she is very happy to jump in the pool with her teacher, Amanda, and she enjoys it immensely. I can see her confidence and skills growing as she participates in those classes. No child should be disadvantaged from participating in swimming lessons because of money. The Government has also released the \$100 Active Kids and Creative Kids vouchers. These continue to help lower the cost of living for families. They also get our kids to learn new skills and expose them to new opportunities. All of these voucher programs have been rolled out through Service NSW, which makes them easily accessible for families on our phones or online in one centralised location.

Another initiative the New South Wales Government is leading on is for women's economic opportunities. We know that participation in the workforce is reduced for women and that income and pay inequity, including lifelong superannuation earning and poverty in retirement, are significant issues for women. The Women's Economic Opportunities Review, led by the Treasurer, is considering how to improve women's economic participation and security, including by supporting women to re-enter and stay in the workforce.

I acknowledge the expert panel led by Sam Mostyn, who is chairing the work, which I get to participate in. These are significant experts contributing to the work of this Government in ensuring that we address what is a family matter by making sure that we have income, skills, opportunities and care and education for our children, because women remain under-represented in our trades, our offices and our boardrooms. For the State to be more productive, we need everyone who wants to work to be able to do so. Increasing the number of women in our workforce will benefit everyone, with social and economic advantages for New South Wales being significant when women's economic security is improved throughout their lifetimes.

Lastly I will talk about education because we know how crucial education is for the next generation and how important it is for our families. Our Government has extended free preschool until the end of 2022, we have offered every parent in New South Wales a \$500 before- and after-school care voucher for children at primary school, and we have invested more than \$700 million over two years in our free COVID intensive learning support program for any children who may have been left behind. We have introduced a record number of scholarships for early childhood educators in New South Wales to boost availability, accessibility and quality of early learning and care, and we have more than 100 of those individuals receiving up to \$20,000 each for their bachelor-level early childhood education qualifications from 2022. The New South Wales Government has a major pipeline of investment in school upgrades, at about \$7.9 billion, as opposed to Labor, which closed more than 90 schools when it was last in government. We are the Government that invests in families and supports families, particularly in the cost-of-living pressures they face. I am proud to be part of the Premier's Government for families.

**Ms JULIA FINN (Granville) (17:06):** There is a motion about making life easier for families, today of all days? I am flabbergasted that Government members would move this ridiculous, self-congratulatory motion, patting themselves on the back for making life easier for families on the day after they brought the entire Sydney Trains network to a standstill as a political stunt. Which families? Please name the family whose life was made easier in that chaos yesterday. On the day when universities went back to face-to-face teaching and the borders opened, the Government forced thousands of workers onto toll roads. It was a day for Transurban, but not a day for families. Do Government members not realise that commuters have families? The lack of self-awareness of this Government is absolutely breathtaking. What planet are these people on? This is the same Government that,

before Christmas, ignored the health advice about how infectious Omicron is and let COVID rip. How did ruining Christmas make life easier for families? Members opposite must have some relatives they really do not like if they think ruining Christmas made it easier for families.

After it was told not to remove the last of the restrictions, the Government created a shadow lockdown because, with staff sick with COVID and supplies interrupted—not to mention a collapse in consumer confidence—businesses could not run. How did that make things easier for families? How did it make things easier for the families of frontline workers in our hospitals, who are exhausted and working double shifts to cover for their colleagues who have caught COVID? Due to the Omicron outbreak that spread quickly from Sydney when the last restrictions were removed, across Australia half a million more people took at least a week's sick leave in January. That is three times the normal amount. That is not counting the casualties who did not have access to it. How did that help families? Before Christmas the Government passed changes to workers compensation to require workers to prove scientifically that they caught COVID at work in order to access workers compensation. That means that workers without access to sick leave are out of pocket. How on earth does that help families?

During the Omicron and Delta outbreaks, we saw COVID spread through workplaces and cause all sorts of disruption. We know that people pass it on to their colleagues, but this Government wants to ignore reality. How does that make life easier for families? The Premier has been carrying on like a kid in a Young Liberals lolly shop. He wants to make life easier for families? Perhaps he needs to realise his actions have consequences. Yesterday was a disaster—and yesterday was a lockdown, not a strike. It was Sydney Trains management and not the Rail, Tram, and Bus Union that shut down the network. My electorate contains two of the 12 local government areas that had the hard lockdown and the curfew last year. Businesses struggled to access the support they needed, which was often too little and too late. Families who were just trying to go out and have a picnic were buzzed by PolAir and told not to congregate in groups, even though they were family groups. Homeschooling was really difficult, with multiple kids often having access to only one device in a family.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Members will cease their conversations while the member for Granville is speaking.

**Ms JULIA FINN:** People in my electorate travel to work primarily on the M4 or on the trains. In the 2145 postcode area, people spend an average of \$4,000 a year on the M4. How is that helpful for families? It is not just people in my electorate; we are the most tolled city on earth. How on earth does that help families? In my electorate, this Government has slashed train services. Granville is not even a major interchange anymore, and the western line services do not stop there during workdays. How do slower and less frequent trains help families? Every year I am inundated with requests from families wanting to send their kids to schools out of the area, mainly because they want to send their kids to single-sex schools.

All the local schools are full and cannot take any out-of-area students, even if their older siblings are there. How does forcing families to send their kids to multiple schools make life easier for families? How does any of this make life easier for families? Today we heard that Government members think they are making life easier for families because of some infrastructure. The Parramatta Light Rail has caused disruption for years. No compensation has been paid to businesses that have been forced to close because of constant noise and dust outside. How did it help those families whose businesses have been forced to close? We have been waiting for six years for a replacement swimming pool in Parramatta. Every year summers are stinking hot and there is no pool. How does that help families?

**Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal) (17:11):** It is a pleasure to speak in the public interest debate brought by my colleague the member for North Shore. I start by thanking all of the families and all of the parents across New South Wales, especially on the Central Coast, for what have been two very difficult years in a pandemic situation that nobody would have expected. Nobody thinks for one second that what we have been through is easy. We know that a lot of people have done it very hard. Because of the support of the New South Wales Government to all the amazing families across regional New South Wales and Sydney, we have been able to help people through this situation.

I reflect on Christmas on the Central Coast. I say to the member for Granville that, if she wants to see why the doors are open, she should come to the Central Coast at Christmas. I suspect that a lot of people from her electorate were actually holidaying on the Central Coast because they could. The reality is that they could go to the shops and spend money and enjoy time away with their families. They could use their Dine & Discover vouchers and their Active Kids rebates. We have the Parents NSW voucher, which the member for North Shore articulated, made up of five \$50 vouchers. I can say that 16,123 families on the Central Coast have already downloaded their vouchers.

*[An Opposition member interjected.]*

It is a big deal when you have families who need that extra support. In addition, we have had 234,360 registrations for the Dine & Discover vouchers on the Central Coast. That is more than \$21 million worth of vouchers that have been redeemed already. There is \$23 million to still be spent in our region. This is making a huge difference to local businesses and families. A lot of small businesses are run by families, which I know is a foreign concept to Opposition members. But the reality is that this stimulus is supporting these families every day through what has been some of the most difficult situations the State has ever faced.

We also have the Stay NSW vouchers. Families on the Central Coast are absolutely delighted to spend those vouchers at local coast businesses and in beautiful electorates like your own, Madam Deputy Speaker. Service NSW, which is probably the greatest thing ever delivered in this State, offers the cost-of-living assessment. Under the Government of members opposite, we had the misery of the Roads and Traffic Authority [RTA]. This Government has delivered Service NSW. Every day the 70 cost-of-living savings make a huge difference to families. One of the highest rebates ever given to a person in New South Wales was provided through the Service NSW centre at Erina.

It delivered almost \$14,000 of savings to one person and is making a real difference to people in New South Wales. The Service NSW team is absolutely amazing. I talk all the time to people who have done their cost-of-living assessment and are reaping the benefits of the one-stop shop that is Service NSW. Members opposite opposed it. All they could say was, "How dare you take an RTA away!" Service NSW is supporting people right across the Central Coast.

Thousands of Central Coast parents have benefited from Active Kids vouchers, a multimillion-dollar injection into Central Coast sporting facilities. Members opposite did not support it. Some 79 school projects on the Central Coast were funded under the regional and rural program, under which billions of dollars' were invested. I was talking to the Minister about the Regional Seniors Travel Card only this morning. In the first two months of this year alone, 26,493 cards have been issued in the Central Coast local government area. In year one, 42,635 cards were delivered. In year two, 44,150 were delivered. That represents millions of dollars of support for regional seniors right across the Central Coast, which is making a real difference to those people.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! I call the member for Oatley to order for the first time. The member for Maitland will come to order.

**Mr ADAM CROUCH:** It is helping to put downward pressure on the cost of living. The list goes on. I could stand here all day talking about the millions of dollars worth of support being delivered to families right across the Central Coast region, whether it be Active Kids, Creative Kids or the First Lap swimming program. I acknowledge the great work done by the member for Holsworthy—children between the ages of three and six having \$100 taken off the cost of learning to swim. On the Central Coast, a child is at risk if they do not learn to swim. The voucher is providing support to parents to teach their kids how to swim. Whether it be Community Building Partnerships grants, sporting upgrades or general day-to-day cost-of-living assistance, the Government is providing support for families. To be able to take your gas or electricity bill to Service NSW and receive advice on how to get the best deal—a cheaper price on your already cheap price—is what it is all about. I commend the member for North Shore for bringing this excellent public interest debate motion to the House.

**Mr STEPHEN BALI (Blacktown) (17:17):** To respond to the member for Terrigal, the people in the west would have loved to have come up to Terrigal, but there were a lot of restrictions preventing us getting out of Sydney: the petrol prices, the tolls, the 90,000 COVID cases and 30 deaths per day back in January. Is it not wonderful that this Liberal and Nationals—the junior partner—I suppose we do not care too much about The Nationals. They are disappearing. It is wonderful how they have reinvented themselves. Today they are making life easier. I remember the Liberal Party motto that "life was not meant to be easy", so 40 years later it is great to see them reinventing themselves or, as Joe hockey once said, "To get ahead in life, go get a better job that pays good money."

**Mr Mark Coure:** That was Paul Keating.

**Mr STEPHEN BALI:** It was Joe Hockey.

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

**Mr STEPHEN BALI:** Let us have a look at the record of this Government. The Government was supposed to order rapid antigen tests [RATs]. How did it make life easier when people had to pay over \$50 for one RAT? To keep their jobs, people had to go and get tested. As the Liberals always say, "You always have a choice"—stay in the queue for eight hours and wait three days for result, or pay \$50. Back in November, Scomo, the great Prime Minister, told all the State Premiers to order RATs. So where were we? Two months later in January, the Premier said, "Oh we've just ordered a couple of million RAT tests." That was a bit late—eight weeks far too late. Obviously, he was enjoying his Christmas holidays. Did that make it easier for our western Sydney



families? No. What about the tolls? They will increase by 4 per cent over the next few decades. Does that make it any easier for western Sydney families? No.

The member for Granville spoke about the threat and challenges that our workers were under during the COVID pandemic. At the height of COVID, did the Liberals deliver any vaccination hubs in the Riverstone electorate, a Liberal electorate? No. International SOS, together with Riverstone Community Aid and me, had to organise it. One thing I can thank the member for North Shore for is that the North Sydney area health had to come out to Mount Druitt because Western Sydney Local Health District was so underfunded. They had to come out to deliver AstraZeneca. Mind you, we could pick up AstraZeneca at any chemist or doctor. In the end, what can we do? We do not get funded enough. Waiting lists have blown out. People in western Sydney have to wait two years to get their teeth fixed if they are on the public waiting list. What about ambulances? Has this Government made it easy for the people of western Sydney? No.

The Salvation Army says that one in six children live in poverty. That means that in western Sydney the figure is about 25 per cent. I know the member for North Shore may not realise that because only about 10 per cent of children in her electorate might be living in some type of poverty. Having one in four children living in poverty in western Sydney, the community foundations of north-western Sydney provided free stationery for children in the electorates of Riverstone, Mount Druitt, Londonderry, Penrith and Blacktown. We had to rely on others. Obviously, the Liberal-Nationals Government believes in equality: Everyone should get the standard amount of kids rebates, \$100 to every family.

But where is the equity when the families cannot afford it? The wait for public housing in the Blacktown area is up to 15 years. Where is social housing to support it? Has the Government made it easier for families living in rural or western Sydney to access public housing? No. The member for North Shore quite rightly boasts about her area. Mosman High School has 16 new classrooms, new administration and staff facilities, a new library, multipurpose gym, a hall—I am running out of breath—outdoor rooftop space, new canteen et cetera. She mentioned seven other schools. In Blacktown basically we do not even get the asbestos removed, and we only get 50 per cent towards the upgrade of the school's administration building. We have to run chook raffles.

**Mr Mark Coure:** I bet you have not written to the Minister.

**Mr STEPHEN BALI:** We have.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I remind the member for Oatley that he is on two calls to order.

**Mr STEPHEN BALI:** We have a situation in the Sydney area that, to a certain extent, I understand but I do not get. Why do Government members always have to self-praise endlessly. They always need to pat themselves on the back. The by-election results have demonstrated a massive swing against the Liberals. People are hurting in the area and they are angry. All we are asking on this side of the House is that we work together to deliver solutions. I ask the Government to not ignore us. It should not worry about self-praise, nor be arrogant. It is out of touch with rural and western Sydney people. [*Time expired.*]

**Ms MELANIE GIBBONS (Holsworthy) (17:22):** I need a lot more than five minutes to rebut all that. We need some positivity back in the debate.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The member for Holsworthy will be heard in silence.

**Ms MELANIE GIBBONS:** I thank the member for North Shore for bringing this public interest debate motion to the Chamber today because it is important that our families know what is available to them. We should not listen to all that doom and gloom and drivel because it is so much more exciting out there than what is being portrayed by members opposite. The Government continues to find, create and implement new, innovative and important programs to assist families and improve their cost of living. The Liberal-Nationals Government's strong and consistent economic management has meant that we have been able to continue our track record of building new infrastructure, upgrading our health services, improving transport options and, importantly, focusing on building new schools and upgrades to improve education.

The COVID-19 pandemic took a toll on our families. To help ease some of the pressure, we introduced new voucher programs alongside existing ones to support families and contribute to bringing down the cost of living. The Active Kids program offers families \$100 vouchers for school students to keep down the cost of sport, fitness and recreation. I used my very first voucher the other day. This season's soccer is costing us \$20, which is awesome. I am thrilled to be able to let my kid run around with that kind of support. I do not know whether she will love it, but it gives her the chance to try it out while only costing my family \$20. It is a great investment. The Creative Kids voucher program is also popular. Twice a year it provides families with \$100 vouchers for school students to help cover the costs of creative and cultural activities.

Similarly, the First Lap program offers families \$100 vouchers for children aged between three and six to help cover the cost of swimming lessons. They are expensive and easy to put off because they cost a lot of money, they take a bit of effort and it is easier to do them in a friend's pool if you are lucky enough to have access to one. It is so hard to access that program. The program helps make it that little bit easier and offers a little bit of an incentive to have your children learn to swim. We are a water-based country. So many of our activities are focused around the water, so it is important that our children have a chance to do these lessons after they were all halted during COVID. The program gives them a chance to get back on board and get back into some swimming and water safety.

We have also talked about Parents NSW vouchers, those five \$50 vouchers—\$250 vouchers—for the parents, guardians and carers who provided home learning to school-enrolled children. After the stress of home learning, it is a nice way to say thank you to those parents for what they did and to give them a little bit of bonding that is not over the dining table, saying, "Finish your school work. Get things done." It will get them away from the computer, out enjoying the fresh air again and spending some quality family time together as opposed to what they have endured during COVID.

Access to those vouchers and all the cost-of-living savings measures can be found at Service NSW. While I am speaking of Service NSW, on Friday we opened the State's brand-new 111th Service NSW centre at Edmondson Park. That is an election promise of mine and I am so stoked to see it there. Minister Dominello came out several times to see the progress and I am thankful to him for seeing it from go to whoa and making it a reality. One of the things I love about the centre is that it has a cost-of-living specialist to tell people what they qualify for and to show them all the opportunities available to help them reduce their cost of living. It is not often you can walk into a building and walk out saving money. I am really impressed with everything the centre has got to offer. It is going to be a great addition to our community.

We were talking about rapid antigen tests, and how difficult and expensive they were to get. To reduce that cost of living to our families, we all got four each to help, and then we were given some more to make sure that our kids were safe when they went to school. I know so many kids already at my kid's school who have been found to be COVID-positive due to that program. It means that people do not have to decide whether to test their child or risk infecting somebody else. They know that their child is as safe as possible going to school and around their friends when they are off to learn. It also helps reduce that fear of sending our little ones to school.

That surveillance program has been successful and I thank the Government for introducing it and continuing it on a voluntary basis so that our families can access it. I should talk about the \$740 million going into the Liverpool Health and Academic Precinct and the \$50 million car park so you can visit your loved ones. It is going to have a new neonatal intensive care unit for our maternity unit and babies, which is going to support our families as well. There is so much. I said I would need longer and I know the member for North Shore will have even more information in a moment.

**Mr RON HOENIG (Heffron) (17:27):** I just listened to the wonderful pearls of wisdom of the member for Holsworthy, whom I have known for a long time and whose assessment, accuracy and honesty I respect. I quote her words as reported in *The Sydney Morning Herald*:

However, Ms Gibbons has told several colleagues that she is so disillusioned by the internal war engulfing the party, including plans to install Mr Dore, that she is likely to leave politics this year if she is not preselected.

**Ms Felicity Wilson:** Point of order: Madam Speaker, will you ask the member to return to the motion before the House?

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I uphold the point of order. The member for Heffron will come back to the motion.

**Mr RON HOENIG:** As I look over the Chamber, what do I see? I see delusional Tories. I endorse the remarks made by the member for Holsworthy. They assert making life easier for families. Who would believe them? They suffer from what all, or most, long-serving governments suffer from—that is, they are like the dying embers of a discarded fire. I wonder whether or not they could author the next version of *Grimm's Fairy Tales* or alternatively at least look in the mirror because, at the end of the day, unfortunately for the people of New South Wales, they have 13 long months to go. I wonder what is going to be left of this State by the time they are accountable to the people.

What really bothers me about the Liberal-Nationals Coalition is that it does not listen and it does not learn. Only a week ago—not a year ago, or two years ago—four by-elections took place in New South Wales where people were asked to send a message to Dominic Perrottet and his Government. You would have thought that they sent an overwhelming message to them. Do you think the Government heard it? Do you think they listened? They have a complete tin ear. You would not credit it. Instead of saying, "Yes, we've heard the message. Things are

difficult. There is a pandemic and we're going to do better", they say, "Aren't we wonderful, the Coalition. We're doing such wonderful things to make life easier for you all." Who were they listening to? I do not think even the North Shore Tories would be happy. Bearing in mind, I look at Federal seats like Warringah and they cannot even hold blue-ribbon seats.

The classic was yesterday and today. The whole Sydney train network has been shut down. People were abandoned; they were angry, stranded and frustrated. The transport Minister, who is accountable to this House, said, "I didn't know anything about it because I was asleep. The decision was made by a bureaucrat. It has got nothing to do with me." Let me tell you this, just so that the delusional Tories on the other side of the House know this: Gladys would have inserted herself in those discussions weeks ago, as she constantly has in dealing with the Rail Tram and Bus Union or other public sector unions. It would never have come to this. But neither the Premier nor the transport Minister think that it has anything to do with them; it is operational. *Yes, Minister* is alive and well: "I'm the Minister for Transport but I've got nothing to do with running the Sydney railways." It is just a bizarre state of affairs. The reality is they do not listen. They have no compassion. They have no sympathy for anyone. I move:

That the motion be amended by inserting "and acknowledges that life has been getting harder for New South Wales families over the last 12 months with increasing tolls, fines, fees, taxes and cost of living" after "New South Wales".

**Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore) (17:32):** In reply: What members opposite have painted for us today is a very grim picture. If they had been listening to the beginning of my speech, they would have noticed that I acknowledged the challenges of the last two years and the challenges many people continue to face. So I would suggest that they listen before making their contributions in future. But I listened to them and the image they painted for us of this moribund, defeatist, negative, unhappy New South Wales is not the New South Wales that this Government is trying to achieve by supporting families and trying to support the community. We believe, when we listen to this community, there is hope. There is a sense that people want things to get better. People want to get back to work, their children back at school and their businesses to thrive again.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The member for Blacktown has made his contribution. The member for Granville will come to order.

**Ms FELICITY WILSON:** They do not want the negativity of those opposite and they definitely do not want them in government. If we want to look at failures, let us look at what happened when Labor was last in government and whether families would ever trust them. When Labor was last in government, in the last 10 years of Labor—the member for Blacktown was not here at that point but he would be part of the next one—New South Wales had the slowest economic growth of any major State.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Shellharbour will come to order.

**Ms FELICITY WILSON:** It had the lowest jobs growth of any mainland State. In the last five years it had the lowest business confidence in any mainland State, the lowest housing growth in the nation and the lowest average annual rate of any State for retail trade. Those opposite cannot lecture us on business and how to support businesses because they failed. They have a huge failure mark against their track record, whereas we are delivering outcomes for businesses and families. When they left office they had a \$30 billion infrastructure backlog. Who do you trust on delivering trains? Who do you trust on delivering these infrastructure projects?

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! I call the member for Granville to order for the first time. I call the member for Shellharbour to order for the first time.

**Ms FELICITY WILSON:** Do you trust the people who promised 12 rail lines, had nine transport master plans, six transport Ministers and delivered only half of a rail line? If you are worried about services in Parramatta, maybe Labor should have finished the Chatswood to Parramatta rail line rather than cancelling it. Maybe if it was worried about train services it should have delivered the Rozelle metro rather than wasting half a billion dollars of taxpayers' dollars on that failure. If you want to trust anybody to deliver transport, it is this Government because we delivered Opal, not those failures across the Chamber. We have delivered brand-new trains, air-conditioned trains and new services across the entire network, and Labor failed.

