



New South Wales

Legislative Assembly

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES (HANSARD)

**Fifty-Seventh Parliament
First Session**

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Authorised by the Parliament of New South Wales

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Tuesday 10 May 2022

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

The Speaker read the prayer and acknowledgement of country.

Announcements

DEBATE TIMING SYSTEM UPGRADE

The SPEAKER: I inform the House that over the April break the aging debate timing system in the Chamber was successfully replaced with new equipment. This was done as part of the ongoing upgrades to the Legislative Assembly Chamber to ensure the durability of our vital systems. We now have more legible displays, and improved menus and functionality. We have also introduced two new mobile timers located on each side of the table, which provide an additional level of accessibility for members to monitor the timer during debate. For this upgrade, we sought feedback from various members and staff and I encourage members to have a closer look at the improvements.

[*Notices of motions given.*]

Sessional Orders

STANDING ORDER 131

Mr RON HOENIG (Heffron) (12:18): I seek leave to amend general business notice of motion No. 3328 as follows:

- (1) In paragraph (4) appending the words "so long as Question Time has a maximum period that does not exceed 75 minutes."
- (2) Inserting the following additional paragraphs:
 - (5) In Standing Order 131 insert new clause "(8) Crossbench Members of Parliament are permitted at least two questions per Question Time, at question number and question number 15."
 - (6) In Standing Order 131 insert new clause "(9) Points of order taken during an answer to a question should not be vexatious, repetitive, interfering or used to make a statement in response to the answer."

Leave granted.

Mr RON HOENIG: Accordingly, I move:

That during the current session, unless otherwise ordered, standing orders 129 and 131 shall be amended as follows:

- (1) In Standing Order 129 insert the word "directly" before the word "relevant".
- (2) In Standing Order 131 (2) replace the word "five" with the word "three".
- (3) In Standing Order 131 (4) replace the number "45" with the number "60" and the number "10" with the number "16".
- (4) In Standing Order 131 (5) replace the number "10" with the number "16" so long as Question Time has a maximum period that does not exceed 75 minutes.
- (5) In Standing Order 131 insert new clause "(8) Crossbench Members of Parliament are permitted at least two questions per Question Time, at question number 7 and question number 15."
- (6) In Standing Order 131 insert new clause "(9) Points of order taken during an answer to a question should not be vexatious, repetitive, interfering or used to make a statement in response to the answer."

Although the motion I have proposed transforms question time significantly from the culture that has been a part of the bear pit for a considerable period, it is not the first attempt that has been made in this House to ensure that the Executive Government is more accountable. The Speaker has endeavoured to effect amendments to question time since his elevation to the Speaker's chair. On his view of it, this is only a continuation of the Speaker's task; however, I independently came to the same view. I thank members of the crossbench for being supportive from the time I first raised the issue: the member for Sydney and the member for Lake Macquarie, who have been integrally involved in the wording of the standing orders and whose counsel and input I value; the member for Wagga Wagga, who has always had sensible input into decisions sought to be made by this House; and The Greens, who have always been supporters of making this House more accountable. I also thank the Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party for their support to ensure that this House can make the Executive Government more accountable; and the member for Murray, whose input I also value.

I particularly thank the Government and the Leader of the House for being so responsive to the approach, faced with the reality of the strong support of the crossbench. Whilst the Government and the Leader of the House had little option, the Leader of the House was productive in framing the standing orders and made a significant contribution in ensuring that they were worded appropriately to ensure that these significant changes could be implemented in this way. I also thank the Clerks of the House for their input in respect of the process. Whilst it might be novel for this House to change question time and require answers to be directly relevant, which is so different to the way the House has been operating during question time for a number of decades, there is nothing unique about my proposal. For example, it is the way in which the house of review conducts its affairs, where answers to questions asked by members of that House are required to be directly relevant.

The motion will hopefully be the change of paradigm that this House so urgently requires. During discussions with the Leader of the Government he suggested that these changes to sessional orders should become standing orders, and the Opposition shares that view. In that respect, the way forward is to take the previous changes to the sessional orders and this change and have the Standing Orders and Procedure Committee examine the wording carefully, with a view to them becoming part of the standing orders of the House. The time for that change has certainly come. It is an important reform to ensure that the Executive is accountable to this House. I thank all those involved for their support and cooperation to get to this stage. Hopefully question time will provide a more productive way to conduct politics in this State and a more productive way for this House to operate in the future.

Mr ALISTER HENSKENS (Ku-ring-gai—Minister for Skills and Training, and Minister for Science, Innovation and Technology) (12:26): I inform the House that the Government supports the changes. I do not wish to ruin the spirit of consensus, but the member for Heffron said that there was no option, which I disagree with. As recently as yesterday these changes were being constructively discussed. It is not the case that a member suggests something and they are agreed with. Healthy dialogue and points of view are exchanged amongst members to arrive at what will hopefully be an improvement to the current situation.

The standing orders have been in place for much longer than the current Government and changes to make this place work better have been required for a long time. The standing orders are not the product of this Government by any stretch of the imagination. The proposed changes are certainly long overdue in my observation, particularly the last change about vexatious, repetitive and interfering points of order. When members are speaking and when Ministers are trying to answer questions in question time, too often there is a degree of obstructionism in the way that points of order are taken. The changes will hopefully prevent that from continuing. I thank all members, the Leader of the Opposition and the crossbench for their consultation on what will be an improvement to this place and the way it operates.

Mr ALEX GREENWICH (Sydney) (12:28): I thank the Government, the Opposition and crossbench members for working together to achieve a more functional and efficient question time. I particularly thank "Ron the Reformer" and "Alister the Arbiter" for their work to achieve this outcome between the Government and Opposition. In particular I welcome the fact that the crossbench has an increase in numbers. It allows us, in the diverse communities that we represent, to hold government accountable and ask questions on behalf of our communities. I thank the House.

Ms JENNY LEONG (Newtown) (12:29): I provide The Greens' support for the motion, and express our thanks and appreciation to the member for Heffron for taking the lead on this critical reform. I think all members would agree that question time is not the best example of what we can do as the elected representatives in our democracy in New South Wales. Hopefully these changes will improve how question time proceeds. Echoing the member for Sydney's point, I hope the crossbench's ability to ask more questions will allow for a more robust debate and for the consideration of questions that are broader than the Government's and Opposition's priorities on any given day. I acknowledge and appreciate that.

I also acknowledge the member for Lake Macquarie for his tireless work. As the crossbench in this place has grown, it has been a challenge to accommodate all views. But I put on record The Greens' appreciation and respect for the member for Lake Macquarie for his efforts over many years to improve the standards in this Chamber. The Greens have always been committed to consensus decision-making. It is wonderful to see the numbers so tight in this Chamber that it appears we are all on board with the idea of moving towards a consensus model of decision-making. Dare I add into the mix that maybe we will see similar approaches in our Federal Parliament in a couple of weeks.

Mr GREG PIPER (Lake Macquarie) (12:31): I too wish to acknowledge all the hard work that has gone on in a very collegial manner and the goodwill shown by the Leader of the House, and member for Ku-ring-gai; the member for Heffron, the Manager of Opposition Business; and members of the crossbench, who I have to say generally work together very well. Given the new paradigm in this House—it is no secret that the Government is in minority—I acknowledge that the Government has responded very well to the discussions that we have had.

Mr Speaker, it would be remiss of me not to mention that you have been keen to see a number of reforms to improve the level of debate in this House and to achieve these outcomes. So I acknowledge your role. For