If you want to talk about who to trust when it comes to cost of living, do not listen to the member for Blacktown, who says we put on tolls at a 4 per cent increase over a 10-year period. Labor did that. It introduced a 4 per cent per annum toll increase on the Cross City Tunnel, the longest concession ever introduced in the history of this State. Those opposite are the failures for families and businesses across this State and they should be ashamed of themselves because we are the only people in this place who actually want to see families and businesses thrive.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The member for North Sydney has moved a motion, to which the member for Heffron has moved an amendment. The question is that the amendment of the member for Heffron be agreed to.

**The House divided.**

Ayes .....38  
Noes .....41  
Majority.....3

**AYES**

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

Doyle, T  
Finn, J  
Harris, D  
Harrison, J  
Haylen, J  
Hoenig, R  
Hornery, S  
Kamper, S  
Leong, J  
Lynch, P  
McDermott, H  
Mehan, D (teller)  
Mihailuk, T

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

**NOES**

Anderson, K  
Ayres, S  
Clancy, J  
Conolly, K  
Cooke, S  
Coure, M  
Crouch, A  
Davies, T  
Dominello, V  
Elliott, D  
Evans, L  
Gibbons, M  
Greenwich, A  
Griffin, J

Gulaptis, C  
Hancock, S  
Hazzard, B  
Henskens, A  
Kean, M  
Layzell, D  
Lee, G  
Lindsay, W  
Marshall, A  
O'Dea, J  
Pavey, M  
Petinos, E  
Preston, R  
Provest, G

Roberts, A  
Saunders, D  
Sidgreaves, P  
Singh, G (teller)  
Smith, N (teller)  
Speakman, M  
Stokes, R  
Taylor, M  
Tuckerman, W  
Upton, G  
Ward, G  
Williams, R  
Wilson, F

**PAIRS**

Cotsis, S  
Lalich, N  
Scully, P

Toole, P  
Bromhead, S  
Perrottet, D

**Amendment negatived.**

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

**Motion agreed to.**

*Private Members' Statements*

**COFFS HARBOUR ELECTORATE SPORTING CHAMPIONS**

**Mr GURMESH SINGH (Coffs Harbour) (17:47):** Sport is playing an increasingly important role in the lives of people young and old on the Coffs Coast. It keeps us fit and healthy while at the same time providing a vital social outlet and sense of community. The Coffs Coast boasts many sporting superstars who are excelling each day in their chosen pursuits. Their endeavours are worthy of recognition in this place. Take surf lifesaving, for example. Two of the Coffs Coast's most promising young volunteers have won prestigious awards: female and

male Newcastle Permanent Junior Surf Lifesaver of the Year at the North Coast Branch Championships at Sawtell. Larnie Mordue and Jack Barry, both from the Coffs Harbour Surf Life Saving Club, took the top honours. Surf Life Saving Clubs not only keep people safe at the beach but also help develop future community leaders.

Elsewhere, four young female footballers who have played in the Australian Football League [AFL] North Coast competition are pushing their claims for selection in the inaugural Sydney Swans AFL Women's list for 2023 as well as the Greater Western Sydney [GWS] Giants AFLW squad. April Devine, Brianna McFarlane and Cass Ronalds from Coffs Harbour Breakers and Lilli-Yana Moody from the Sawtell Toormina Saints are participants in the Sydney Swans and GWS Giants inaugural Women's Summer Series, which features the best AFL footballers in New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory. All four are members of the Swans Red team taking part in the five-week series. Coffs Harbour driver Chris Corbett has won the feature race in his late model debut in a race night at the Hession's Auto Parts Grafton Speedway. Normally seen behind the wheel of his V8 Dirt Modified, Corbett excelled in his late model debut, scoring a feature race win. Driving in the Tullboro Race Store team car, Corbett took over the lead in the middle stages and from there he was never headed.

In the pool, Sawtell Swimming Club has gained personal best [PB] times, podium places and pats on the back for its outstanding performances. The club recently hit the Kempsey pool, with stunning results. Matilda Elkins-Baker swam a PB in the 50 metres freestyle and a solid 50 metres backstroke, and she was rewarded with a place on the Swimming North Coast team. Denver Flynn had a solid effort in backing up after his school carnival to achieve PBs in the 50 metres backstroke, 50 metres breaststroke and 200 metres individual medley. Coen Groth had some personal bests including in the 50 metres breaststroke, the 200 metres individual medley, a nine-second PB in 200 metres freestyle and a 10-second PB in the 50 metres butterfly. Finny Groth had some PBs in the 50 metres butterfly, 100 metres breaststroke, 50 metres breaststroke and 50 metres backstroke. Lewys Groth, not to be outdone by his big brothers, won his heat and a third placing. Hayley Woods had a nine-second PB in her 200 metres freestyle and PBs in her 100 metres breaststroke, 50 metres breaststroke and 100 metres freestyle. Riley Woods, Charlie Rutherford-Searle and Riley Andrews all had PBs.

The Sawtell Swimming Club team went to the Bellingen Nambucca "Splash" swim meet with a big contingent. The team produced more personal bests and came home with ribbons, cash prizes, age championship awards and the Tim Mullens Shield. Not to be outdone, Coffs Harbour Swimming Club participated in the New South Wales State Age Championships, with swimmers hitting personal best times. Millie Edwards-Bradshaw won silver in the 14 years 100 metres butterfly as well as another four top-10 final places. Oscar Croak made finals in the 16 years 100 metres freestyle and 50 metres freestyle, finishing tenth in the finals.

Aria Matthews placed ninth in the 13 years 50 metres freestyle, and Isla Martin made finals in the 50 metres, 100 metres and 200 metres backstroke, narrowly missing out on a medal. Courtney Clarke competed in the 15 years 200 metres butterfly and 100 metres butterfly. Coffs Harbour Swimming Club also contested the Queensland Sprint Championships, winning more medals. Coco Becker won gold in the 10 years 50 metres butterfly and fifth in the 50 metres backstroke and freestyle finals. Harry Campbell won silver in the 50 metres freestyle and bronze in the 50 metres butterfly as well as eighth in the 50 metres backstroke final. Jack Howe, Holly Becker, Pearl Young, Saxon Bannerman, and Bayley and Zara Johnson all produced personal best times. I congratulate all of our sporting champions who proudly represent the Coffs Coast.

### LUNAR NEW YEAR

**Mr GUY ZANGARI (Fairfield) (17:52):** It is with a great deal of enthusiasm that I deliver this private member's statement in this Chamber regarding the 2022 Lunar New Year celebrations. This year the Chinese and South-East Asian communities celebrate the Year of the Tiger. The community is optimistic for a future full of health and prosperity, unlike the previous two years. Judging by the positive mood amongst the community, it is certainly a welcome relief to come together and celebrate all the positive things that come with the Lunar New Year tradition. I make a small declaration before I proceed further: I, along with thousands of others, certainly hope that 2022 is the Year of the Tiger. As a long suffering Wests Tigers fan, I hope that the luck and spirit of the zodiac tiger bears fruit for our mighty Wests Tigers to break the finals drought. Those of us who follow our beloved Tigers wish coach Michael Maguire and the team all the best of luck for a successful year—but I digress.

The Year of the Tiger signifies the following, according to zodiac tradition: People born in years of the tiger are fiercely independent and possess strong self-esteem. They like to act alone and are optimistic and enthusiastic by nature. Tigers always seem to have endless energy, especially in their jobs. Their most noticeable qualities are their intense eyes and energetic presence. They possess a vitality that instantly draws people to them. Tigers are lively and cheerful, and they love freedom and independence. An interesting personality trait is that tigers have a keen sense of justice. When faced with injustices, whether against themselves or others, one can be sure that tigers will not stand aside but will work towards restoring justice. Tigers are determined people and are loyal, quick and the centre of attention in everything they do.

The commencement of year's festivities played out at midnight on 1 February 2022 with the sounds of fireworks sent out from the Mingyue Lay Temple in Bonnyrigg. The display was much bigger than usual, and rightly so, as there was an appetite in the community to move forward with positive energy following two years where festivities were affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. I was fortunate to visit the temple that afternoon.

Usually the welcoming of the Lunar New Year is a local highlight for the community, with thousands of people attending the temple to welcome in the new year and honour their ancestors but, due to the COVID situation, the event was attended only by officials, volunteers and committee members. In true fashion, there was plenty of colour and cheer, with traditional lion dancing, a fireworks display and cultural performances. I acknowledge the Australian-Chinese Buddhist Association chairman, Mr James Chan; the president, Mr Vincent Kong; the board members; and the volunteers for organising another Lunar New Year celebration.

What I saw on this day struck a chord with me about how the community has been feeling over the past two years. There was a clear yearning for celebration and appreciation this year. Many attendees expressed to me that they had felt an enormous sense of loss, having not been able to practise their faith traditions and customs for the past two years. Many people attended the temple during my visit, and I noticed that, without being told by temple volunteers, the public was wearing masks, sanitising and keeping socially distant. Our lives have certainly changed forever due to the pandemic, but people are moving on and keeping themselves and others safe.

With the year now ahead, there was an abundance of colour, floral arrangements, burning incense and, of course, the god of fortune handing out lucky red envelopes. The Chinese Association of Greater Western Sydney hosted the 2022 Lunar New Year celebrations at Freedom Plaza in Cabramatta on Sunday 20 February 2022. I acknowledge the efforts of the organising committees, the Australian Chinese Buddhist Society, the Jintao Qiaoguang Association of Australia and the Australian Lao Chinese Association for hosting the event in conjunction with Fairfield City Council. It was an honour to have participated in the official Buddhist blessing, presided over by the venerable Shi Ming Shang, Shi Ban Bao, Shi Phouc Hy and Shi Ming Shang. With much colour, dance and fireworks, the 2022 Lunar New Year celebrations certainly welcomed in the Year of the Tiger in grand style. I wish everyone a happy Lunar New Year, with many blessings and wishes for health, wealth and prosperity in 2022.

#### **TRIBUTE TO HARRY HUNT, OAM**

**Ms MELANIE GIBBONS (Holsworthy) (17:56):** I bring to the attention of the House the passing of Mr Harry Hunt, OAM, or, as he was referred to locally, Mr Liverpool. Harry was a well-known figure within the Liverpool community and to many in this Chamber. I mentioned his name to the member for Heathcote, and he had fond memories of him from many years ago. Harry had successfully owned and operated the Country Comfort Hunts Hotel in Casula since the early 1970s. Many celebrations have taken place in his function rooms at the motel, from birthdays and wedding receptions to election night parties, including my own.

Through his experiences running a business, Harry became a strong and passionate advocate for south-west Sydney and the businesses within it. He served as the President of the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce & Industry for 13 years. He also served as the President of the South West Sydney Tourism Taskforce, working hard to ensure that businesses were heard and supported in our region. I got to know Harry well when I was on the board of the chamber with him and when we would catch up to talk about our area. I took many Premiers, Treasurers and small business Ministers to meet with Harry and the other members of the organisations that he represented. Every time we met with him, we came out full of enthusiasm and with useful and important information on what we could be doing better, as well as ideas to support many different sectors, which showed that he understood business and our local economy.

His commitment to seeing businesses succeed was phenomenal but, above all else—and what made Harry one of the most loved and respected members of our community—was his focus on making people's lives better. He dedicated decades of his life to the service of others, and he married a beautiful lady who shared his values and generosity. They were quite the pair. He was a member of the City of Liverpool Rotary Club, which saw him receive a Paul Harris Fellow recognition, and he served as the chairman of the Liverpool Red Shield Appeal. He also worked tirelessly on various council committees to promote Liverpool as a major tourist destination.

As an example of his generosity, during the 2019-20 bushfire season, Harry opened his hotel to approximately 130 evacuees. He initially offered 20 rooms but, due to his large heart, he ended up giving away 30 rooms because he could not turn people away when they showed up on the doorstep. Some evacuees stayed for up to a week, with many of them coming from the South Coast. During this time, he also provided his personal mobile number to the guests should they need more assistance, and he made allowances for pets to stay at his hotel. He also worked closely with the fabulous June Young, OAM—a lady whom I have mentioned in this Chamber many times. She was able to get the local Rotary groups involved and, with the assistance of the nearby Liverpool Catholic Club, was able to waive the cost for a lunch and provide free tickets to ice skating as a way to

provide some much-needed distraction for the children during that time. His warmth and love for our community was further shown by his hosting of a Christmas lunch for a large number of disadvantaged members of our local community for over 20 years.

Harry was a great sponsor and fundraiser for community initiatives. He fundraised for the Ingham Institute for Applied Medical Research, the Liverpool SES and the Liverpool Hospital, to name a few. In 2016 his business sponsored and supported the Youth Solutions Annual Charity Event, raising \$26,000 for its health promotion and drug and alcohol prevention programs. In 2017 he helped raise an additional \$40,000. It is no surprise that our community wanted to acknowledge the work that Harry did over so many years by presenting him with awards and recognition, such as Liverpool City Council Citizen of the Year, Liverpool City Council Business Person of the Year, Liverpool City Council Senior Citizen of the Year, a Companion of the Order of Liverpool and a Medal of the Order of Australia.

Many people who had met Harry knew that his trademark was his big, wide smile, which brought joy to everyone he met and dealt with, and it will be missed nearly as much as Harry himself. The greater south-west Sydney region, including our local businesses, has lost a giant within our community. Harry was a rare human being, and I wish more people would strive to be like him. Having met him, I will strive to be more like him. He has left a fabulous legacy. My condolences are with his family and friends during this time, and I know that great big smile is looking down over us all. Rest in peace, Harry Hunt.

### COUNTRY SHOWS SUPPORT PACKAGE

**Mr PAUL TOOLE (Bathurst—Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional New South Wales, and Minister for Police) (18:01):** It gives me great pleasure to talk about the Government's Country Shows Support Package. Over the past couple of years, many country shows across the State have not been able to take place, but the importance of them in regional and rural communities cannot be underestimated. These shows might be the largest community gatherings that we see within the local community. The influential role of country shows tells us about the Australian life. In some areas, those country shows are dwindling, but there is a revival underway across regional New South Wales. Country shows educate people about the importance of agriculture and of living in regional and rural communities.

Everybody has a story associated with country shows. When I was growing up, going to the show was a big event every year. We would go as a family and everybody would buy new clothing for the day to wear to the show. It was always a great event. That is why it is such a tradition for many families in our area. Shows can only go on with the support that has been provided, which is why the New South Wales Government, through its Country Shows Support Package, is providing \$5 million. This will allow shows to come back bigger and better than ever before in 2022. As I said, country shows are the heartbeat of so many of our bush communities. It is a chance to come together and showcase years of breeding, show off baking, see the showjumping, see the yard dogs, watch the woodchopping and smell the sawdust from those woodchopping events.

**Mr Ron Hoenig:** The Country Women's Association scones too—they are the best in the world.

**Mr PAUL TOOLE:** Scones as well—that's right, we have the Country Women's Association's scones. They are always at our country shows. The member for Heffron loves a dagwood dog too. I know he would be keen to get a dagwood dog and a bit of fairy floss. That is what country shows are all about. But, as I said, it has been tough over the past couple of years, with communities having to field the impacts of droughts, bushfires, floods and a pandemic. Many country shows had to be cancelled. So the New South Wales Government, through its \$5 million Country Shows Support Package, is providing financial support for shows to get back on their feet in 2022. The package will support things like subsidising stall fees, bringing entertainment to the show, helping out with the hire of equipment or even getting local artists or musicians to perform at the shows. It will give show organisers the confidence to book in suppliers, hire equipment and purchase goods, which is always great news for local businesses. We are providing funding of up to \$15,000 for smaller shows and up to \$45,000 for larger shows.

We have already seen a number of shows take place this year. There were bumper crowds at a couple of the shows held in my electorate. The community is wanting to get back out there and enjoy the things that happen in regional and rural New South Wales. Country shows tell us all about that. Why do I love country shows? It is because they tell us about the country. They tell us about the people and the communities that we live in. Country shows highlight the importance of living on the land, and what we have to offer. In my area, we recently had the Rydal Show. It received \$15,000 from the State Government. That funding was used to purchase and hire equipment. That is so important. Show organisers have not had the same opportunities to go out there and seek sponsorship, and businesses have not been able to afford the funds they have given in previous years. The Rydal Show was given \$15,000. Blayney Show, which will be held in a few weeks' time, received \$15,000. The Oberon Show, which was held on 12 February and drew a big crowd, received \$15,000. The Sofala Show, which is on

this Sunday, received just over \$11,100 from the State Government. May country shows go on, and be bigger and better in 2022.

### SUPPORT CLASS PLACEMENTS

**Mr ANOULACK CHANTHIVONG (Macquarie Fields) (18:06):** Every child should have the opportunity to reach their full potential—every child, everywhere. Yet, so many children are being denied adequate support because of the Liberal Government's massive shortage in funding of support class placements. Support classes are designed to meet the needs of students with different abilities or learning support needs, such as those with autism, an intellectual disability, behavioural issues or mental health issues. I am often contacted by parents in my electorate who are desperate for help to get their child enrolled in a support class at one of our local public schools. It is not rocket science. When demand outweighs supply, something must be done. It is time for action; it is long overdue.

The stark reality is that there are simply not enough support class placements or funding to meet the growing needs of my local community—and, I suspect, the same needs of other communities. Long waiting lists for support places or extra in-class support mean that additional pressures are being placed on teachers and other students. I have made dozens of representations to the education Minister on behalf of local parents who are looking for a support class placement for their child. Too often, I receive this response:

[The student] was found suitable for placement but unfortunately there continue to be no available vacancies.

It is simply not good enough. Parents voices, once a whisper, have now become a rallying cry for more support classes in our public schools as demand continues to skyrocket. Every parent wants what is best for their child and is cognisant of the impact that the lack of support for their child has on the other children in the classroom. The Government has failed these parents, our teachers, our public education system and, above all, it has failed our kids.

Ignoring the needs of families in south-west Sydney is typical of this Government. After lengthy delays and obfuscation, families in Edmondson Park are still desperately waiting for a local public school. How much longer must they wait? Bardia Public School, which in the past three years has tripled in size, will soon be bursting at the seams, with demountables taking up valuable open space. Families are still waiting for the installation of traffic lights at the intersection outside Bardia Public School to improve pedestrian safety. Children's lives are being put in danger every single day, yet the Government continues to sit on its hands.

Students and parents have been left scratching their heads as to why the Government would open Denham Court Public School without adequate bus services. Our community is also waiting on the first new fully selective high school in 25 years to be built at Leppington. This is long overdue and yet no progress has really been made. The Government is quick to promise, yet awfully slow to deliver—if at all. It is time that the Government stopped its spin, stopped its rorts and stopped using taxpayers' money like its own political slush fund. It is time that the Government listened to the voices of families in my local electorate and many others throughout the State. These are families who know the price of bread and milk, and who have had to swallow the bitter pill of rising petrol prices, along with the increased cost of living. These are families who travel, at great inconvenience, out of their local area to send their kids to public school because the one they were promised is not built.

These are families who still wait for support class placements for their child, knowing that the list grows longer every single day as their hopes and dreams for their child continue to fade away. This is life under the New South Wales Liberal Government. It is unfair and unacceptable. Local families deserve better. Our children deserve better. Unlike the Government, I have listened to the needs of my local community and my local families. I refuse to accept the status quo. I have launched a campaign for more support classes in our local public schools on behalf of the families in my electorate and, I believe, those in many other electorates across the State. I will continue to fight for additional funding and specialist support placements in our local public schools because, frankly, our children deserve no less.

### AFFORDABLE HOUSING

**Mr LEE EVANS (Heathcote) (18:11):** Affordable housing for the underprivileged and for frontline workers is a global issue. We need to think outside the box and consider ideas that are working around the world. One such program is in Malaysia, where workers such as teachers, factory workers, police officers and community workers can access accommodation near their jobs. These entry-level complexes have no internal laundries or kitchens but have communal laundries and kitchens with a small kitchenette in each unit. They are located in or around transport hubs. Residents buy into a rental agreement—now, this is where it gets interesting—and a percentage of the rent paid by the resident goes to building equity in the dwelling. Over a couple of years, their equity in the dwelling rises and the resident can take a stake in the co-op. Perhaps the resident will meet a partner who also starts to pay rent, with the same small percentage being sunk into the equity.



After a few years, the couple might marry and be looking to have children. The equity built up in their unit can go towards upgrading their accommodation in the same area. The couple move up to a two-bedroom unit with a full kitchen and full internal laundry, under the same type of rental agreement, with an increased percentage of the rent going to their equity in the unit. The couple have one child, they have grown equity in the unit and now it is time to look outside the co-op for their accommodation. They start looking around to find a suitable private villa close to their work and schools. The unit is sold back to the co-op and the couple uses their equity as a deposit on their new home. The co-op churns the units over and, after a renovation, the cycle starts again. It builds more accommodation near transport hubs. The Irish have a similar system for first home buyers who are frontline workers. The first home buyer is initially subsidised by the scheme. A small percentage of their repayments goes towards paying back the shortfall in their deposit. Once this is paid off, they can then continue paying off their mortgage and the full repayment is credited against their payment schedule.

In New South Wales we have a great opportunity to implement a new way of supplying public and affordable housing. As members of Parliament, this is not an along party lines issue; it is an issue for every government. It is on our heads to support an increase in affordable and public housing to enable every citizen to have a safe, secure, affordable place to live. More and more over the years, the need for affordable housing is outstripping supply. When we came into government after years of stagnant growth in public housing, the demand was for 40,000 homes.

After record amounts of taxpayers' dollars spent on reinvestment into building and renewing public housing, there is now the mammoth task of clearing the waiting list of 60,000. This is well and truly the canary in the coalmine. Recently I was a member of an inquiry into public housing maintenance. If I had hair, it would have curled. Some of the housing was very comfortable, but I am afraid a large percentage of the stock was below what any person should consider standard. The Opposition and Government need to think outside the box, as this is bigger than any government. We are in crisis. We need to look to the future. We need to tackle it now and it is up to us as members of Parliament.

#### TEMPE BUNNINGS DEVELOPMENT

**Mr RON HOENIG (Heffron) (18:15):** I bring to the attention of the House the escalating David-and-Goliath battle unfolding in my electorate, between the Tempe community and one of Australia's largest retail corporations—Bunnings. Bunnings built its reputation and business model by instilling in everyday Australians the belief that anyone could tackle that weekend backyard project or minor indoor renovation, because Bunnings would have their back with all the tools and paraphernalia to get the job done. To the eyes of Tempe residents, it has become the corporate giant who would do whatever it could to secure its profit margin, irrespective of who it tramples over. Last year I took the opportunity of bringing to the attention of this House the concerns of local Tempe residents who are opposed not to the development of Bunnings, but to the way in which it is proposed to be redeveloped on the Princes Highway.

Residents were concerned about the impact of such a large retail outlet on local traffic congestion and pedestrian safety. In a nutshell, residents were concerned about vehicles exiting the Bunnings site and using Union Street, a narrow local laneway where Tempe Public School is located and which is around the corner from Tempe High School, as a thoroughfare to get to Unwins Bridge Road and Richardson Crescent—effectively, a rat run to the inner west. As I indicated last year, this impasse had its genesis in the 2016 decision of the Sydney Eastern Central Planning Panel, which is chaired by my good mate Carl Scully, despite the recommendation from Inner West Council for a deferred commencement pending approval of a local traffic management plan.

The planning panel decided it knew better. Instead of listening to representatives from the Inner West Council, local police, the local State MP and Transport for NSW, who make up the traffic committee, the planning panel gave development approval to Bunnings subject to a Local Area Traffic Management study, which has to be approved by the council's traffic committee. This is the problem with planning decision-making bodies made up of faceless individuals who have little to no connection to the community that must live with the impact of the decisions that the planning panel makes. The interests and concerns of the local community and the council are put aside in favour of big business, with its corporate and planning lawyers.

As a means of addressing the concerns of the Tempe community, I suggested a one-directional traffic flow be adopted for the Tempe Bunnings site, with vehicles entering via Smith Street and exiting via a separate egress onto the Princes Highway. On 17 May 2021, at the inner west traffic committee meeting, I caused to be moved a recommendation to delay the implementation of the Local Area Traffic Management Plan, so Inner West Council might enter into negotiations with Bunnings to investigate the feasibility of my suggestion. I also suggested a possible location for a signalised egress from the site onto the Princes Highway by way of an internal laneway, which already exists. I am not at all surprised that the traffic committee agreed with me and adopted my recommendations.

If the bi-flow traffic management approach is adopted then almost every street between the Princes Highway and Unwins Bridge Road would require traffic mitigation works. In one of the final meetings of the Inner West Council before it was dissolved prior to last year's local government elections, the council endorsed my proposal to put an end to this impasse between the Tempe community and Bunnings. Now, nearly six years since the planning panel gave development consent, Bunnings has decided that it cannot—or will not—adhere to the approval given by the panel and has submitted to the council an application to modify the original determination, which will go to the planning panel on 31 March 2022. Bunnings' modification application seeks to make changes to the layout of its retail space, reduce the number of car parking spaces and make other minor design changes.

However, Bunnings is also seeking to remove from the original determination the requirement of obtaining approval from the local traffic committee of a Local Area Traffic Management Plan, which is a precondition for a construction certificate to be issued to commence redevelopment of the site. Bunnings is arguing that condition 68A of the original determination is redundant as a study had already been conducted. In short, Bunnings could not get what it wanted by playing by the rules and now it is going back to the planning panel to have the rules changed—never mind the local Tempe community and the safety of students and pedestrians alike. As far as I am concerned, this lack of cooperation and of good citizenship is terrible.

### WARIALDA FIRE MITIGATION PLAN

**Mr ADAM MARSHALL (Northern Tablelands) (18:20):** More than 100,000 hectares of prime agricultural land and pristine World Heritage listed national parks in the Northern Tablelands was devastated during the Black Summer bushfires of 2019-20. There was little land in the eastern fall of the Great Dividing Range, from Glen Innes to south of Armidale, which was untouched by that horrific event. It still upsets me to remember the dust from three long years of drought mixing with the oppressive smoke to form an eerie haze that lasted months. West of the Great Divide community leaders were on constant edge, watching what was happening to nearby shires and assessing how exposed their towns and people were to the risk of catastrophic fire. On Christmas Eve 2019, Gwydir Shire Councillor Geoff Smith and Councillor Jim Moore, both members of the Rural Fire Service brigade at Warialda, wrote to me. They had spent the previous three weeks containing a blaze that, if the wind direction had been different, may have significantly impacted the town.

The councillors outlined how the council's efforts to establish a substantial firebreak around Warialda were constantly being hampered by State Government green tape—something they both felt was placing the community at significant risk. Councillor Smith, along with correspondence from the general manager of the council, Max Eastcott, sought my support in lobbying for a 150-metre asset protection zone around the township of Warialda. This would require the targeted removal of flammable black pine and wattle trees, whilst leaving eucalyptus and larger gum trees. An ad hoc committee of councillors, which included mayor John Coulton and councillors David Coulton, Geoff Smith and Jim "Curly" Moore, had earlier been established to review local fire mitigation. Council commissioned SMK Consultants to develop a fire mitigation plan, with one of the outcomes being a recommendation for a 150-metre firebreak around the entire community.

As is the case with any land clearing in our State, green tape means delays. A significant portion of the area around Warialda is Crown land. Gwydir Council proactively met with NSW Crown Lands in an attempt to gain an agreement to increase the fire protection in line with SMK Consultants' recommendations. Crown Lands was supportive of the council's proposal, if the council could obtain the relevant environmental approvals. But the expense of doing so was prohibitive for the council. At this point I recognise the huge amount of work undertaken on behalf of the council, the community and myself by the NSW Rural Fire Service, which took this project on board when approached. Commissioner Rob Rogers; Manager, Community Risk, Shellie Smyth; and North Western Area Command Chief Superintendent Heath Stimson were amazing and steadfast in their support. They reviewed the recommendations of the consultants and negotiated on the community's behalf with Crown Lands, the Local Land Services and the Soil Conservation Service of New South Wales. It was not easy to settle on a fire management plan with the agreement of all agencies, including council and the community, that was satisfactory for all while achieving the goal of protecting Warialda from serious bushfire risk.

One concession from the negotiations was to reduce the proposed 150-metre asset protection zone down to 40 metres, which the council was comfortable with in the end because, in its own words, it believed it would get nothing, and it is confident this will provide adequate protection. This week I was absolutely delighted to be in Warialda to celebrate the commencement of works on the \$670,000 State Government funded fire mitigation program at Warialda. More than 28 kilometres of fire trails will be upgraded, and 49 hectares of fire breaks will be added around the township. The upgrades will bring everything up to the highest NSW RFS standard, which allows all fire trucks, including those in category 1, to be manoeuvred quickly and easily to protect the township, rather than waiting for fire to come into the town. There will be over 40 new bays for fire trucks to pass and approximately 35 new places for the fire trucks to turn around on these fire trails, which will make a huge

difference in defending property and saving lives. Mitigation crews from the RFS will establish the fire breaks. That work will be completed in May this year.

The removal of surrounding vegetation will add protection to the firefighters and the township. The firefighters can burn back from that, going out from the community, as a control option during emergency operations to save homes. This action shows that there have been learnings from the Black Summer fires—not just words but, indeed, action. I believe this suite of works should and can be used as a template for other towns and communities across country New South Wales. It must be done to protect life and to protect property. I think Gwydir Shire Council, to its credit, has led the way, and I hope that many other communities follow.

#### **WOLLONDILLY ELECTORATE STRONGER COUNTRY COMMUNITIES FUNDING**

**Mr NATHANIEL SMITH (Wollondilly) (18:25):** The Stronger Country Communities Fund was established in 2017 by the New South Wales Government and has since provided \$400 million for more than 1,500 local projects to enhance the lives and wellbeing of regional communities. I am proud to say that two organisations in my electorate of Wollondilly will benefit from round four of the Stronger Country Communities Fund, which will see a further \$100 million made available for community projects that increase the livability of regional New South Wales communities, including up to \$50 million for the projects to enhance female sporting facilities to increase female participation in sport.

The first is Berrima District Pony Club's clubhouse. The club received \$118,557 to put forward the upgrading and refurbishment of its clubhouse. The clubhouse is the heart of the pony club. Updating the internal visual aspect along with the kitchen storage will enhance use for club members and visitors alike. The money will go towards painting interiors and exteriors; laying vinyl flooring; the installation of a new kitchen and storage; service and repairs of windows, guttering and external woodwork; and the installation of lighting and electrics. The pony club is a hub of activity where kids and teenagers are able to develop their skills to become successful adult riders for future leisure and competition.

Another organisation central to my electorate is the Bowral tennis club, located at Loseby Park. I was thrilled to present members of the club with a \$364,837 cheque to go towards an urgent upgrade and repair of tennis courts and fencing to continue to provide safe facilities that meet operational and competition standards. The money will go towards removing and disposing of the existing court and fence, installation of new court chain wire fence and courts, and changing the existing court surfaces to sand-filled synthetic grass and an acrylic court surface. How exciting for club members and visitors to the region, especially following the success of our very own Ash Barty at this year's Australian Open. Ash is a great role model for our game. Many Australians enjoy playing tennis competitively and socially.

The New South Wales Government is recognising the vital role that local sporting infrastructure also plays in keeping communities healthy, active and connected. In December last year the Hilltop Northern Villages Cricket Club received from the New South Wales Government a Christmas bonus of \$137,000, which went towards the upgrade of the Boronia Park practice net from two lanes to three lanes—very similar to the practice nets at Bradman Oval, which are very successful—and installation of new extended fencing and roofing, a stronger slab, three-metre black PVC chain mesh, double-access gates and nine-millimetre cricket grass. Anyone who has played community sport at a social or a competitive level knows how important those new facilities are and what a difference it makes during times of pandemic. It is uplifting for team morale and encourages people to use community facilities and gather in more comfortable conditions in all weather.

As bit of a cricket tragic, I was very proud to announce this project. I told the members of the Hilltop cricket club that I will soon be coming to play a social game. When I was growing up in Lane Cove, my brother and I had our string cricket nets. We mowed our own pitch. We never rolled it—there were demons two feet out. A ball would be bowled and be up near your throat. I relayed this experience to the guys and they said, yes, we must come down and have a bash with them at some point. I thank the Regional Sport Facility Fund in New South Wales, which has done so much for regional areas. Through years of hard Labor, they missed out on sporting grants. Nothing was done in regional areas around New South Wales. Only under a Liberal-Nationals Government are we seeing the regions get the same as metropolitan Sydney has received for many years. They were completely ignored through those 16 years of hard Labor. Now we are seeing regional areas come through and communities grow stronger.

#### **TRIBUTE TO DR CON MOSHEGOV**

**Ms TANIA MIHAILUK (Bankstown) (18:29):** With great sadness, I inform the House of the death of Dr Con Moshegov, who passed away on 30 January 2022 after contracting COVID-19. Dr Con Moshegov was one of the most renowned ophthalmologists in Australia, specialising in cataract and refractive surgery. He pioneered eye laser surgery in Australia and established and practised at the George Street and Hornsby eye

centres, where he was the medical director, with expertise in anterior segment conditions, particularly cataract and eye laser surgery. He mastered many surgical innovations and helped advance critical techniques, improving a countless number of lives throughout his career. Dr Con Moshegov dedicated his life to teaching and helping others by ensuring that his skills were shared with his colleagues, and he took great pride in educating future practitioners of ophthalmology.

Dr Moshegov was a member of many professional societies, both domestically and internationally, including the American Academy of Ophthalmology, the American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery, the European Society of Cataract & Refractive Surgeons, and the Royal Australia and New Zealand College of Ophthalmologists, where he later became chairman. Dr Moshegov qualified in medicine at the University of Sydney in 1986, which he followed by undertaking a two-year fellowship at a leading hospital in the United Kingdom. Dr Moshegov was an experienced practitioner and performed well over 40,000 separate procedures. After his return to Australia, Dr Moshegov worked as a registrar at the Sydney Eye Hospital before working as a visiting medical officer at Concord Hospital. He later became head of the department of ophthalmology at Concord Hospital, before moving into private practice.

Dr Moshegov also served as a senior clinical lecturer at the University of Sydney before serving as an honorary clinical lecturer at the Graduate School of Health at the University of Technology in Sydney. He contributed to more than 16 different groundbreaking academic papers in international medical journals, trained and examined many trainees, and was always willing to help his fellow medical practitioners when they were in need of advice. He lectured extensively in England, France, Japan, China, Vietnam, Canada and the United States on the subject of eye care. Dr Moshegov had a charitable heart and shared a passion for restoring vision in underprivileged areas worldwide. In 2019 Dr Moshegov performed a sight-saving cataract surgery in the Philippines.

Dr Con Moshegov's willingness to help did not stop at his remarkable medical work. Dr Moshegov was also a man of faith, being a lifelong member and servant of the Russian Orthodox Church. In 2007, on the feast day of the Meeting of the Lord, Dr Moshegov was ordained a deacon by Archbishop Hilarion and became Father Constantine. He served in All Saints of Russia Church in Croydon and Saints Peter and Paul Cathedral in Strathfield. He was a much-loved and respected protodeacon. Dr Moshegov—or, as we all knew him in my church, Father Constantine—has always been described as an attentive, patient and generous person who showed great kindness to everyone. Dr Moshegov was one of the most genuine and vibrant individuals one could hope to meet. He was a sympathetic listener and had a wonderful sense of humour, and one could always feel his presence when he was in the room.

Following his untimely death, the Dr Con Moshegov Memorial Award in Orthoptics Fund has been established at the University of Technology Sydney. The fund will continue Dr Con Moshegov's extraordinary legacy to provide opportunities for talented young students. To date, more than \$63,000 has been raised by Dr Con Moshegov's family, friends, colleagues and patients, which has already far exceeded the initial target of \$9,000. This is a telling testament to the impact that Dr Moshegov had on so many lives. Dr Moshegov was a great man, and his life's work will never be forgotten. He sadly died at the age of 59—way too young. With great sadness, I express condolences to his family, in particular his wife, Natalie; his children, Sophia and Julian; his mother; his sister, Lana; his many nieces and nephews; his extended family; his fellow clergy; his friends and parishioners from the church; and his many patients. I extend my deepest condolences. Vale, Dr Con Moshegov. Memory eternal.

### ST GEORGE COMMUNITY AWARDS

#### **Mr MARK COURE (Oatley—Minister for Multiculturalism, and Minister for Seniors) (18:34):**

I inform the House of the fantastic success of my eleventh annual St George Community Awards for 2021. Late last year I sought nominations from the local community for the annual St George Community Awards. My office was absolutely blown away with the number of submissions. It was fantastic to see so many people recognised for their contributions to our local area. My office received over 100 quality submissions from local community organisations, residents and small businesses highlighting the strong community spirit across the St George area. The award categories included individual volunteer achievement, youth achievement, community group achievement, business achievement, senior volunteer achievement, sporting achievement and environmental achievement.

The Individual Volunteer Achievement Award recognises a member of the community who has devoted significant time, effort and resources by serving in a volunteer capacity. Whether it is volunteering at a local sport club on the weekend, delivering meals to the vulnerable through Meals on Wheels or helping organise a community fundraising event, the winners of the individual volunteer award have all demonstrated a keen desire to help those around them and make their community a better place. Last year 36 people were awarded an Individual Volunteer Achievement Award across a number of organisations, including the Lions Club of Oatley

and Lugarno, Lugarno Public School P&C, St George Community Transport and, my favourite, the Resourceful Australian Indian Network.

It was heartening to see a number of young people recognised in the 2021 awards. Last year eight people were awarded a Youth Achievement Award. I make special mention of the Australian Air League Riverwood Squadron, which had four of its members recognised last year. As many in the House know, community organisations are often the backbone of local volunteering efforts. Many groups organise local events and charity drives and fundraise for important issues affecting many in our community. The Community Group Achievement Award recognises that selfless work and acknowledges organisations that have significantly contributed to the St George area, especially during the difficulties of the pandemic. Last year 16 local community groups were recognised for their efforts throughout 2021. One such group was 2Connect Youth & Community which does important work to empower young people to create change for a positive future, aiming to achieve social justice and improve the wellbeing of the community. Last year I also had the pleasure of listening to an impromptu performance by the St George Junior Brass Band outside my electorate office when I presented them with their award.

As a great supporter of small businesses across the St George area, the Business Achievement Award is one of my favourite awards to present. The past two years have been especially tough on our local businesses as the pandemic has created challenge after challenge that they have had to overcome. However, I am so happy to see the return of customers to restaurants, cafes and shops across the St George area. I am hopeful to see a boom in business for those retailers, and I will try to visit as many businesses as I can to show and offer my support. A total of five fantastic small businesses were recognised in the 2021 St George Community Awards. I congratulate Bridge St Kids Early Learning Centre, Kogarah Indian Bazaar, Lucky Family Consulting, RB Hair and Beauty Lounge and Budget Salon Supplies on winning last year's awards. As the Minister for Seniors, I take a keen interest in the efforts of many of our local senior volunteers who regularly contribute so much to the local area. Our local seniors are especially active in the community, running events such as the Oatley Lions Village Festival, which is always a big hit. It was my pleasure to present 19 members of our local community with a Senior Volunteer Achievement Award acknowledging their invaluable service to the local area.

The 2021 St George Community Awards also saw a number of sporting organisations and individuals awarded for their contributions to our local sporting culture. Groups like St George Little Athletics, the AHEPA Hunters, Fishers and Shooters Club, and St George Basketball Association spend countless hours volunteering to ensure that community sport can operate smoothly and efficiently. The final category celebrated was the Environmental Achievement Award, which had three winners. I acknowledge each and every one of them. The eleventh annual St George Community Awards were a resounding success and I congratulate all the winners. I look forward to holding the competition again this year to celebrate all of the wonderful people in the St George community.

### BLACKTOWN ELECTORATE

**Mr STEPHEN BALI (Blacktown) (18:39):** I update the Parliament on some of the goings-on and issues facing the Blacktown area. Firstly, to the great news on the weekend when Blacktown Leisure Centre Stanhope hosted the Oceania and Commonwealth selection for amateur wrestling. I am happy that the wrestling fraternity has made Blacktown City its home. The professional wrestling occurs every month at Bowman Hall, and the amateur wrestling wants to be based in Blacktown City. I thank Stephan Jaeggi for organising it and for his relentless pursuit of ensuring that wrestling continues to play an important role. He is a former wrestler. He is fairly young—a lot younger than me—and is active in the local community. He secured a heap of superstars for the event, including film producer Sam Hordern and Jack Cowin, the owner of the Hungry Jacks franchise and a former wrestler in Canada, and his wife Sharon. It was good to talk to Jack about his exploits of yesteryear. He is very philanthropic in the local area in supporting the youth.

Stephan also secured Mahalia Murphy, the Australian Rugby League representative and a good Doonside girl; Andrew Kitnatli, the Wrestling Australia president; and Larry Papadopoulos, the NSW Wrestling president. It was a fabulous event with young and new starters through to elite wrestlers. It was great to see wrestlers like Jadon Lawrence win each of his bouts. He is on his way to the Oceania Championships in Guam and if he does well he will go on to the Commonwealth selection to compete in Birmingham later this year. The next big event for wrestling will be on 22 May. I encourage all parliamentarians to go—rather than wrestling in the bear pit, we can watch real wrestling.

I update the House about Blacktown City Council. I recognise that the former local government Minister is in the Chamber. I know that she was a fan and supporter of Blacktown City Council and that the council spoke to her quite often. The former Minister would recognise some of the challenges the council faces. A major concern is the Local Infrastructure Growth Scheme, a policy instrument established by this Government to reduce section 711 funding, or the old section 94, where developers would pay less and the Government would make up the

difference. As it stands, \$250.1 million is owed to Blacktown City Council for all the extra development that has happened in the area. Apart from that, the challenge the Parliament and the Government has is, how do you manage massive infrastructure required to sustain a population? The population of Blacktown is going to increase by 264,000 people over the next 25 years.

I am not advocating a split of the council because big councils are very important, but a growth of 264,000 people would make it the third largest council in New South Wales. Therefore, you need to put in a lot of support and infrastructure. Blacktown needs \$525 million to build pools—the pool that services the area is 75 years old and obviously needs to be replaced—libraries and community centres. Compare that with the electorate of the current Minister for Cities, Minister for Infrastructure and Minister for Active Transport, and member for Pittwater. The Northern Beaches Council area will grow by 1,250 people per year over the next 25 years. Blacktown will grow by 10,564 people per year. Blacktown will pass Tasmania by 2037. How do you look after one local government area, Blacktown City Council, that will be larger in population than Tasmania's by 2037? That is something the Government needs to identify and focus on. This Liberal Government has given \$90 million to Hornsby Shire Council, which did not amalgamate, to fix up its industrial sites and build a high quality regional sports centre, yet Blacktown City Council has to pay its own way. There needs to be better support. We need to work together and deliver for the North West Growth Area.

### CAMDEN ELECTORATE AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS

**Mr PETER SIDGREAVES (Camden) (18:44):** On 26 January we celebrate all the things we love about Australia. It is a day to reflect on our lifestyle in the "Lucky Country" and our history. In Camden we are blessed to have strong and caring community members, all with unique experiences, who make a real difference to our community. Australia Day is the perfect time to acknowledge those individuals, and I am delighted to speak about a number of them today. Camden South resident Margret Bell was a 2022 recipient of the Medal of the Order of Australia for her service to the community. It is a great privilege to have Margret, who is a worthy and caring volunteer, living in the Camden electorate. Margret is a passionate local who has served on the boards of the Falcons soccer club and the Camden RSL Sub-Branch, and has helped to organise Camden's ANZAC Day parade. I offer my sincerest congratulations to Margret on her outstanding acknowledgment.

I also recognise Schwarz Family Practice doctor Matthew Gray, who was also a 2022 recipient of the Medal of the Order Australia for his contribution to community health. Dr Gray has been living and working in Camden for nearly 25 years. He has admired the area's growth and seen access to quality health care improve. Dr Gray was also recognised for his work with the African AIDS Foundation, providing health care to South Africa. What a tremendous privilege it is to have Dr Matthew Gray continually providing and caring for the people of Camden and those across the world. I offer my sincerest congratulations to him on his achievements.

Many in Camden were also recognised for their contributions to making our community a great place to live. We are blessed to have so many community-minded and dedicated individuals living amongst us in Camden. I am proud to recognise some of those who received an award at the Australia Day online event. Camden's Citizen of the Year was awarded to Brooke Murray, who is a passionate advocate for mental health and regularly speaks out for those with mental illness. Since 2015 Brooke has raised over \$3,000 for various mental health charities, including Beyond Blue, Black Dog Institute and Liptember beneficiaries such as Lifeline and R U OK? Day. Brooke is to be commended for this outstanding honour. Camden's Young Citizen of the Year was awarded to Alana Bailey, who has been a member of the Camden Youth Council for the past three to four years, working on several projects to support young people in Camden, including the Camden Multicultural Festival and the Camden Youth Week programs. Alana's drive to support young people in the community is encouraging to see.

The Community Group of the Year was awarded to Big Yellow Umbrella and the Macarthur Centre for Sustainable Living. The team at Big Yellow Umbrella runs amazing services such as free food hampers for locals, mums and bubs groups, playgroups, parenting services, and bill assistance. They also run seasonal programs such as Christmas gifts for those in need. The Macarthur Centre for Sustainable Living is a registered charity and a community-focused organisation that is an educational facility and model for the promotion of sustainable technology and living practices for homes and businesses in the Macarthur region, including all residents in the Camden local government area. I thank and congratulate each of the volunteers who assist in the operations of Big Yellow Umbrella and Macarthur Centre for Sustainable Living.

The Arts and Culture Award was presented to Bob Gurney, who has served the Camden arts community for over 20 years, playing integral roles in the development of Camden's arts scene, encouraging both established and emerging artists to engage in art. Over the years Bob has volunteered in many ways, including by holding the titles of activities coordinator and committee member of the Camden Society of Artists. I thank Bob for his faithful service to the Camden community. Again, I congratulate all winners of the Australia Day Awards and thank them for their contributions to our community.

### CITY OF PARRAMATTA COUNCIL

**Ms LYNDA VOLTZ (Auburn) (18:49):** Following the recent local government elections, I was pleased that Donna Davis was elected as Mayor of City of Parramatta Council. I have had a long association with Donna and we have shared concerns about some local infrastructure projects. Over the past three years I met with the former mayor of City of Parramatta Council to try to push along the long overdue construction of the traffic lights at the corner of Bennelong Parkway and Hill Road, which is a very dangerous intersection with a large number of vehicle accidents. Every time I went to council I met another brick wall. The council said it could not put in the traffic lights, as the New South Wales Government was blocking any traffic light approvals due to the on-again off-again proposed stage two of the Parramatta Light Rail. However, after a year of dogged pursuit, the New South Wales Government finally gave approval to the council. Then another year was taken up with City of Parramatta Council telling me consistently—even though I would meet the mayor—that it was not doing the design now. The council said it had the design but did not have the money for the project. The local community copped an increase to the height of a building on the corner of Hill Road and Bennelong Parkway, from eight to 15 storeys, to pay for the traffic lights, and the former Liberal council said it would not allocate the money until the building was upgraded.

After three years I am reassured by the election of Donna Davis as the new Labor mayor of City of Parramatta Council, as I know the traffic lights are one of her top priorities—as they are for Councillor Patricia Povic and Councillor Paul Noack. I am also pleased that the local Federal member for Reid, Fiona Martin, appears to have welcomed the election of the new Labor mayor for Parramatta. In fact, she is so concerned about the poor performance of the previous Liberal-led City of Parramatta Council that she has put out a petition for Wentworth Point. Scanning the petition takes voters to Fiona Martin's webpage, which reads:

Since 2019, \$18 million dollars of funding has been provided to Parramatta Council. But you are not seeing the benefit of this. Hill Road and Bennelong Parkway are unsafe, neglected and need fixing now.

It is an intersection that my long three years of meeting the mayor has shown is long overdue for fixing. Local residents have commented on her Facebook page, where she put the petition up. One resident wrote:

Incidentally Parramatta Council was a Liberal Majority Council before December 2021. Did she ever talk to them?

Another resident commented:

Isn't our former Mayor on the State Executive of the Liberal Party? Why doesn't she just ask him rather than put out a petition! Well we welcome Ms Martin to the campaign — although funding for these lights was an issue in the last election campaign so I am not sure how she missed it, but still better late than never.

This new-found interest in grants going to Wentworth Point by the member for Reid begs the obvious question: Where are the Federal grants that the member for Reid is securing going? Reid is a marginal Liberal electorate. Plenty of pork-barrelling goes on in Liberal electorates, so Wentworth Point must be doing pretty well under the member for Reid. Fortunately, the member for Reid has a funding map to show all of her achievements in her electorate. It shows exactly how many grants she has achieved and where she has achieved them for. How many grants has Fiona Martin secured for Wentworth Point, which deserves a better deal so much that she has put out a petition? Alas, my colleagues will find that it is zero.

Wentworth Point has received no Federal grants under the Federal Liberal member for Reid. I am not sure the member for Reid should waste her time with City of Parramatta Council now that the Labor mayor is there because she will get the traffic lights fixed. Perhaps she could find some money for the other half of Wentworth Point Public School, which the State Liberal Government has not bothered committing any money for. State, local and Federal—the Liberals have left Wentworth Point behind.

### NEWCASTLE ELECTORATE YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

**Mr TIM CRAKANTHORP (Newcastle) (18:54):** Anyone trying to access youth psychiatry services in Newcastle at the moment needs luck on their side. That is because you would be lucky to find a practice with open books, available appointments or even a waiting list. That is not because of any faults with the practices; it is because of the demand. As a result, desperate parents are making phone calls right up and down the coast. When they do have success, it is for a slot that is three months away. Despite the wait, they cannot knock it back; something is better than nothing. One person who contacted me was advised by a service that they would just have to manage in the meantime, but to go to hospital if their child tried to take their own life. Go to the hospital if your child tries to take their own life? Pretend you are the parent in that situation. Your child's mental health is so poor that there are real concerns they may harm themselves, and you are offered a map to the hospital.

In 2020, 480 young people in this country took their lives. Some 99 of those people were aged under 18, and 381 of them were aged between 18 and 24. Over the past decade, the figures have gotten worse. Those 381 suicides in 18- to 24-year-olds represented almost 39 per cent of deaths in that age group as well as 31 per

cent of deaths in 15- to 17-year-olds. It is markedly up from 2010, when suicide accounted for a quarter of deaths in those age groups. Sadly, the numbers when it comes to intentional self-harm are not trending in the right direction either. In that time, the number of 15- to 24-year-olds hospitalised increased by almost 2,500. That is approximately an extra 60 people per 100,000. Indigenous Australians are disproportionately represented in both of those categories, at rates that are roughly three times that of the non-Indigenous population. That data comes from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, and gives us a picture of suicide and self-harm that has already happened.

Just as concerning are the number of young people who are experiencing poor mental health and have not made it into that data. From their annual report in 2020, over 13,000 counselling contacts were made to Kids Helpline regarding suicide. That equates to 36 each day. In that year, representatives from the helpline made over a thousand duty-of-care interventions because of a suicide attempt. When you hear figures like that, it is not hard to see why there is such a demand for youth mental health services. We also know that half of all mental health issues are established by the time a person is aged 14, and 75 per cent are established by the time a person is 24. All that data makes it very clear how important early intervention is.

That brings me back to the parents I mentioned. For the three months they have to wait for their child to see a psychologist, they will live on tenterhooks while their child, who experiences severe anxiety, faces stress and fear day after day. That child is not well enough to attend school. While they wait for help, they are also missing time with their peers and learning opportunities. While they wait for help, the knock-on effects only increase. For that family, every day is like skating on thin ice. I do not want to detract from the efforts of people already working in this area or the new funding that was so necessary after lockdowns, but when kids who are at serious risk of harm are waiting three months to see a psychiatrist, a funding announcement is cold comfort. No matter how it happens, a parent's worst nightmare is losing a child. Sometimes there is nothing that can be done differently but, with mental health, early intervention and accessible and appropriate treatment literally save lives.

#### TRIBUTE TO COUNCILLOR GLENN TAYLOR

**Mr PHILIP DONATO (Orange) (18:59):** I pay tribute to late former Councillor Glenn Taylor of Orange City Council, who was Orange born and bred. Glenn more than contributed to his community of Orange—it was largely his life's work. Glenn was politically ambitious, and as a young man he racked up experience as a ministerial advisor in Bob Carr's New South Wales Labor Government. That training ground gave Glenn an understanding of the schematics of government machinery, which he drew upon to address issues at a local government level. A loyal team man, he was a Labor man through and through. Unlike many candidates and elected councillors, he proudly declared his political affiliations. He embodied Labor, proudly describing himself as a self-employed battler. He was also a diehard South Sydney Rabbitohs supporter, and a Holden fan and aficionado. Even loyal to his beer, his drop of choice was Aussie as—Tooheys New.

Glenn did not hide his allegiances. Local government is its own beast, and when first elected Glenn was guided into that political domain by a former mayor of Orange, Councillor Tim Sullivan. Glenn credited Mr Sullivan for impressing upon him the importance of listening to the people. Glenn certainly listened and embraced that advice, for if he had not he would not have been elected to Orange City Council for an astonishing 27 continuous years. Glenn was first elected as a councillor to Orange City Council in 1995. I am certain that Glenn would have been re-elected at the most recent elections if he had stood. Sadly, his health prevented him from doing so.

Glenn was an active member on council. He headed up council's crime prevention committee, overseeing a number of initiatives designed to improve safety in the city, including a community safety survey of residents and businesses, trials of security cameras, a community safety audit of streets and lighting, and the eventual funding and installation of security cameras in areas around the central business district. There was opposition to elements of the safety initiatives, but he persevered after realising the long-term benefits for the residents of Orange. After 10 years of work, Glenn saw the works completed. The security infrastructure has been a deterrent to crime and is also a useful tool in assisting police investigations. Glenn was also at the forefront of Orange piloting the parental responsibility Act, which gave police the power to take at-risk children off the streets to their home or to a safe place. As a former police officer, I saw the benefit of those police powers in protecting young people in Orange.

Another major accomplishment during Glenn's tenure on council was the development of the Northern Distributor, which is a roadway that diverts heavy vehicles and traffic from the main thoroughfare in the city. There were challenges in his representative career. Glenn endured a frustrating 10-year campaign to build toilets in Robertson Park in the heart of the city. I notice that the member for The Entrance is laughing. It is funny because it took so long. The infrastructure project was relatively small and simple, but the process in delivering the facilities was plagued with delays, objections and bureaucracy. Glenn would no doubt have been pleased to see the project finally completed.



Glenn learned that being an active councillor and taking a public position on polarising issues had consequences, and would also impact on his family. The approval for the Woolworths service station in Orange angered an element within the community, and Glenn received threatening phone calls. He had to temporarily relocate his family for their safety. He stuck to his guns in support of the development application, which he credited with helping break the nexus of the duopoly of cartels involved in the fuel industry that were behind the extraordinary fuel prices in Orange compared with elsewhere in the region. Orange's new hospital was a game-changing piece of infrastructure, and without it Orange would not be the regional medical hub that it is today. Glenn was heavily involved in campaigning for the funding of that project, which ultimately proved successful.

His political ambition fuelled him to make a tilt at the State seat of Orange in three consecutive elections—1995, 1999 and 2003. Although he was unsuccessful in his attempts, from what I am told his defeats were quite narrow, proving how popular he was and how much local support he had gained as a councillor. He was certainly no quitter. With such extensive experience, it is unsurprising that Glenn was elected as the deputy mayor on four separate occasions. In the 27 years Glenn was on council, he served under mayors Dick Niven, John Miller, John Davis and Reg Kidd. After decades of humble service to his community, Glenn said that none of it would have been possible without the support of his loving family. Tragically, Glenn lost his battle with cancer and passed away on 29 January 2022, aged 60. Orange is much richer for Glenn's contributions over many years, and his loss will be greatly felt by the community he so loved. I offer my condolences to Glenn's family. Vale, Glenn Taylor.

### CENTRAL COAST HOUSING

**Mr DAVID MEHAN (The Entrance) (19:04):** If more proof was needed of the housing crisis in this State, it is the *New South Wales Regional Housing Need Report* from Shelter NSW, which landed on my desk last week. Shelter is the peak non-government housing organisation in this State. Its vision is to create a sustainable housing system that provides secure homes for all. In producing the report, Shelter partnered with the Regional Australia Institute to look into what it describes as the "regional housing crisis". The report confirms what many of us have been saying, which is that the Central Coast is an area of high housing need. Members of this House would be aware that The Entrance electorate is located in the heart of the Central Coast region.

The report found that of the 16 regional local government areas of concern, the Central Coast has the highest housing need. In developing its findings, Shelter used seven key indicators of housing stress. They are the proportions of single-parent households, households with a mortgage, rental households, households in mortgage stress, households in rental stress, the proportion of social housing stock and, finally, the number of people on the social housing waitlist. With respect to the Central Coast region in particular, the report found that currently 3,172 people are on the social housing waitlist and that the wait time on the Central Coast is at least five years but more often 10 years. The report makes a lie of the Government's constant refrain that it is addressing the housing needs of this State and of my region. In my view, fundamental to our housing crisis in this State is the state of our public housing stock, often referred to as social housing.

Last week the new Minister responsible for housing claimed that social housing has increased under this Government. However, the figures provided to me by the Land and Housing Corporation tell a very different story. I refer to answers to questions on notice that I asked. On 28 July last year in response to my question No. 6181, I was advised that in 2010-11 there were 130,664 public housing dwellings in the State. The latest figure provided to me in response to my question No. 6942, which was answered in *Questions and Answers* paper No. 138, is 125,125 public housing dwellings—an absolute decline in the total number and as a percentage proportion of total housing in this State. In my view, this Government has no commitment whatsoever to public and social housing in this State. I believe it is completely committed to the privatisation of our public housing system in the same way it is committed to privatising whatever assets it can get away with privatising in this State.

Privatisation of public housing is a big part of the story of why housing is unaffordable in this State. The reality is this Government has sold off hundreds of public housing dwellings over the past 10 years, as those figures that the Government provided to me clearly indicate. Previously I have reported in this House that the Central Coast now has 200 fewer public housing dwellings than it did 10 years ago. I have reported that after I have made inquiries about empty public housing I have found a "For sale" sign in front of those properties. That must stop. Shelter NSW recommends that we build more public housing. In that regard, it is in lockstep with a number of other NGOs. The single easiest immediate step we can take to improve housing affordability in this State is to stop the privatisation of public housing in New South Wales.

### NORTH SHORE ELECTORATE AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS

**Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore) (19:09):** Australia Day has many meanings for each individual in our country. It is a day to look back and reflect on our rich history—its achievements and failures—to celebrate

our present vibrancy and shared values, and to look forward to our future progress and growth towards an equal future. As we all know, Australia's history dates back to well before Federation or settlement. Our diverse Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities are part of the oldest living culture in the world. Together they represent more than 60,000 years of traditions and wisdom. On Australia Day this year once again I recognised the rich history and teachings that our Indigenous people give to our community and honoured the original custodians of this land. I acknowledged the hardships they have endured over the course of our tumultuous history and that, while steps have been taken to make reparations, there is still progress to be made on these complex, unresolved issues.

On Australia Day we reflect on our past, but we can also celebrate our nation's present diversity and vibrancy. We are one of the most multicultural societies in the world, and I would say we are the most successful multicultural country in the world. For centuries, waves of individuals and families from all around the globe have come to Australia to call this land their home. On Australia Day I reflected on the contribution that people of all different backgrounds have brought to our community, no matter their race, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation and identity, where they were born or where they currently live. We are all equal and we are all integral to the fabric of our society. These are values that each of us in this House strives to represent and uphold every day in our democracy. I am proud of the work we have done over the past year to do that.

At a local level, in my electorate of North Shore each Australia Day I celebrate outstanding members of our community and recognise their significant contributions to our society. I congratulate the many locals on the 2022 Australia Day Honours List who were awarded the Order of Australia Medal. They include Professor Helge Rasmussen, OAM, for his long service to medicine as a cardiologist; Mr Robert Sinclair, OAM, for his outstanding work with community organisations, such as the Lane Cove rugby club and as a volunteer driver for Chris O'Brien Lifehouse; Ms Barbara Osborne, OAM, for her charitable work with organisations such as Barnardos Australia and the Infants' Home; Professor Laurence Mather, OAM, for his work as a research scientist on anaesthesia and pain management; Ms Pamela Cohen, OAM, for her service to community health as a mental health social worker for the St Vincent's Clinic in Darlinghurst; and Mrs Beverley Kable, OAM, for her work with charitable organisations, including Variety's charity car rallies, the Sargood rehabilitation centre and St Albans Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade. All those recipients should be proud to receive their award. They are deserving of the recognition, and we are proud of the contributions they have made. I thank them all for their service to the community.

I also extend my congratulations to the individuals who were awarded the Member of the Order of Australia. They include Dr Alice Killen, AM, for her service to medical administration and healthcare delivery, including establishing a mentoring program for junior doctors at the Medical Women's Society of NSW; Dr Kristine Barlow-Stewart, AM, for her significant service to medicine in the field of genetics; and Ms Susan Horwitz, AM, for her contribution to the community through sport and advocacy on women's issues. They should be proud of their achievement and what they have done for not only my local community but also New South Wales, Australia and, in some instances, the world.

On Australia Day we also celebrate all of the new citizens joining our society at citizenship ceremonies hosted across the country. Every year I attend a local ceremony to welcome new people to my community and to Australia. Many have lived here for quite some time, but it is quite special that they get to become citizens and be welcomed into that family. This year I attended the Mosman citizenship ceremony hosted by Mosman Council at Rawson Oval. Despite having a smaller ceremony than usual due to the pandemic, it was a lovely day to attend. Once again, I congratulate all of our new Australians. I thank the mayor of Mosman, Carolyn Corrigan, and her team for organising a wonderful event.

I also acknowledge North Sydney Council, which had a brief, online citizenship ceremony due to COVID. After the Mosman ceremony I dialled in remotely from my car. I congratulate all of those new citizens who were part of that ceremony and welcome them all to our community. I hope that even though it was virtual it was still a special day for all of them. Finally, Australia Day is an opportunity for us to acknowledge our history and past and to speak about some of the work we are doing to make the future better. I am optimistic about the future of New South Wales and Australia, and I look forward to what we will accomplish over the next year, particularly with the kind of community leaders that we recognised yet again this year.

#### THE GREENS AGRICULTURE AND LAND USE POLICY

**Ms TAMARA SMITH (Ballina) (19:14):** I publicly announce, as the New South Wales Greens agriculture spokesperson, our new agriculture and rural land use policy. I am very excited to do so because it has been a year-long process with our grassroots members and farmers across the State, as well as environmentalists and ecologists. It has been an exciting 12 months. We have also had the privilege of having someone do over 100 hours of research globally on best practice agriculture and where we need to move to with a warming planet.

As I say, we have gone through a 12-month detailed review of the science and best practices worldwide, and we have completely overhauled our policy in deep consultation with farmers, environmentalists and stakeholders across the State and the country. First Nations people sustainably managed this land for some 80,000-plus years through complex agricultural practices, culture, peace and deep connection to country. The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has made it clear that climate change demands rapid and radical reforms in agriculture and land use. Our policy draws on the principles of regenerative agriculture and agroecology. It will dramatically reduce greenhouse gas emissions and remove significant amounts of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere while at the same time improving long-term productivity and food security, protecting ecosystems and building more resilient communities.

When we went knocking on the doors of farmers and agroecologists, we found that small farmers in this country have been engaging in a quiet revolution and have been moving towards regenerative farming practices for quite a while, particularly with regard to soil health. We saw the gorgeous campaign by the University of New England and CottonInfo in 2021 called Soil Your Undies that highlighted the major crises we have in soil health. The experiment called on farmers to bury 100 per cent cotton underwear in soil on their farms for eight weeks and then dig it up. The more degraded the underwear, the better the soil. So after eight weeks you would want it to disappear, because that measures the microbial activity. Unfortunately soil health is a major crisis and that study, as well as our research, bore that out. Most food grown in this country is no longer grown in soil.

Farmers are experts in soil and they know that production yields are utterly linked to the health of soil and the land they manage. Consumers are more and more focused on nutrient-dense food, particularly in my electorate, and you simply do not get nutrient-dense food grown in poor soil. Public policy and funding must be diverted away from environmentally unsustainable land use practices that cause or contribute to desertification, species extinction, habitat destruction, adverse human health impacts, loss of productivity, atmospheric warming and the formation of ocean and river dead zones. There is a huge appetite for change in the agriculture sector. The New South Wales Greens agriculture and rural land use policy meets that need and we will hold the Government accountable to the urgency of meaningful change. The time for platitudes is long gone.

The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change made it clear in its special report on climate change, desertification, land degradation and sustainable land management that this global warming demands rapid and radical reforms in the agriculture sector, amounting to an agricultural revolution similar in scope to the birth of agriculture as we know it some 10,000 years ago. By credible estimate, agricultural activities account for 24 per cent to 30 per cent of anthropogenic climate change globally on crop lands and pastures, covering over a quarter of the earth's ice-free land areas with a climate impact roughly equivalent to that of electricity generation.

Climate change is already costing Australian farmers an estimated \$30,000 annually per acre, per farm. In our policy, vague notions of sustainability make way for actions with proven climate change mitigating effects, such as rapidly transitioning away from the overuse of synthetic fertilisers and pesticides in favour of nature-based methods and controls. Alternatives to chemicals and organic farming are also booming industries in my area. Our policy places climate change, and climate change adaptation and mitigation, where they belong: front and centre. I thank Dara Tatray, Sue Higginson, Adam Gibson, Joel Orchard, The Greens NSW Agriculture Working Group and Jacqui Alinaitwe in my office for her incredible advocacy in coordinating this review. We look forward to talking about this for the next year or beyond.

#### ST IVES YOUTH PRECINCT

**Mr JONATHAN O'DEA (Davidson) (19:19):** The area of St Ives has experienced substantial increased density over the past 15 years and there is a real need to cater for the needs of the increased population, especially young people. I have been delighted to support increased investment in local St Ives schools over recent years, including new basketball courts and a sports centre at St Ives High School as well as playgrounds at St Ives primary schools. Young people need physical outlets to expend their considerable energy and keep healthy. Providing such opportunities also helps build a stronger community and address potential antisocial behaviour. Being mindful of all this, I am extremely pleased to note that Ku-ring-gai Council has reopened the upgraded skate park at the St Ives Village Green, in what is becoming largely a youth precinct in that area of St Ives.

Some time ago, Ku-ring-gai Council prepared a St Ives Village Green master plan to aid the creation of a designated recreation area for young residents. The State Government has provided some substantial funding over more than one grant to help deliver that council vision. I acknowledge that the vast majority of the funds have come from council, but there has been some substantial money from the State Government. It is good for councils to keep that in mind when they announce things and relaunch projects, both because it is the right thing to do and because it encourages future generosity of a similar nature. One of those grants dates back to 2011 when I helped secure \$150,000 under the Community Building Partnership scheme to assist the local scouts and girl guides to move their premises and thus facilitate Ku-ring-gai Council to develop the St Ives youth precinct. There was

another grant I can recall that was also specifically to assist the development of that youth precinct and the skate park area.

The upgrade to the skate park is just one of several improvements being paid for by council to make the area more appealing for young families and teenagers. Happily, the redesign of the skate park occurred with input from local skateboarders, which resulted in a contemporary skate plaza, bowl areas and obstacles for skaters of all skill levels and abilities. The skate park opened to the public again only yesterday, on Monday 21 February. The skate park's open flow and large bowl makes it a challenge for experienced riders but also provides safe areas for beginners to practise their skateboarding skills. Indeed, the council media release on which I have drawn some of the material for this statement indicates that other features of the youth precinct to be completed in coming months include a performance space for community events, terraced areas overlooking the skate park, pathways linking the skate park with other areas of the village green, and new seating and picnicking areas, as well as a new children's playground to be built near the skate park.

The redesigned areas should be popular with the community, with the St Ives Village Green area a very important place for families and young people to enjoy recreational facilities. Indeed, the new mayor, Jeff Pettett, has indicated that upgrades to the St Ives community hall and youth centre should also be completed in the next few months. I conclude by congratulating the current and past councils on their work, which has resulted in the delivery of the upgraded skate park at the St Ives Village Green and I am pleased that the precinct continues to be improved through Ku-ring-gai Council's efforts to enhance the experience for everyone, but especially for younger people. We want everyone to enjoy recreational activities in local communities and it is wonderful to see family-friendly environments where people can really enjoy our great outdoors.

### SWANSEA CHANNEL

**Ms YASMIN CATLEY (Swansea) (19:24):** Again, I come to the Chamber to talk about the Swansea Channel. The Swansea Channel is the only entry point from the ocean into Lake Macquarie, which is the largest saltwater lake in the Southern Hemisphere. However, recurrent silting has reduced the depth of the channel, making it difficult for boaties to safely travel through this iconic body of water. Boaties from across the State have told me that they have been forced to bypass the lake because of the silting. Instead, they visit locations such as Newcastle Harbour, Port Stephens and the Hawkesbury River. Silting in the Swansea Channel has also drawn attention from local and out-of-area yacht clubs, including the Royal Prince Alfred Yacht Club.

Despite Lake Macquarie being one of their preferred sailing destinations, the uncertainty of safe passage and the stories of groundings and yachts requiring assistance from Marine Rescue Lake Macquarie discourage them from sailing from Sydney. This year Marine Rescue Lake Macquarie has already surpassed the total number of vessel assists it completed for 2021. Boats not being able to safely pass through the channel has impacted many of the region's renowned sailing and boating events. Royal Motor Yacht Club Toronto Vice Commodore Melvyn Steiner shared with me that the club's annual Heaven Can Wait regatta was held on 5 and 6 February to primarily raise funds for the Hunter branch of Cancer Council NSW. Although many locals participated in the event, there was a lack of out-of-area participants because they were unable to access the lake and safely navigate the course. In addition, boaties from Wangi and Lake Macquarie yacht clubs have also informed me that they will not be able to participate in Sail Port Stephens on 4 April because they cannot exit the lake.

The regatta and other boating events have the potential to raise funds for important community organisations as well as to stimulate the region's economy. However, the recurring silting is hindering the success of these events and denying local businesses the opportunity to benefit from this economic activity. During my time as member for Swansea I have consistently urged the New South Wales Government to fund a permanent dredging solution for the Swansea Channel. I have made budget submissions to the New South Wales Government requesting a large-scale dredging campaign, along with an annual monitoring and dredging program to enable yachts and other vessels to safely navigate the channel. I have received numerous letters of support from across the State. The New South Wales Government has ignored these pleas.

In July 2021 Parliamentary Secretary for the Hunter, Taylor Martin, MLC, announced that the Swansea Channel would be the first New South Wales waterway to benefit from a \$6.2 million dredging program. This program was announced as stimulus funding. The Swansea community is yet to see a cent spent from this stimulus program, despite being recognised as a priority by Transport for NSW in its *NSW Maritime Infrastructure Plan 2019-2024*, and identified as a key investment location under the NSW Coastal Dredging Strategy 2019-2024. Furthermore, the busy summer period has almost ended and the Government has still not awarded a dredging contract. The last contract was awarded in 2019 to Sandpiper Dredging, a Queensland-based company. Due to tragic circumstances, the company has been unable to complete its contract.

Transport for NSW has stated that planning and investigation works are currently underway with the tender process, with dredging works expected to take place early this year. This is simply too little action too late by the

Government. As each day passes the situation in the channel gets worse. That is why a permanent dredging solution is needed to combat the recurrent silting. With a new transport Minister the Government has an opportunity to correct the errors of the past and finally deliver a permanent dredging solution for the Swansea Channel. I call on the Government to urgently commence its promised \$6.2 million dredging program and to deliver a permanent dredging solution. The former transport Minister, Mr Stokes, is in the Chamber tonight. I know that he was doing work in that regard and I appreciate and applaud that. I hope that we can see that effort from the new transport Minister.

### **HAWKESBURY ELECTORATE FLOODING**

**Ms ROBYN PRESTON (Hawkesbury) (19:29):** Over the centuries Hawkesbury has experienced many devastating floods. In March 2021 the area underwent the first major flood since the 1990s and for newer residents this was the first major flood they had ever experienced. The flood caused multiple road closures, major riverbank erosions, bridge closures and road damage. The Bells Line of Road was forced to close, causing delays for supplies and aid. Many residents had to evacuate their homes and those on the North Richmond side of the river were isolated due to high water levels and had to have supplies brought to them via boat and helicopter.

The SES worked tirelessly, responding to hundreds of requests for assistance. About 600 dwellings and 300 commercial and industrial buildings, most of which were located on rural land, are estimated to have been impacted by the March 2021 flood. Communities such as Lower Macdonald, Lower Portland, Ebenezer, Wilberforce and Pitt Town in the Hawkesbury area, to name a few, were subject to flooding. Caravan parks between Windsor and Gunderman were impacted, with over 1,400 manufactured homes flooded. Key roads and some bridges across the Hawkesbury River were flooded for over six days, with ferries also out of service for over nine days.

Floods put a further strain on the community after the water is gone. Families, friends and volunteers have to pick up the pieces, mourn what they have lost and repair the damage that has been done to homes, community centres, roads, parks and businesses. The clean-up drew enormous resources from councils as well. Hawkesbury has the highest unmitigated flood risk of any floodplain in New South Wales, if not Australia. The Hawkesbury-Nepean Valley is no stranger to serious floods, having had several floods worse than the March 2021 flood over the years. The valley's unique tub-like geography means that it can flood quickly and without warning, putting families, homes, livelihoods and businesses at risk. Because of this risk we must prepare in advance for future flooding.

I support the raising of the Warragamba Dam wall as it represents a key part to a larger strategy to manage the risk that these floods impose. The environmental impact statement released last year concluded that the March 2021 flood would have been 3.5 metres lower had the dam wall already been raised, and that raising the dam wall would reduce the downstream flood damage by about 75 per cent. It is important to note that the flood strategy does not change the location of the existing floodplain development levels and the use of the dam for flood mitigation would also not change the full supply level or lead to permanent upstream inundation. The notion that the motive for building the dam wall is to introduce more development is absolute rubbish. It is a tactic of fear that those on the other side of the Chamber throw out in would-be noble speeches as loose, unsubstantiated comments.

We have an obligation to protect the 70,000 people below the dam. That obligation is to protect their homes, their gardens, their possessions and their businesses, such as turf farms, market gardens, orchards, caravan parks, cafes and tourist sites. The Hawkesbury-Nepean floods are also a financial strain on the New South Wales Government. Raising the dam wall would hugely reduce the cost of the extensive damage that future floods will cause to the community, including repairing roads, street lights and signs, as well as damage to hospitals, education precincts, public property, aged-care facilities, people's homes, parks, farmland and livestock.

Hawkesbury residents are paying thousands of dollars in insurance premiums because of the flood risk that their properties are subject to. Some cannot afford the premiums, so they take the risk of losing everything with nil compensation. Reducing the flood risk will reduce the financial strain that paying insurance causes to many residents. The Hawkesbury and Nepean area experiences a flood-dominated and drought-dominated cycle of 30 to 50 years. We have been in a drought-dominated period since the early 1990s. When we inevitably enter the next flood-dominated period, there will be more floods and bigger floods. We must take action now and raise the Warragamba Dam wall to reduce the risk of people drowning and/or losing their homes, as well as the risk of losing public and private property, businesses and schools. Let's put people first.

*Community Recognition Notices***FAIRFIELD 2021 HSC STUDENTS**

**Mr GUY ZANGARI (Fairfield)**—I extend my congratulations to all students who completed the Higher School Certificate in 2021 and received their results in January. Fairfield saw some students achieve outstanding results in the HSC, with five students from the Fairfield area obtaining first place in a 2021 HSC course. I congratulate Fairfield West student Michelle Ung who finished equal first in Advanced English in NSW. I also extend my congratulations to Fairvale High School student Daania Alameddine for attaining first place in Community and Family Studies; Bonnyrigg High School student Melissa Ly Tiev for first place in Chinese Beginners; Patrician Brothers College student Brent Macaraeg for topping Italian Beginners; and Bossley Park High school student Andjela Nikolic for first place in Business Services. I commend these students for their diligent effort throughout the challenging pandemic period and congratulate them once again on their outstanding success. I also acknowledge the teachers of these students for their efforts in guiding them through online learning and their assistance in helping the students to stay motivated and focused.

**SEMINARY OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD**

**Mr GUY ZANGARI (Fairfield)**—Recently, the seminarians of The Seminary Of The Good Shepherd are undertook their annual "Formation Week" activities. The week encompasses the development of the seminarians across a range of fields. I was invited by the Rector of the Seminary Father Michael de Stoop to address the seminarians as part of the Formation Week program. During the presentation I covered topics such as: community outreach and engagement; fostering working relationships with representatives in Local, State and Federal Governments; understanding grants funding and the application processes involved and my own personal journey as a Member of Parliament in NSW. I would like to thank Fr Michael and the Seminarians for their participation and contributions during my presentation and commend them for a successful event.

**RED MASS**

**Mr GUY ZANGARI (Fairfield)**—It was a pleasure to have been invited by Mr Michael McAuley, Adjunct Associate Professor in The School of Law, The University of Notre Dame, Sydney and President of the St Thomas More Society to join in the online Celebration of the Red Mass from St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney. The traditional Red Mass heralds the commencement of the Law term. This tradition has been celebrated annually since 1931 at St Mary's Cathedral. This special liturgical celebration is celebrated throughout the globe in Europe, the United States, Canada and the Philippines. Over the past three years the Red Mass has also been celebrated at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta. Unfortunately due to the COVID-19 situation the Red Mass could not be celebrated in the Cathedral in the presence of Judges and Lawyers. The votive mass of the Holy Spirit was celebrated by the Most Reverend Daniel Meagher Auxiliary Bishop of Sydney. I wish all those involved in the faculty of law well for the new Law term of 2022.

**DAN WILSON, ARIA NOMINEE**

**Ms JODIE HARRISON (Charlestown)**—Dan Wilson, a resident of Merewether and a teacher at Lambton High, has volunteer his services to Star Struck for more than two decades. Now Star Struck's musical director, Dan has seen talents as diverse as country musicians Catherine Britt and Kirsty Lee Akers, Michelle Davidson of Play school and Broadway star David Harris pass through the annual school performing arts showcase. Dan himself performed at Star Struck in 1993 when he attended the Charlestown electorate's own Kotara High. But it was the surprise appearance during an October Zoom meeting by ARIA winner and Warners Bay High graduate Morgan Evans, another Star Struck alumnus Dan has worked with, that kicked off Dan's own journey to the ARIA Awards. Dan was nominated for Music Teacher of the Year, and his name was listed alongside some of the biggest Australian music industry when the nominations for the 2021 ARIA Awards were released. Though Dan didn't clinch the top award, his legacy speaks for itself. As Dan himself told the Newcastle Herald, "[Star Struck] is part of Newcastle's DNA." Too true—congratulations, Dan!

**JOHN THOMAS, OAM**

**Ms JODIE HARRISON (Charlestown)**—The Australia Day Honours recognised 1040 outstanding and inspirational Australians in 2022, including John Thomas of Eleebana. John received an OAM for service to rugby league. He has been involved with the game for more than 50 years, the past 29 in an official capacity with the Newcastle Knights NRL squad. He is described as the first to arrive and last to leave every training session and game day, and his commitment to the club has previously been recognised with Life Membership awarded in 2010 and Clubman of the Year in 2018. He served as Valentine-Eleebana Club secretary for 10 years and Newcastle Schoolboys treasurer for 25 years. Before he began working with the Knights First grade side in early 2000, John served as team manager of the Knights Harold Matthews squad starting in 1991, followed by time with Newcastle's SG Ball team and representative teams including NSW Under 19s and the Junior Kangaroos. In

case you needed any more proof of John's commitment to the game of rugby league, legendary player Danny Buderus calls him "the GOAT"—that is, greatest of all time. Congratulations John Thomas OAM.

#### **PAMELA COMERFORD, OAM**

**Ms JODIE HARRISON (Charlestown)**—The Australia Day Honours recognised 1040 outstanding and inspirational Australians in 2022, and Pamela Comerford, a resident of Charlestown, was one of them. She received a Medal of the Order of Australia for service to community health. Pam is the co-founder of I Am Here, A Place to Be Me. Officially known as Hunter Brain Injury Respite Options, I Am Here is a provider of respite accommodation services and supported independent living for adults with acquired brain injuries. Pam's extraordinary journey caring for her son Jason, and her dedication to do everything in her power to ensure that he could live the best possible life, has been the driving force behind I Am Here. Pam's character and courage are embedded in the guiding principles on which I Am Here is built. The OAM is a fitting recognition of Pam's extraordinary work and legacy, and I cannot think of a more deserving recipient. She is an inspiring woman who shows what can be achieved when we are driven by love and determination. Congratulations Pamela Comerford OAM.

#### **SIMPSON COTTAGE**

**Mr LEE EVANS (Heathcote)**—I take this opportunity to acknowledge a local business in Bundeena, the Simpson Cottage as it was recently recognised at the 2021 NSW Tourism Awards. Each year the NSW Tourism Awards celebrates business excellence, acknowledge business innovation and reward exceptional customer service. The awards recognised finalists across 29 categories in a range of tourism areas. The Simpson Cottage received the Judges State Award and was the only tourism operator in the Sutherland Shire acknowledged in the prestigious awards. It has been an incredibly challenging period for the NSW visitor economy. This year the Judges State Award was introduced to directly acknowledge the resilience and innovation demonstrated by the industry in a year impacted by the global COVID-19 pandemic, bushfires and floods. The Simpson Cottage located in the Royal National Park was built in the 1860's as the original home of the Simpson Family who were one of the first settlers south of the Hacking River. The owners Tara and Steve Larnach restored the heritage listed three bedroom cottage and now successfully operate it as a holiday retreat. I congratulate Tara and Steve for their fantastic work operating the Simpson Cottage, they are extremely deserving of the accolade.

#### **NOWRA HIGH SCHOOL**

**Mrs SHELLEY HANCOCK (South Coast)**—I would like to congratulate and acknowledge the Nowra High School Support Unit in their success in claiming not one but five first placings and one second place at the 145th Nowra Show 2022 with their fresh produce, grown in the school's sustainable kitchen garden. The following students Lucious Townsend, Ryan Radonich, Steven Playford, Ngurrowin Brynes, Aden Flanagan, Jasper Townsend and Rhett Brogan all played a part in achieving these places at the Nowra Show and with great success they did an outstanding job. The students would have worked hard tending to the garden to have seen such great results. The students claimed first prize with their beans and second with their celery, in the open pavilion in the vegetable section they also claimed four first placings. Again congratulations to all Fantastic job to all involved, this project enables students to learn valuable life skills in gardening and healthy eating.

#### **SHARON HOOGLAN**

**Mr NATHANIEL SMITH (Wollondilly)**—I wish to offer my congratulations to Australia Day Honours List recipient Sharon Hoogland of Braemar, who was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia [OAM] for her service to the community, particularly through the church she belongs to. Mrs Hoogland has previously worked as the General Manager of Mission Australia, and as the former chair of what is now Jobs Australia. She started volunteering at a young age, and credits her parents for teaching her to give generously of her time. Mrs Hoogland has worked in various roles in welfare and social justice over many years - a vital contribution to any community especially in these times. I thank Mrs Hoogland for her years of service to the community and wish her a happy and healthy future.

#### **TELOPEA PARK AWARD**

**Mr NATHANIEL SMITH (Wollondilly)**—With the torrential rain we have been experiencing this summer, the bushfires of 2019 seem like a distant memory for some, but for the communities of Wollondilly who were greatly affected by them, the memories are still fresh. The RFS Fire Truck Memorial at Telopea Park is one way by which our community celebrates and honours the legacy of two volunteer firefighters who gave the ultimate sacrifice whilst fighting the devastating blaze in December 2019. The park serves as a reminder of that sacrifice and of our community spirit, which is why I am so pleased that Parks and Leisure Australia has awarded the Telopea RFS Fire Truck Memorial Playground the 2021 Best Regional/Rural Industry Contribution Award. I send my congratulations to the Wollondilly Shire Council who delivered this project and the community leaders

who initiated it. To the families of two heroic men: Geoffrey Keaton and Andrew O'Dwyer, the community will never forget and be forever grateful.

#### **TSEHAY HAWKINS**

**Mr NATHANIEL SMITH (Wollondilly)**—Congratulations to Bargo's Tsehay Hawkins, the 16-year-old who recently became an integral member of perhaps the most famous kid's entertainment group of all time - The Wiggles! Ms Hawkins is taking over from yellow Wiggle Emma Watkins, whose huge popularity means that Tsehay has some big shoes to fill of which we have no doubt she will. Ms Hawkins clearly has the passion and energy for the job and is a credit to herself and to her community. Tsehay attended her first Aria Awards last November at Taronga Zoo, walking the red carpet with fellow bandmates: Anthony Field, Jeff Fatt and Murray Cook. The Wiggles had their first public performance as a newly formed group at the Matildas home clash with Team USA last year, leading the crowd in the national anthem. I wish Tsehay Hawkins the best of luck during her time with The Wiggles.

#### **AHMED DAABOUL**

**Mr CHRIS MINNS (Kogarah)**—I would like to acknowledge and congratulate Ahmed Daaboul of Hurstville Public School on being named Georges River Council's 2022 Young Citizen of the Year in 2022. The award is in recognition of his food drive initiative that began in 2020 with the onset of the pandemic. Ahmed was concerned with the financial difficulty that many families experienced during lockdown. Ahmed took the initiative of encouraging his fellow classmates to donate non-perishable items to those in need. This effort created 100 hampers of food and other essential products. This spurred on others at his school to look at how they could further support the community and engage in charitable causes. For his efforts, I am proud to learn that the school and 3Bridges have named this program the 'Ahmed Daaboul Annual Food Drive'. Ahmed was presented his award at the Council's Australia Day ceremony in Hurstville. I thank Ahmed again for his achievements and wish him the best of success for his future.

#### **BETTY HALL**

**Mr CHRIS MINNS (Kogarah)**—Mrs Betty Hall celebrated her 100th birthday recently. A lifelong resident in the St. George area, Betty and her late husband Mervyn moved into Hurstville about 70 years ago. Betty worked as a dental mechanic and later as a chef. She was an avid supporter of the mighty St. George Dragons and enjoyed dancing at their Leagues Club. Betty and her husband have two children, five grandchildren and nine great grandchildren. Betty resides at Homewood Care in Bexley, and the COVID restrictions made it difficult for much of her family to visit her in the past two years. Thankfully, Homewood Care staff were able to put on a 100th birthday celebration in a covered outdoors area, along with cake and flowers. I extend my thanks to Homewood Care and their staff for their love and care for Mrs Hall particularly during the difficult months of lockdown. I wish Betty a very Happy Birthday and send her my very best wishes.

#### **WARATAH PRIVATE HOSPITAL**

**Mr CHRIS MINNS (Kogarah)**—I take this time to acknowledge Jason Penberthy and his team at Waratah Private Hospital located in Hurstville. The hospital was recently named Business of the Year at the St. George Local Business Awards for its efforts in 'delivering exceptional care for all its patients'. The onset of the COVID-19 pandemic placed an incredible strain on the public and private health care systems. I praise Waratah Private Hospital for cooperating with the Local Health District, in being able to perform more than 1500 surgeries during the pandemic. These efforts take a crucial burden off the public health system and go a long way in ensuring that our most vulnerable retain access to critical services. It is our frontline healthcare workers that have really stepped up during the pandemic, and I congratulate Jason and his team for being there for our community.

#### **MR TOM DRURY**

**Mr ROY BUTLER (Barwon)**—During lockdown last year Tom Drury was looking for an adventure to combat the feeling of isolation. This 28 year old from Broken Hill, was inspired to skateboard along the east coast, from Melbourne to Cairns to raise funds for a skate park in Laos. He travelled over 4,000kms on 4 small wheels and raised \$45,000. This will be Laos' first skate park and it's the only country in South East Asia without one. Laos has a growing skateboard community and will now be able to have a safe, quality, concrete skate park for many years to come. I commend Tom on his inspirational effort to raise funds for such a worthy cause.

#### **HOLLY MILLICAN**

**Mr CHRISTOPHER GULAPTIS (Clarence)**—I offer my congratulations to Holly Millican, a teacher at South Grafton High School, who late last year was named the Rising Star of the Year at the Australian Education Awards. Holly has used games, team based learning and interactive techniques to make learning maths more fun.



This achievement is even more spectacular considering it was done during COVID lockdowns and home schooling. In 2019 Ms Millican received a Learning Edge Teaching Practice Award at Google HQ in Sydney. That award was run by NSW Department of Education and Mutual Bank in partnership with YouTube and Google and featured workshops with Eddie Woo. I wish Ms Millican continued success with her innovative teaching methods which captive students.

#### KATHY NORLEY

**Ms TAMARA SMITH (Ballina)**—Today I recognise the exceptional service that Byron Shire Senior Citizen of the Year Kathy Norley has made to the South Golden Beach community. A resident of Byron Shire since 1992, Kathy has worked selflessly for many years for her community, including as President of the South Golden Beach Community Association. She was instrumental in helping to design and secure money for a major renovation of the village's community centre and was the driving force behind a playground, exercise area and skate park in the area. Kathy has also been active in preventing inappropriate development and keeping developers within their conditions of consent. Her efforts have culminated in a tennis court and half a basketball court at South Golden Beach, and ongoing lobbying efforts to create a wetland filter and buffer zones in Fern Beach. She has negotiated with the Northern Drainage Committee and council to enlarge the Bund, served on the Highway Committee from Yelgun to Brunswick to help prevent flooding, helped get the Billinudgel Nature Reserve established, and much more. I salute her commitment to her village and its surrounds, and the diverse work she has done to protect our environment and social amenity.

#### SISTER LOIS WOODCOCK

**Dr JOE McGIRR (Wagga Wagga)**—The retirement of Wagga Wagga's Sister Lois Woodcock has signalled the end of an era. The last Little Company of Mary sister working at Calvary Health Care in Australia, Sister Lois retired from her role as pastoral care manager at Wagga Wagga's Calvary Riverina Hospital in December 2021. Sr Lois had been part of the Calvary family since beginning her career in healthcare, having completed her midwifery studies at Calvary Hobart. As a young registered midwife, she was sent to Calvary Bethlehem as head of maternity and over the years she had taken up a variety of nursing leadership roles at Lewisham Hospital, Calvary Bethlehem and Calvary Adelaide. Following the completion of a spirituality course, Sr Lois moved to Wagga Wagga and joined the staff at Calvary Riverina. After that, she went on to become a much-loved member of the community and many have often sought her comfort and counsel. For many years, Sr Lois was a constant presence for staff, patients and visitors and will be greatly missed by all. An avid sports fan, Sr Lois will be remaining in Wagga Wagga for the foreseeable future. I wish her well in her retirement.

#### AUNTY CHERYL PENRITH, AUNTY MARY ATKINSON

**Dr JOE McGIRR (Wagga Wagga)**—I wish to congratulate Wagga Wagga's Aunty Cheryl Penrith and Aunty Mary Atkinson on their appointments to the board of the Murrumbidgee Local Health District. Aunty Mary, a proud Wiradjuri woman, has a wealth of experience in the education field and a keen interest in primary health care and mental health. She is a member of the Independent Education Union of Australia NSW/ACT Branch Advisory Committee, the Council of Catholics Schools Parents NSW/ACT, Mawang Gaway Wiradjuri Gallery Reference Group and the Wagga Wagga Pomingalarna Elders women's consulting group. Aunty Cheryl, who is also a proud Wiradjuri woman, is an influencer, mentor, connector and coach with a passion for community development, health and wellbeing. She is a lead member of Mawang Gaway, a member of the Wagga Wagga City Council RAP Committee, a member of the Pomingalarna women's group, a member of the advisory committee in relation to the new Museum of the Riverina and a member of the Indigenous advisory to Eastern Riverina Arts. I look forward to them helping to guide the local health district to improve the health care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders.

#### DOCTOR IAN STEWART

**Dr JOE McGIRR (Wagga Wagga)**—Wagga Wagga obstetrician Dr Ian Stewart has dedicated more than 45 years to medicine and many hours to his community. I congratulate Dr Ian Stewart on his award of a Medal of the Order of Australia. After completing his degree at Sydney University and specialising in Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Dr Stewart arrived in Wagga Wagga in 1974 to work alongside the late Dr Richard Lewis, the city's first specialist obstetrician. For many decades he provided high quality care for the women and babies of the region. During his career, Dr Stewart held leadership roles in medical staff council and credentials work. He has also worked for many years with the NSW Medical Board as an expert. He served as chair of the Greater Southern Area Health Service community advisory board. When Dr Stewart retired from clinical practice, he remained involved in medical education, at both Notre Dame University, where he has been chair of the community advisory board in Wagga Wagga, and the UNSW Rural Clinical School. He has also worked in medical history, in particular documenting the work of his graduating year from Sydney University.

### MARDI GRAS FAIR DAY

**Ms JO HAYLEN (Summer Hill)**—Mardi Gras Season has begun, with thousands of people turning out to support the LGBTQ+ community at Mardi Gras Fair Day on Sunday 20 February at Victoria Park. The event featured a First Nations Circle, presented in partnership with BLAQ Aboriginal Corporation, four stages jammed packed with live performances, the Doggywood Pageant, and over 200 community stalls including lots of local inner west organisations including the Newtown Breakaways, Flying Bats, Rainbow Families NSW and Inner West Roller Derby League. A special shout out to the excellent volunteers from Rainbow Labor for their tireless efforts in organising for the day. Fair Day has carved a special place in the community and it was heart-warming to see the community celebrate together after years of being kept apart by the pandemic. I congratulate all those at Mardi Gras for another successful and safe Fair Day, warmly thank all of the local community organisations who took part and did their bit to support the LGBTQ+ community, and finally wish everyone a safe and Happy Mardi Gras.

### HABERFIELD ASSOCIATION – YASMAR FENCE

**Ms JO HAYLEN (Summer Hill)**—Congratulations to the Haberfield Association on installing a fence to protect the heritage sunken garden bed at Yasmar Estate, Haberfield. I was proud to support the project through a Summer Hill Community Building Partnership grant. Yasmar is a wonderful community asset which is treasured by the whole Inner West community. The Estate is a proud example of a Parramatta Road manor house and the sunken garden has long been one of its most desirable features. Installing a fence around the sunken garden will further protect it, as well as keep visitors to the site safe. The Haberfield Association, particularly through their Friends of Yasmar group, continue to make huge inroads into preserving and revitalising the beautiful gardens at Yasmar. Their willingness to keep the wheels turning on projects such as getting the fence installed, through various lockdowns and outbreaks throughout COVID, is testament to the passion they have for this very special place. I warmly congratulate and thanks the Haberfield Association, and their many dedicated volunteers, for their passion and commitment to this project and to preserving Yasmar Estate for future generations.

### GYMEA NORTH PUBLIC SCHOOL

**Ms ELENi PETINOS (Miranda—Minister for Small Business, and Minister for Fair Trading)**—I acknowledge GyMEA North Public School ("GyMEA North") who are the successful recipients of \$37,017 from the NSW Government's 2021 Community Building Partnership Program. GyMEA North is a beautiful community with a particularly gifted group of green thumbs! The GyMEA North Gardening Club is home to over 120 students who meet weekly at lunchtime to care for their school veggie patch. The grant funding will expand the Gardening Club's facilities to include a new crushed granite area and purpose built recycled timber garden beds to support the Club's growing numbers. Additionally, the funding will deliver an amphitheatre seating area that will operate as an outdoor education and tasting space for the ever-growing group of gardening enthusiasts at GyMEA North. None of this would be possible without the hard work and dedication of school Principal Kirsty Sharman, and the Parents and Citizens Association Committee including Steve Doran, Lynne Graham and Jennifer Smith. I thank the GyMEA North Public School community for bringing the importance of this project to my attention and look forward to seeing the positive impact it makes for our local students.

### HOPEFIELD SERVICES INCORPORATED

**Ms ELENi PETINOS (Miranda—Minister for Small Business, and Minister for Fair Trading)**—I acknowledge Hopefield Services Incorporated ("Hopefield") who are the successful recipients of \$20,000 from the NSW Government's 2021 Community Building Partnership Program. Hopefield are a Christian, community based therapeutic and social services organisation who provide support to those in our community who are experiencing hardship. The organisation provides professional services such as psychology, counselling, speech pathology, case management, support and group services and community education under a "pay as you can" model to ensure that help remains accessible. The funding will upgrade Hopefield's Community Hub facility with new flooring, painting, lighting and furniture to create an enhanced and inclusive space for community members accessing services. None of this would be possible without the hard work and dedication of the team at Hopefield. I acknowledge CEO Vicki Sherry, Janet Hayes and Sam Headen and Executive Board members Ross Langford, Melisa Giles, Jason Ezzy, Kerrin Ryan, Marc Rader and Neil Evans. I thank the wonderful team at Hopefield for bringing the importance of this project to my attention and look forward to seeing the positive impact the Community Hub upgrade makes in our community.

### THE POINT PRESCHOOL

**Ms ELENi PETINOS (Miranda—Minister for Small Business, and Minister for Fair Trading)**—I acknowledge The Point Preschool who are the successful recipients of \$26,000 from the NSW Government's 2021 Community Building Partnership Program. The Point Preschool is a tight-knit community in the heart of

Oyster Bay. Testament to the welcoming environment the teaching and support staff create, the children lovingly refer to their preschool as "Our Place." Through this funding, The Point Preschool will upgrade the children's bathroom with new toilets, basins, flooring and wall tiles to accessibility for staff and students. Of course, none of this would be possible without the hard work and dedication of the amazing team at The Point Preschool. I recognise Director Catherine Lee, Libby Fraser, Dianne Bullen, Jann Gibson, Sue Vrahas, Eleanor Chidiac and Jenny Isherwood for their ongoing commitment to providing a safe and engaging experience at preschool. I also acknowledge Parents Committee members Joanna Brown, Joel Plavecky and Susan Kelly-Kolln for their contribution to our community. I thank the team at The Point Preschool for bringing the importance of this project to my attention and look forward to seeing the positive impact it makes for local children.

#### **LAKE MUNMORAH HIGH SCHOOL 2022 SCHOOL LEADERS**

**Ms YASMIN CATLEY (Swansea)**—Today I acknowledge Alexis Renshaw, Jade Burnham, Mikaelah Nichol and Kaylee Newman, who have been elected as the 2022 school captains and vice captains of Lake Munmorah High School. I also acknowledge Shakayla Cooper, Stevye Fletcher, Phoebe Ward, Isabelle Haynes and Felicity Cisco, on being named as the 2022 Lake Munmorah High School sports captains and prefects. Each of these students work exceptionally hard and have been highly involved in their school community throughout their studies. They always strive to do their best and have demonstrated their ability to lead by acting as role models for their peers. Being elected as the school captains, vice-captains, sports captains and prefects of Lake Munmorah High School is a testament to each of these students, as they have faced a number of hurdles during the COVID-19 pandemic. I have no doubt that they will carry out their new leadership roles with great pride. I congratulate Alexis, Jade, Mikaelah, Kaylee, Shakayla, Stevye, Phoebe, Isabelle and Felicity on their achievement and wish them all the best for the year ahead.

#### **NORTHLAKES HIGH SCHOOL 2022 SCHOOL LEADERS**

**Ms YASMIN CATLEY (Swansea)**—Today I acknowledge Max Barsby, Jay Kilpatrick, Penelope Fisher and April Hemopo who have been named as the 2022 Northlakes High School leadership team. Each of these students works exceptionally hard and have been highly involved within the Northlakes High School community throughout their time at the school. They always strive to do their best with their studies and extra curricula activities and have demonstrated their ability to lead by acting as role models for their peers. Being elected as the 2022 Northlakes High School leadership team is a testament to each of these students, as they have faced a number of hurdles during the COVID-19 pandemic. I have no doubt that they will carry out their new leadership roles with great pride. I congratulate Max, Jay, Penelope and April on their achievement and wish them all the best for their final year of high school.

#### **PELICAN FLAT PUBLIC SCHOOL LEADERS 2022**

**Ms YASMIN CATLEY (Swansea)**—Today I acknowledge Evan Harris, Isis Wolfenden, Olivia Rawlins, Nash Davies and Bailey Mulder who have been named as the 2022 Pelican Flat Public School leadership team. Evan, Isis, Olivia, Nash and Bailey are all hard working students that are dedicated to the Pelican Flat Public School community. Each of these students have been involved in a number of school activities over the years and continuously strive to do their best in their studies and act as role models for their peers. Being elected as the 2022 Pelican Flat Public School leaders is a testament to each of these students. I am sure they will carry out their leadership roles with pride and develop skills that they will find useful in the years to come. I congratulate Evan, Isis, Olivia, Nash and Bailey on their achievement and wish them all the best for the year ahead.

#### **ROTARY CLUB OF WALLACIA-MULGOA VALLEY**

**Mrs TANYA DAVIES (Mulgoa)**—I would like to give a big acknowledgement the Rotary Club of Wallacia-Mulgoa Valley, who came together late last year to clean up part of the local community. At one of their monthly meetings, they discussed the various options in which they could do something for the community. The local initiative eventually decided that they would be cleaning up rubbish on the side of the road going out of the village would be beneficial to the community. The members who rolled up their sleeves to help participate in the initiative were Roger French, Sue Corcoran, Michael Rosano and Jan Bradley. In a few short hours, they had covered a one kilometre stretch of Greendale Road and had completely filled the back of the vehicle they were using. This inspiring group also support the local community by making \$200 individual donations to each of the five local schools every year, to purchase books for their end of year presentations. A big congratulations and thank you to the Rotary Club of Wallacia-Mulgoa Valley on their amazing efforts in supporting and benefitting the local community!

#### **ROB ANDREWS**

**Mrs TANYA DAVIES (Mulgoa)**—Looking after the well-being of our veterans is a top priority in any community and today I want to recognise the good work of Rob Andrews and the support he is providing to local

veterans. Once a member of the Australian Defence Force, Rob has seen first-hand the day to day struggles of our men and women who serve and do so without complaint. Since leaving the Army, Rob has worked to raise money for Soldier On. As a comedian Rob was doing comedy tours in Penrith, Gosford and Goulburn until COVID-19 prevented him from continuing. But the show must go on and determined to keep contributing to the support of veterans, Rob has since created Larrikins Worldwide – an online comedy competition asking comedians worldwide to donate their entry fee to Soldier with the chance to win five hundred dollars which currently comes out of Rob's own pocket. I want to thank Rob Andrews for the good work he is doing to support our local veterans.

#### **COBY CARRUTHERS**

**Mrs TANYA DAVIES (Mulgoa)**—I would like to congratulate the young and talented, Coby Carruthers, capturing the 2022 South Creek Cup at Dunheved Golf Club, earlier this month. The 16 year old golfing sensation took out the John Fearnley Cup (18 years and under) in a spectacular performance shooting a 5-under 67 to finish two shots clear of his 2021 Major Pennant teammate. This is an incredible achievement and you should be extremely proud of yourself Coby. I wish you all the best and look forward to hearing of your future success!

#### **MARK DRING**

**Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect)**—I would like to offer my personal congratulations and thanks to Mark Dring, who will in March this year, be stepping down from his position as President of Greystanes High School Parents and Citizens Association. During his time as President, Mark has made notable and outstanding contributions to both our Greystanes Public School and Greystanes High School communities. Mark has volunteered his time to organise Mother's Day stalls, Father's Day barbeques, Welcome to School Discos and Easter Raffles. Thanks to Mark's fundraising efforts, vital funds have gone towards the beautification of school playgrounds, the purchasing of important resources and equipment, installation of air conditioning in classrooms to provide comfortable learning environments for students and the installation of projectors and interactive whiteboards for 26 classrooms. Mark has also worked hard to secure grants to facilitate programs and fund student lead initiatives. I note Mark's particular efforts to raise funds to purchase a mini bus used for transporting students to and from sporting activities and debating competitions. I commend and thank Mark for volunteering his time to make a genuine difference to students and the school community. I wish Mark all the best in his future endeavours.

#### **MARIEKA BATTIATO**

**Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect)**—I would like to offer my personal congratulations and thanks to Marieka Battiato, who will in March this year, be stepping down from her position as Secretary of Greystanes High School Parents and Citizens Association. Since the beginning of her children's schooling, Marieka has made outstanding contributions to both our Greystanes Public School and Greystanes High School communities. Marieka has worked tirelessly to raise funds through Mother's Day stalls, Easter raffles and the Annual Spring fair to go towards the beautification of playgrounds, purchasing teaching resources and equipment, along with installing air conditioning in classrooms to provide a comfortable learning environment for students. Marieka has also volunteered her time in the Mentoring program at Greystanes High School to assist students in improving their decision making and support in career guidance. Marieka herself, has stated that she has benefitted and learnt so much from her experience, being humbled to make a difference in a child's life. I commend and thank Marieka for volunteering her time to assist in providing facilitates and equipment for the school which has enhanced and supported the learning experience of students. I wish Marieka all the best in his future endeavours.

#### **DONNA MARKULIN**

**Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect)**—I would like to offer my personal congratulations and thanks to Donna Markulin, who will in March this year, be stepping down from her position as Treasurer of Greystanes High School Parents and Citizens Association. For years, Donna has made outstanding contributions to both our Greystanes Public School and Greystanes High School communities. I particularly commend Donna for utilising her skills from her profession in accounting to help raise funds for the school community. Donna has helped coordinate numerous school events, with the Annual Spring Fair being a notable standout. Thanks to Donna's fundraising efforts, vital funds have gone towards improving the school grounds, the installation of air conditioning in classrooms, the installation of projectors and interactive whiteboards, and introducing a large library of IPADS to support technology classes. Finally, Donna has assisted in programs which have mentored students in life skills to support in career guidance. I commend and thank Donna for volunteering many hours outside of her personal and professional commitments to sell raffle tickets, serve breakfasts and help run school programs. Donna's contributions have made a genuine difference to students and the school community. I wish Donna all the best in the future.

**MR MARK COTTER, OAM**

**Dr MARJORIE O'NEILL (Coogee)**—Today I acknowledge the incredible work of Mr Mark Cotter OAM, a wonderful Eastern Suburbs local who has received the Medal of the Order of Australia. Mark is a resident of Bronte and is being recognised for distinguished service to the community through surf lifesaving. Mark has been a Board Member of the North Bondi Surf Lifesaving Club for 30 years and served as the President for 5 of those years. Mark was appointed Club Captain in 1989 at the young age of 18 and served as the sponsorship director and Vice President for 18 Years. Mark is a Life Member of the Club and is one of the most committed, hardworking and impactful leaders the Club has had across its long history. Mark's contributions to the club and surf lifesaving in the Eastern Suburbs are considerable and he continues to inspire new generations to serve their community in the same way. Congratulations Mark and thank you for your contribution to our community.

**VALE STEVE YEATES**

**Dr MARJORIE O'NEILL (Coogee)**—It is with deep sadness today that I acknowledge the passing of Clovelly Surf Lifesaving Club legend, Steve Yeates. Steve is a Past President and Long Service Member of Clovelly Surf Life Saving Club and Life Member of Clovelly Nippers. Steve was also a long term volunteer official at Branch, State and Aussie titles. Steve's dedication to the nippers program at Clovelly has ensured that generations of young life savers have been up to the task of patrolling our wonderful Clovelly Beach and keeping beach goers safe. His contribution to Clovelly Surf Lifesaving Club, Clovelly Nippers as well as the Clovelly Crocodiles Junior Rugby Leagues club will long be remembered and his presence in the patrol long will be missed. I extend my condolences to Steve's friends and family, especially his three sons Jason, Troy and Jack.

**LOCAL HSC SUBJECT PRIZE WINNERS 2021**

**Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore)**—I recognise the success of North Shore students for their Higher School Certificate [HSC] examinations in 2021. The class of 2021 should be so proud for completing their final school year and HSC. It was a difficult year for students and they have been so resilient with the impacts COVID-19 has caused to their learning. They've had to navigate changes to the school year, being in and out of the classroom, learning online, and studying in isolation on top of the standard pressures year 12 holds. I want to specifically congratulate students of North Shore who have excelled in their examinations and have been awarded first place subject prizes across the state: Lydia Mae Colla from Loreto Kirribilli for Mathematics Advanced, Ginger Fitzhardinge from Wenona School for Drama, Sumedha Deo from North Sydney Girls High School for Hindi Continuers, Airi Sugahara from North Sydney Girls High School for Japanese in Context, Jerry Zhang from North Sydney Boys High School for both Indonesian Continuers and Indonesian Extension, and Ravi Mavila from North Sydney Boys High School for Information Processes and Technology. Well done and best of luck for the future.

**QUEENWOOD 2021 IB RESULTS**

**Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore)**—I congratulate the Queenwood class of 2021 for their exceptional International Baccalaureate [IB] results. 22 students participated in the IB stream and they have produced excellent results which should be commended. 14 per cent of the class achieved a perfect score and the highest ATAR of 99.95, 32 per cent achieved ATARs above 99.75, and 82 per cent achieved ATARs of 92.60 or higher. Every single student in the subjects of Mathematics Analysis HL and Mathematics Applications HL, Physics, Geography, Music HL and Music Performance, French SL, Spanish AB SL, German SL, Mandarin SL, and Latin SL achieved marks in the top two bands of 6 or 7. The average ATAR of the class was 97.10. I would like to specifically congratulate the 3 students who received perfect scores, Olivia Loukas, Jessica Pens, and Rebecca Wilcox. Congratulations to the class of 2021, they should be proud of their success especially with the added stress the COVID-19 pandemic placed on all students. I am sure you will all go on to do amazing things and I wish you the very best for your future endeavours. Thank you to Principal Elizabeth Stone, the school staff, and parents for supporting this remarkable outcome.

**SYDNEY SEAHORSE ART PROJECT**

**Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore)**—I recognise the Sydney Institute of Marine Science [SIMS] for their Sydney Seahorse Art Project. SIMS partnered up with North Sydney Council to deliver this program which helps raise awareness for the endangered Sydney Seahorse species. Through the program, primary aged school students were able to learn about the Sydney Seahorse in online modules. They were then invited to create a unique piece of artwork inspired by the Sydney Seahorse and what they had learnt about conservation. These unique artworks were all submitted in January and are currently being developed into an animation which will be exhibited in May at the Coal Loader Centre for Sustainability to help spread awareness about the Sydney Seahorse. Thank you to Director and CEO of SIMS, Martina Doblin, and the entire team at SIMS for championing this project and for the consistent conservation work you do in North Shore and the wider community. Thank you to

North Sydney Council for helping bring this project to fruition. I would also like to extend my thanks to other organisations who assisted with the program which are Stanton Library, SEA LIFE Aquarium, NSW DPI Fisheries, UNSW, and UTS.

#### **HORNSBY HERO, HYLETTE EVANS**

**Mr MATT KEAN (Hornsby—Treasurer, and Minister for Energy)**—Courageous Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Women's Shelter manager Hylette Evans has devoted her career to saving women in crisis, giving them support to get back on their feet after experiencing domestic violence or homelessness. Hylette is a qualified nurse and counsellor. As Shelter Manager she has developed a strong network of shelter volunteers, which support more than 100 women a year. Hylette works with compassion to restore trust and confidence in her clients, and she is known for going above and beyond for the Shelter. Often women come to the shelter not believing in their own abilities. Hylette provides them with a safe place where they can live independently, gain employment, further their education and look forward to their future with fresh confidence. Through the COVID-19 pandemic, Hylette resisted challenging pressure to close the shelter. Instead, she and her team forged ahead so women always have a place to go if they find themselves in difficult circumstances. Available day or night, Hylette's work has become a foundation in the community and she is proud to be the manager of a service that is there to help women when they really need it.

#### **NORTHHOLM GRAMMAR STUDENT JUSTIN KIM**

**Mr MATT KEAN (Hornsby—Treasurer, and Minister for Energy)**—Today I would like to recognize the magnificent achievement of Justin Kim, who is a year 9 student at Northholm Grammar School in Arcadia. Congratulations to Justin who achieved 2nd Place in the, Internationally Recognised, Kemper Human Rights Education Foundation Essay Competition. Out of 83 essays received, from 33 countries, Justin Kim's essay, "Land of the Fair Go? The State of Income and Wealth Distribution in Australia and What Australia Can Learn from Finland", was chosen as the second best in the world. The competition included students from Year 8 to Year 11.

#### **NORTHHOLM GRAMMAR 2021 HSC RESULTS**

**Mr MATT KEAN (Hornsby—Treasurer, and Minister for Energy)**—Congratulations to Northholm Grammar, whose 2021 Year 12 students achieved the school's best ever HSC results, with many outstanding individual achievements. 3 Students were named in the All Rounders List for achieving a Band 6. These are: Niamh Cassar (Mathematics Extension I, Mathematics Extension II, English Advanced, Legal Studies, Economics); Gemma Squire (English Advanced, English Extension I, Mathematics Standard, Ancient History, Society and Culture, Visual Arts) and Tyler Old (English Advanced, Mathematics Advanced, Legal Studies, Visual Arts, PDHPE). 3 Students were named in the High Achievers List for achieving a State Rank including: Joseph Clemmit for 1st in Music 2; Gemma Squire for 8th in Ancient History; Niamh Cassar for 19th in Legal Studies. This is a phenomenal overall achievement by these 2021 year 12 students of Northholm Grammar, which is a highly respected high school in my electorate.

#### **#PADUPUBLICHEALTH**

**Mr MARK COURE (Oatley—Minister for Multiculturalism, and Minister for Seniors)**—Speaker, I rise before this House in support of the tens of thousands of women and girls in NSW who are affected by period poverty every year. Every female deserves access to essential sanitary products because they are a necessity and not a privilege. I stand before the House to extend my support for the #PadUpPublicHealth campaign which has been started by Share the Dignity. I have been an active supporter of Share the Dignity for more than five years now. In this time, my office has collected thousands of sanitary items that have been distributed to women in need throughout Australia. The #PadUpPublicHealth campaign aims to ensure that every public hospital in Australia is able to provide sanitary items to women in care. I strongly support this initiative because access to these products are a fundamental right and women deserve equity within our public health system. I will continue to advocate for this important cause because I firmly believe that our Government should lead the nation on this crucial reform. These reforms are for our daughters, wives, sisters, mothers and friends and we must take action.

#### **LUGARNO FOOTBALL CLUB**

**Mr MARK COURE (Oatley—Minister for Multiculturalism, and Minister for Seniors)**—I congratulate the Lugarno Football Club after they received much needed funding from the NSW Government. Thanks to the Local Sports Grants program, the Lugarno Football Club has received funding to purchase additional digital software and provide portable goals for junior teams. From training nights to match day, this funding will allow the Lugarno Football Club to continue to develop the next generation of sporting champions whilst also making communication with members easier and more efficient. I want to thank the entire committee for continuing to nurture up and coming talent and for providing an inclusive place for players young and old. In particular, I wish to thank: President Michael Jarevski; Vice President Atef Elassi; Secretary Katie White and

Treasurer Eddy Poh. With over 40 teams and more than 500 registered players, the Lugarno Football Club is one of our strongest community sporting organisations in the St George region. Congratulations again to the Lugarno Football Club on receiving this important funding boost. I have no doubt that you will continue to reach new heights in the future.

### **SPECIAL OLYMPICS FLINDERS**

**Mr MARK COURE (Oatley—Minister for Multiculturalism, and Minister for Seniors)**—I congratulate the Special Olympics Flinders organisation on receiving \$7500 as part of the ATP Cup Legacy Fund. The ATP Cup Legacy Fund aims to boost local involvement in tennis following the ATP Cup in 2020 and is a joint partnership between the NSW Government and Tennis NSW. Based in Riverwood, Special Olympics Flinders is an organisation which aims to promote inclusion for individuals with disability across our local sporting community. I was lucky enough to head over to a tennis training session with the organisation to see the amazing work that they are doing first hand whilst also handing over this important funding. This funding will facilitate the development of a grassroots tennis development project which will increase community involvement and provide access to more individuals across the St George area. I want to thank Chair Natalie Johnston, Vice Chair William Russell and the entire team for continuing to remove barriers to sport for individuals with disability. I look forward to continuing to work with Special Olympics Flinders well into the future.

### **CAMDEN AUSTRALIA DAY CITIZENSHIP CEREMONY 2022**

**Mr PETER SIDGREAVES (Camden)**—On 26 January we celebrated the online Australia Day Citizenship Ceremony. Camden welcomed and celebrated twenty six new citizens from a range of different nations at the online ceremony. I would like to welcome each one of them and thank them for choosing to call Camden and Australia their home. I thank Camden Council for organising the online event as well as other Australia Day activities including: Online whip cracking demonstrations; Meat tray competition; Camden Australia Day Spotify Playlist and Flags Out campaign. I wish our newest members of our community every success.

### **NSW ALL SCHOOL ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS**

**Mr PETER SIDGREAVES (Camden)**—Most students start off their school holidays off with relaxing and sleeping in but the St Gregory's College students Cooper Clungston, Will Carter and Archie Nott had better plans by representing the College at the NSW All School Athletics Championships at Sydney Olympic Park. Despite the adverse weather conditions the students came home with some incredible results. Cooper in the 12 year old category placed 4th in NSW for the 800m and 6th in NSW for the 1500m. Will in the 13 year old category placed 25th in NSW for 1500m. Archie in the 14 year old category placed 4th in NSW for the 800m which was a record race, two of the runners in Archie's race broke the near 10year track record. Archie also placed 2nd receiving a silver medal in NSW for the 1500m. Congratulations Cooper, Will and Archie on these incredible results.

### **ROBBIE MINNS**

**Mr PETER SIDGREAVES (Camden)**—I acknowledge an upcoming young player in Camden who has qualified for the NSW Open Golf Tournament, Elderslie High School from the class of 2021, Robbie Minns. Robbie has worked consistently hard developing his skills over the years as well as throughout the lockdown. What a tremendous achievement to show off all your hard work and dedication to your sport. Congratulations Robbie and I wish you all in the best in the NSW Open in March.

### **LA SALLE CATHOLIC COLLEGE**

**Ms TANIA MIHAILUK (Bankstown)**—On behalf of my electorate of Bankstown, I would like to congratulate the graduating class of 2021, along with our hardworking teachers and educators on the recent HSC results. The HSC is an exceptionally stressful time for students, teachers, and parents, and combined with the move to remote learning, this makes the improvements we have seen over the past year even more impressive. I take this opportunity to congratulate La Salle Catholic College on their improved success rate which increased from 2.7 per cent in 2020 to 8.7 per cent in 2021, surpassing the state average of 5.47 per cent. I would like to thank all of this year's HSC students for their incredible work, and the impressive level of adaptability they have all demonstrated during such challenging times. I am very proud of the students in my electorate, and their terrific achievements. I would also like to thank the Principal Mr Michael Egan of La Salle Catholic College, teachers, and administrative staff, who have provided immeasurable assistance to the HSC students. I also acknowledge the parents and guardians of students of La Salle Catholic College who have worked tirelessly throughout the last year to support our students.

**CANTERBURY BANKSTOWN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 2021 ANNUAL GALA DINNER**

**Ms TANIA MIHAILUK (Bankstown)**—I was pleased to attend the Canterbury Bankstown Chamber of Commerce [CBCC] 2021 Annual Gala Dinner, held at Bankstown Sports Club on Saturday 11 December 2021. The event is hosted annually to acknowledge the outstanding efforts of our local business community. It is also an opportunity to raise funds for a nominated charitable initiative. On the night, we had the privilege to hear from Renee Chanine, who courageously survived a battle against breast cancer last year. Renee is a member of the CBCC, and works for Unity Bank. The board of the CBCC, inspired by Renee's story, nominated the Connie Johnson medical team at the Garvan Institute of Medical Research as the recipient of the 2021 Gala dinner fundraiser. This year the dinner raised \$49,506.96 for the research centre. I take this opportunity to acknowledge the efforts of Mr Wally Mehanna, CEO of the Canterbury Bankstown Chamber of Commerce, and CBCC Board Directors Mr Bill Parasiris, Mr Philip Iacovou, Mr Jason Arraj, Mr Geoff Gaymer, Ms Sandra Duarte, Ms Antoinette Khalil, and Ms Jacqueline Venesjarvi, in promoting local businesses in our community.

**CHESTER HILL HIGH SCHOOL**

**Ms TANIA MIHAILUK (Bankstown)**—On behalf of my electorate of Bankstown, I would like to congratulate the graduating class of 2021, along with our hard working teachers and educators on the recent HSC results. The HSC is an exceptionally stressful time for students, teachers, and parents, and combined with the move to remote learning, this makes the improvements we have seen over the past year even more impressive. I take this opportunity to congratulate Chester Hill High School on their improved success rate which increased from 4.11 per cent in 2020 to 8.58 per cent in 2021, surpassing the state average of 5.47 per cent. I would like to thank all of this year's HSC students for their incredible work, and the impressive level of adaptability they have all demonstrated during such challenging times. I am very proud of the students in my electorate, and their terrific achievements. I would also like to thank the Principal Mrs Maria O'Harae of Chester Hill High School, teachers, and administrative staff, who have provided immeasurable assistance to the HSC students. I also acknowledge the parents and guardians of students of Chester Hill High School who have worked tirelessly throughout the last year to support our students.

**FLAMECOAL CHICKEN CARINGBAH AND PUREBRED FITNESS – SUTHERLAND SHIRE  
LOCAL BUSINESS AWARDS**

**Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla—Attorney General)**—I congratulate Flamecoal Chicken Caringbah on being awarded best fast food/takeaway business at the 2022 Sutherland Shire Local Business Awards. Owners John and Nick Lountzis opened the store in 2014 and they have become well known for their chicken and burgers, with their Portuguese burger being a favourite of locals. John says the key to their success is having a clean shop with a good product, as well as being nice to customers. I congratulate John, Nick and the Flamecoal Chicken team on their success. I congratulate Purebred Fitness of Caringbah for being awarded best fitness services business at the 2022 Sutherland Shire Local Business Awards. Purebred Fitness offers classes to suit all fitness levels including mums and bubs, HIIT, functional training, circuit, body building, powerlifting, boxercise and outdoor group sessions. Director and head coach Luke Maggiore and his team pride themselves on allowing members to become part of a healthy community and the best version of themselves. I congratulate Luke and everyone at Purebred Fitness on this great achievement.

**ABORIGINAL LAND ON NORTHERN BEACHES**

**Mr JONATHAN O'DEA (Davidson)**—I acknowledge my local community for its willingness to engage in public consultation run by the Department of Planning regarding 900 hectares of land owned by the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Lands Council on the Northern Beaches. Online briefings about the proposal to amend the Aboriginal Land State Environmental Planning Policies [SEPP] for the Northern Beaches have been well attended by local constituents, especially by residents of Frenchs Forest, Belrose and Oxford Falls. Those locations are where six Aboriginal land sites are being considered for their development potential, thus funding the Land Council to achieve economic, social and cultural prosperity for the Aboriginal community. Those goals fulfil the aims of the Aboriginal Land Rights Act under which the sites came to be owned by the Lands Council. The Department and the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Lands Council have run an informative consultation process. Locals have engaged enthusiastically, showing awareness of disadvantages and injustices for Aboriginal people. However, the community is concerned that planning decisions should not unduly impact existing residents, strain infrastructure or compromise local flora and fauna. Well done to all concerned on the ongoing process.

**PROFESSOR THOMAS MASCHMEYER CONVERTING PLASTIC TO OIL**

**Mr JONATHAN O'DEA (Davidson)**—I recognise the global importance of the work of a Davidson electorate constituent in the area of ending plastic pollution. University of Sydney chemistry professor, Thomas



Maschmeyer of Lindfield, is part of a team that has developed a reactor that converts waste plastic into oil and is powered by the waste itself. There is a demonstration plant, here in New South Wales, processing between 5,000 and 10,000 tonnes a year. A larger plant is now being installed in the UK. Dr Maschmeyer is not completely satisfied with the current plastic to oil reactor and would like the process to become fully circular. Although it uses the waste it processes for energy and recycles all the water used, the reactor still needs a little added energy. He has offered the UN one of his reactors that could be fitted on an old oil tanker to travel the seas perpetually, pulling out plastic and converting it on-board into fuel. I congratulate Dr Maschmeyer for his work on this amazing plastic to oil reactor and encourage his ongoing efforts.

#### **MINMI PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENT LEADERS**

**Ms SONIA HORNER (Wallsend)**—I congratulate the newly elected leadership team of Minmi Public School on their appointment. Minmi Public School is a wonderful community. Its members pride themselves on their diverse and nurturing culture. Led by Principal Alison Fittler, the outstanding staff at Minmi Public School work alongside the parent and student body to uphold their motto "Excellence, Opportunity, Community" by developing and supporting each student through their foundational years of learning. The kind hearted students at Minmi Public School never fail to approach every opportunity with positivity and diligence, helping uphold the wonderful culture that the school community shares. The 2022 leadership team is a group of amazing students who demonstrate the Minmi Public School's values. I congratulate the 2022 Student Leaders, Captains Violet and Freddie and Vice Captains Lacey and Logan on their successful appointment. These students should be incredibly proud of this achievement. I look forward to seeing them lead their peers through this exciting year filled with new opportunities. I extend my best wishes to the new student leaders at Minmi Public School.

#### **DEREK BRINDLE**

**Ms SONIA HORNER (Wallsend)**—Every Australia Day, ordinary individuals are recognised for their extraordinary achievements and commitment to the broader community. This year, one of five Corrective Services NSW officers acknowledged on the 2022 Australia Day honours list was a resident of the Wallsend Electorate—Derek Brindle was awarded the Australian Corrections Medal for his distinguished service and dedication to corrections. Since joining Corrective Services NSW in 1990 as an overseer in the Corrective Services Industries upholstery products unit, Mr Brindle has climbed the ladder to become business manager of operations. He has been deeply involved with several major operations in the branch, including Benchmarking and the Prison Bed Capacity Adjustment Program, and has oversight of several inmate employment business divisions State-wide. His work has enabled offenders to participate in sustainable and meaningful employment while gaining skills and qualifications. Derek said, "Myself, like my Corrective Services colleagues, do not seek recognition for the job we do. To receive recognition at this level is an honour of which I am extremely proud and privileged." Inspiring words from a humble man. A big thank you to Derek for his contributions—this is a well-deserved honour.

#### **MARYLAND PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENT LEADERS**

**Ms SONIA HORNER (Wallsend)**—I congratulate the newly elected leadership team of Maryland Public School on their appointment. Maryland Public School is a wonderful community. Its members pride themselves on their diverse and nurturing culture. Led by Principal Annette Van Egmond, the outstanding staff at Maryland Public School work alongside the parent and student body to uphold their motto "Skills for Life" - Every Child, Every Opportunity, Every Day" by developing and supporting each student through their foundational years of learning. The kind hearted students at Maryland Public School never fail to approach every opportunity with positivity and diligence, helping uphold the wonderful culture that the school community shares. The 2022 leadership team is a group of amazing students who demonstrate the Maryland Public School's values. I congratulate the 2022 Student Leaders, School Captains Bodella and Phoenix, Vice Captains Jenson and Mia and Prefects Joel and Halle on their successful appointment. These students should be incredibly proud of this achievement. I look forward to seeing them lead their peers through this exciting year filled with new opportunities. I extend my best wishes to the new student leaders at Maryland Public School.

#### **WESTSIDE PODIATRY CLINIC - CHARLES STURT EXCELLENCE AWARD 2021**

**Mr JUSTIN CLANCY (Albury)**—I would like to congratulate Westside Podiatry Clinic for receiving the 2021 Charles Sturt Excellence Award which was presented by Vice-Chancellor & President Professor Renee Leon. The staff at Westside Community Centre commenced a student-led pilot project, in collaboration with the Charles Sturt University team from the School of Allied Health, Exercise and Sports Science, and The Rivers University Department of Rural Health. The pilot project was introduced as a trial for final-year students in their fourth year of 'Bachelor of Podiatric Medicine', to practise one-on-one under the direct supervision of a registered podiatrist, undertaking treatment, assessments and management of clients. This is a great program for our

community which will meet local needs, incorporating the experience of workplace learning toward better intervention as part of preventative foot healthcare.

#### **STUDENT SURPRISED TO LEAD STATE - IAN BURTON XAVIER HIGH SCHOOL**

**Mr JUSTIN CLANCY (Albury)**—I would like to congratulate HSC student Ian Burton of Albury's Xavier High School for his great effort over the course of his assessments, leading to the highest merit award in the state of NSW for science extension. The award for topping the state was presented in Sydney on the 19th January 2022. As Ian said, "Science has always been my favourite area of study, I was happy I did well in it". With our school communities facing unprecedented changes and disruptions due to the current pandemic, inspiring stories and achievements like Ian's show that we must continue to be immersed in what interests and motivates us. Well done Ian. We look forward to hearing more about your career in years to come.

#### **AUSTRALIA DAY 26TH JANUARY 2022 – TUMBARUMBA AND SNOWY VALLEYS COUNCIL**

**Mr JUSTIN CLANCY (Albury)**—I congratulate the following individuals who have been recognised by Snowy Valleys Council on Australia Day 2022 for their commitment, service and dedication to the community: Citizen of the year nominations: Jon Burgun, David Maginnity, Maryanne Marshall, Marilyn Gilbert, Bob Ayliffe and Amanda Lewis. Senior Citizens of the year nominations: Barry Houting, Paul McPherson and Elaine Morey. Young Citizen of the year nominations: Zack Morris, Charlotte Newell and Kane Stewart. Community Event nominations: Tumbarumba to Rosewood Rail Trail 1st Birthday celebrations and Tumbarumba Rodeo Club 75th Anniversary event. Community Group Award: Tumbarumba Turf Club. Sporting Award: Steven Houting Jnr. Special Achievement Award: Margaret Wolter, Roz Gay, Debbir and Grant Harris and Zone 20 Pony Club event. I thank you all for your contribution. Your efforts are making a difference for your community.

#### **MITCHELL AUSTIN**

**Mr GREG WARREN (Campbelltown)**—Campbelltown is famous as a production line for elite sportsmen and sportswomen. Think Matildas fullback, Alanna Kennedy – a star of the current Australian's Women's soccer team. There's Chris Lawrence – the former rugby league product who went from St Gregory's College, to the Wests Tigers and eventually to the Australian side. One of the youngest rising stars though is baseball player Mitchell Austin. Mitchell's talents were even officially recognised during the 2022 Campbelltown Australia Day awards where he was presented with the Sportsperson of the Year. It's been a meteoric rise for the young star. After plying his trade for the Macarthur Orioles, Mitchell went on to kit up for the Sydney Blue Sox – in Australia's premier baseball competition. His ability was then noticed by those in America, where eventually earned a professional contract. He has also taken it upon himself to pass on his knowledge to up and coming players by way of coaching. It is clear that the name Mitchell Austin is one that everyone should be looking out for in the near future. On behalf of the entire Campbelltown community, congratulations again on a well deserve Australia Day award again, Mitchell.

#### **HASTINGS SECONDARY COLLEGE WESTPORT CAMPUS HOUSE CAPTAINS**

**Mrs LESLIE WILLIAMS (Port Macquarie)**—Today I acknowledge the newly elected House Captains for Hastings Secondary College Westport Campus who were selected to lead their house teams - Bukari, Talwong, Kula and Wirea throughout the 2022 school year. We all understand the importance that competitive sport plays in a student's educational development throughout their primary and secondary schooling and the social, health and academic benefits that follow if regular sporting activities are undertaken and enjoyed. Congratulations to the elected House Captains: House Bukari – Senior Girls Esta-Louise Byron and Senior Boys Calvin Dunn. Junior Girls Serena Clarke and Junior Boys Jacob Brodie. House TALWONG - Senior Boy Thusy Mohanaranjan and Senior Girls Lauren Platt. Junior Boys Jenson Medcalf and junior Girls – Caitlin Marotte. House KULA -Senior Boy Cameron Hamli and Senior Girls Beth Kars. Junior Boys Tana Hona and Junior Girls Georgia Hayes. House WIREA - Senior Girls Georgia Teeling and Senior Boys Douglas Toomey. Junior Boys Harry Reams and Junior Girls Brindley White and Moya Wills. All sporting competitions have aspects of success and loss but as the saying goes 'it's not whether you win or lose, it's how you play the game.' Congratulations.

#### **BLAKE JOHNSON**

**Mrs LESLIE WILLIAMS (Port Macquarie)**—Today I recognise the academic achievements of Blake Johnson from Port Macquarie who recently received the esteemed University Medal for his high distinctions in nearly all of his subjects at Charles Sturt University. Described as a protégé for higher learning, Blake Johnson is one of those dedicated students who simply works consistently and doggedly to achieve his goals. Blake graduated last year with a Bachelor of Sports Media at the Charles Sturt School of Information and Communication Studies at Bathurst and was one of 32 students to be awarded the University Medal in December 2021 for topping the majority of his course related subjects. A former student of Mackillop College, Blake sensed his passion was for journalism, so he transferred to Charles Sturt in Bathurst studying through distance education while living in

Sydney. Blake acknowledges the challenges of learning remotely in a pandemic without the connection with other students. However his learning material, love for sports and university work placement saw him grow and excel throughout this period. Now a video editor for an online sports site, Blake is achieving his dreams in the media field and is looking forward to his formal graduation ceremony. Congratulations Blake.

### **2022 LAURIETON FAMILY FISHING BONANZA**

**Mrs LESLIE WILLIAMS (Port Macquarie)**—Congratulations to all the winning anglers of the 2022 Laurieton United Services Club Family Fishing Bonanza, held on 7th - 9th January in the Camden Haven. It was pleasing to see the annual LUSC Family Fishing Bonanza in full swing to kick-start the New Year with the weekend event attracting over 130 adults and 70 children to the Camden Haven waterways as rain, large swells and high winds tested the most experienced of anglers. Tournament category winners were: \$500 mystery bream; Alexander Hazell, \$250 mystery flathead; Ariyah McGuiness, Largest Tailor 1.870kg; Sam Heagney, Biggest Snapper 1.630kg; Brett Lamb, Largest Luderick 684grams; Luke Dwyer, Adult Garfish 74grams; Daryl Hayward, Junior Garfish 70 grams; Bronte Hayes, Largest Teraglin 1.480kg; Jock McFee, Biggest Drummer 2.060kg; Matt Hutchinson, Largest Flounder 190 grams; Alex Ross, Largest Pearl Perch 1.150kg; Jack McFee, Adult Bream 850 grams; Trevor Green, Junior Bream 820 grams; Darcey Wicks, Adult Mullet 518 grams; Col Trenaman, Junior Mullet 352 grams; Caitlin Trenaman, Adult Whiting 328 grams; Callum Scott, Junior Whiting 275 grams; Logan Atkins, Largest Leather Jacket 358 grams; Lacey Ryan. Well done to all competitors and organisers.

### **BRADFORDVILLE FAMILY MEDICAL CENTRE**

**Mrs WENDY TUCKERMAN (Goulburn—Minister for Local Government)**—Today I formally recognise the contribution of Bradfordville Family Medical Centre to the community. The COVID-19 pandemic presented many challenges that we as a community have not only faced - but risen to. Without the tremendous effort from Bradfordville Family Medical Centre throughout this pandemic, particularly for their contribution in the momentous vaccination effort - we would not be in the position that we are today. Mr Speaker, I also wish to publicly acknowledge, thank and praise Bradfordville Family Medical Centre for their actions. The sheer dedication and hard work of each and every person - Doctor, Nurse, Pharmacist, Health Administrator and Staff or Volunteer – who supported our community in a medical capacity is indefinably appreciated. Thank you for your service.

### **GOULBURN DOCTORS**

**Mrs WENDY TUCKERMAN (Goulburn—Minister for Local Government)**—Today I formally recognise the contribution of Goulburn Doctors to the community. The COVID-19 pandemic presented many challenges that we as a community have not only faced - but risen to. Without the tremendous effort from Goulburn Doctors throughout this pandemic, particularly for their contribution in the momentous vaccination effort - we would not be in the position that we are today. Mr Speaker, I also wish to publicly acknowledge, thank and praise Goulburn Doctors for their actions. The sheer dedication and hard work of each and every person - Doctor, Nurse, Pharmacist, Health Administrator and Staff or Volunteer – who supported our community in a medical capacity is indefinably appreciated. Thank you for your service.

### **GOULBURN HEALTH HUB**

**Mrs WENDY TUCKERMAN (Goulburn—Minister for Local Government)**—Today I formally recognise the contribution of Goulburn Health Hub to the community of Goulburn. The COVID-19 pandemic presented many challenges that we as a community have not only faced - but risen to. Without the tremendous effort from Goulburn Health Hub throughout this pandemic, particularly for their contribution in the momentous vaccination effort - we would not be in the position that we are today. Mr Speaker, I also wish to publicly acknowledge, thank and praise Goulburn Health Hub for their actions. The sheer dedication and hard work of each and every person - Doctor, Nurse, Pharmacist, Health Administrator and Staff or Volunteer – who supported our community in a medical capacity is indefinably appreciated. Thank you for your service.

### **ELWAZZE CREAMERY**

**Mr JIHAD DIB (Lakemba)**—Last year, I had the pleasure of joining Mohammed El Wazze at his family business Elwazze Creamery. Since 1995, Elwazze Creamery have blessed our community with their sweets treats. The local family business produces traditional Lebanese sweets and put their heart and soul into their food. With recipes dating back over 100 years, it is amazing to see that Lebanese tradition and culture is being shared from generation to generation in Australia. Food is important to Australia because it adds to our rich culture and history. Mohammed taught me how to make my favourite Lebanese sweet, Znoud El Sit. In case anyone was wondering, they tasted amazing and I was offered a part time job afterwards. Elwazze Creamery suffered during the pandemic but Mohammed and his family persisted and re-opened once it was safe to do so. Small businesses like Elwazze Creamery are essential for our recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. Not only do they provide an economic

benefit, but also they give so much back to the community. We should do what we can to support our local businesses who are more often than not family businesses.

#### **BRIANA SINCLAIR**

**Mr JIHAD DIB (Lakemba)**—I would like to congratulate 15-year-old Briana Sinclair, a young gymnast, from Greenacre for her appointment to the Gymnastics Australia Youth Advisory Panel. This panel is one of the recommendations of the Human Rights Commission review of Gymnastics Australia's culture and practice. Briana was one of many applicants and this role will allow Briana and other young gymnasts to be represented at the decision-making table to ensure that young people in the sport are not only acknowledged but more importantly to empower them to achieve their goals. Briana's interest in gymnastics started at the age of nine when she started her first class and she now trains and coaches other gymnasts in rhythmic gymnastics, circus arts and dance acrobatics. It gives me great pleasure to see that young people, like Briana, in my electorate are given the opportunities to contribute to the good in our society. I wish her well in her future endeavours and for her to continue to be a voice for other young gymnasts in ensuring that their passion for their sport is matched with a supportive framework.

#### **MARRICKVILLE LEGAL CENTRE**

**Mr JIHAD DIB (Lakemba)**—I am very proud to acknowledge Marrickville Legal Centre [MLC] for their work in supporting members of my community with free legal advice. Established in 1979, MLC is a not-for-profit community legal centre based in Sydney's Inner west and working across New South Wales. Today, MLC has grown its reach to extend legal and related services to over 6000 New South Wales residents each year. In December last year I joined MLC for the Marrickville Justice Fair to celebrate MLC's move to Addison Road Community Centre. The new location, adjacent to other essential community services best represents the dynamic role they play in the community, recognising that a legal matter often intersects with economic, health and social issues for the affected individuals as well. With the stretched resources that MLC has, I have only interacted with the most generous, giving of people who work there. Each employee is dedicated to a cause much greater than themselves – accessibility to justice for all. In servicing southwest Sydney my community is lucky to have the lawyers at MLC there to call upon as am I. We owe them a debt of gratitude.

#### **ROBYN EVANS**

**Mr ALEX GREENWICH (Sydney)**—On behalf of the Sydney electorate, I wish to put on record the fifteen years of work, leadership and community service of Robyn Evans. Robyn has made an extraordinary contribution with The Salvation Army and played key leadership roles in their community service provision including their response to human trafficking and support for Indigenous communities. For the past ten years Robyn has been a valued part of the leadership team at Sydney Streetlevel Mission, bringing her social work skills and commitment to inclusion and empowering individuals. Robyn's passion has been a driving force in developing the centre's casework to ensure all vulnerable members of the community are respected and represented, and everyone gets access to support and resources. Robyn's work at Streetlevel has been widely adopted across The Salvation Army. I commend Robyn's dedication and efforts, making a positive difference to the lives of vulnerable people and creating a more inclusive community. I thank Robyn Evans for her commitment to the people of Sydney for the last fifteen years and wish her well for future endeavours.

#### **MONICA CHEHAB**

**Mr ALEX GREENWICH (Sydney)**—On behalf of the Sydney electorate, I'd like to record the 25 years of dedicated community service of Monica Chehab. Monica has worked in several Salvation Army services in the inner city and has spent the last twelve years supporting vulnerable communities at Sydney Streetlevel Mission, a vital service for vulnerable people in the inner city. Monica's warm hospitality and delicious cooking has been enjoyed by many and she is known for her ability to bring people together and foster connections among visitors, staff and volunteers. Monica has helped community members build self-confidence and practical living skills by teaching them to cook and encouraging supportive relationships. I have seen how visitors are warmly welcomed and respected at Streetlevel and Monica's commitment to supporting others through community engagement, education and sharing of food is inspiring. It is evident that Monica is well-loved and appreciated by those who have worked with her and met her through this work. I congratulate and thank Monica for her commitment to supporting vulnerable people in the inner city and for her significant years of service.

#### **MILLERS POINT COMMUNITY HUB CO-OP**

**Mr ALEX GREENWICH (Sydney)**—On behalf of the Sydney electorate I commend the Millers Point Community Hub Co-op [MP COOP] for their dedication to reducing waste and recycling. The MP COOP is a not-for-profit community cooperative focussed on reusing and sharing to reduce consumption and waste going to landfill. Their Sharing Shed Library of Things stores occasional use items that members can borrow such as tools,

outdoor equipment and appliances. The MP COOP Recycle Hub provides members a place to sort and recycle waste including batteries, soft plastics and chemicals, reducing red bin waste that would end up in landfill. These initiatives offer members an easy, practical way to reduce their personal consumption and to engage in sustainable reuse and repair which are key in moving toward a circular economy. The MP COOP vision is for residents in Millers Point, Dawes Point, Walsh Bay, The Rocks, Barangaroo, City North and Circular Quay to have significant and measurable waste reduction by 2030. I congratulate the Miller's Point Community Hub Co-op and its more than 70 members for their commitment to environmental conservation, sustainability and waste reduction.

#### **GAURI GODBOLE**

**Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal)**—In 2021 Central Coast Local Health District [LHD] celebrated the hard work and dedication of team members in a challenging year through the Caring for the Coast Awards. In memory of Belinda Collier, Central Coast LHD recognise an individual that demonstrates the attributes that she exemplified throughout her life; going above and beyond to boost morale and collaboration, improving mental and physical wellbeing and inspiring colleague. The 2021 winner was Gauri Godbole who is a Team Leader Pharmacist in Aged Care and Mental Health. She was recognised for creating a safe and supportive environment for her team and supports pharmacy students from the University of Newcastle to complete their honours projects. I would also like to acknowledge the finalists; Registered Nurse Amanda Webber, who was recognised for being positive and compassionate while providing support to patients, colleagues, nursing students and new graduates as well as Erin Heine who coordinates diversity and inclusion programs and is described as proactive and oozing positivity and happiness. Congratulations Gauri, Amanda and Erin. The Central Coast is in good hands with such positive and supportive healthcare staff.

#### **AMARLI YEATS**

**Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal)**—I would like to acknowledge Amarli Yeats, a student of Brooke Avenue Public School on the Central Coast who was highly commended in Minister Mitchell's 2021 Christmas Card Competition. To be highly commended in a pool of 1,100 Kindergarten students from 100 public schools across the state is very impressive. Amarli's drawing featured a bright, smiling Christmas tree, a happy gingerbread man, a candy cane, presents and even Santa and one of his reindeers. The competition highlights the creativity of Kindergarten students across New South Wales and I encourage students to participate in future competitions. Congratulations Amarli on your beautiful Christmas design and best of luck in Year 1.

#### **BEC BAKES AND OUR FATHER - SUTHERLAND SHIRE LOCAL BUSINESS AWARDS**

**Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla—Attorney General)**—I congratulate Bec Bakes on being awarded best bakery/cake business at the 2022 Sutherland Shire Local Business Awards. Founded in 2016, the Caringbah business has developed a loyal following for its ever changing weekly selection of cupcakes, cookies and slices. Woollooware's Rebecca Conquest has turned her passion for baking into a thriving local business and I congratulate her and the Bec Bakes team on their success. I congratulate Our Father at Burraneer for being awarded best café at the 2022 Sutherland Shire Local Business Awards. The team has turned its corner location on Burraneer Bay Road into a busy place as locals flock in to enjoy their coffee and all day breakfast and lunch menus. The café was started from scratch out of an old corner shop two and a half years ago. Owners Jerome and Gerard put part of their success down to the hard work and dedication of their team.

#### **NUNU DESIGNS AND CINCOTTA CHEMIST - SUTHERLAND SHIRE LOCAL BUSINESS AWARDS**

**Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla—Attorney General)**—I congratulate Nunu Designs of Caringbah South on being awarded best florist at the 2022 Sutherland Shire Local Business Awards. Nunu Designs offers a range of services including floral design, event styling, visual merchandising, pop up weddings, event setup and pack down, as well as party hire. Since 2009 owner and director Stephanie Jordan has been specialising in wedding and event styling centred on her love of floral design and she enjoys getting to know clients to incorporate their personality and ideas into each design. I congratulate Nunu Designs on this achievement. I congratulate Cincotta Chemist Caringbah for being awarded best pharmacy at the 2022 Sutherland Shire Local Business Awards. Cincotta is a large busy pharmacy offering discount prices while providing the service and heart of a small pharmacy. The team from Cincotta pride themselves on offering a great range, great prices and great advice to the Community. This is the third time Cincotta Chemist Caringbah has won the award and I congratulate the team on again being awarded the best pharmacy in the Shire.

#### **FRANK AND JEUNE GERSBACH**

**Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS (Dubbo—Minister for Agriculture, and Minister for Western New South Wales)**—I want to congratulate Frank and Jeune Gersbach on their 70th Wedding Anniversary. Married on March 15, 1952 at the Baptist Church in Wellington, they've called the district home all their lives and contributed both

personally and professionally to Wellington. They've run a Panel Beating and Spray Painting business, a Sports Store, built the Bridge Motel, and later owned a property at Curra Creek, before retiring. Frank has been a member of Wellington Lions Club, Golf Club, Bowling Club, Tennis Club and, through the Wellington Cycle Club, Frank became renowned for his road and track achievements. Jeune was a member of the Wellington Chamber of Commerce holding the position of President for many years, and is a past President and District Governor of Quota International. As Chair of the Wellington Hospital Board, Jeune was instrumental in developing the health clinic at Bindawalla (Wellington) Hospital. The couple started the Wellington Ski Club, originally built on the Macquarie River and later moved to Lake Burrendong. They were also instrumental in establishing the cycle track and lights at Kennard Park. Congratulations Frank and Jeune, on your 70th Wedding Anniversary and all the very best for your celebrations!

#### KATE JEFFERY

**Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS (Dubbo—Minister for Agriculture, and Minister for Western New South Wales)**—I want to commend Wellington's Kate Jeffery, who recently started work at Dubbo Base Hospital after graduating from Western Sydney University with a Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery. The 23-year-old, who earned the university's Ganya Indigenous Academic Excellence Award, was always interested in science, but it was her year 10 work experience at the hospital where she "fell in love with the idea of medicine". Kate is extremely passionate about regional healthcare, and wants to see more country kids – especially Indigenous kids – going into healthcare professions. One of the issues facing rural healthcare right around Australia is the difficulties in attracting the right professionals to live and work and be a part of our communities. I commend Kate for putting her hand up to come home and make a difference for her community – I've got no doubt her passion will translate into amazing results for her patients.

#### QUENTIN PARK ALPACAS

**Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS (Dubbo—Minister for Agriculture, and Minister for Western New South Wales)**—I want to congratulate Amee and Shaun Dennis, who put Tomingley on the map at the recent NSW Tourism Awards! Quentin Park Alpacas & Studio/Gallery claimed bronze in the New Tourism Business category, beaten only by the new Sydney Zoo and the luxury A for Adina apartments. The couple run a mixed stock farming enterprise south of Dubbo, but in 2019, foxes and wild dogs were taking their toll. They purchased a small mob of alpacas and artist Amee was soon inspired by their wool, which she makes into jewellery and fibre flowers. The side hustle helped the family through the drought, and the herd's grown to over 120 alpacas. Now they've thrown the farm gates open to visitors, offering people the chance to meet an alpaca, check out Amee's work, and learn more about life on the farm. Congratulations Amee, Shaun, and all the team at Quentin Park on this fantastic achievement. I can't wait to see what you do next!

#### QUEENS SCOUT

**Mr JAMES GRIFFIN (Manly—Minister for Environment and Heritage)**—I would like to ask this House to recognise and congratulate two young constituents Ella Maryska and Anna Butler. These two young women have been awarded the Queens Scout Award. This is the highest award that can be awarded to Venturer scouts. It is awarded to Venturers who have achieved the Venturing Skills Award and completed requirements in the areas of Adventurous Activities, Community Involvement, Leadership Development and Personal Growth. This award is a significant honour for Ella and Anna as well as their families and scout troops. They demonstrate values and character traits that should make them not only role models in Scouts but in the broader community. I again congratulate Ella and Anna on this tremendous achievement and wish them all the best for the future.

#### 2021 ART EXPRESS

**Mr JAMES GRIFFIN (Manly—Minister for Environment and Heritage)**—I wish to acknowledge the students from High Schools in my electorate who received the significant honour of being selected to the HSC Art Express showcase. Last year was a challenging year so this selection is a true testament to these students hard work and creativity and the high level of teaching at public schools in Manly. I would like to recognise Angus Baldwin of NBSC Freshwater for his statue piece "Turning a Blind Eye." I would also like to acknowledge Jaslyn Brown also of NBSC Freshwater for her painting piece "Always will be". Finally I would like to recognise Emily McGhee of NBSC Mackellar Girls for her creative and skilful stop motion piece "frack". Again congratulations to these students on this immense honour.

**The House adjourned pursuant to standing and sessional orders at 19:36 until  
Wednesday 23 February 2022 at 9:30.**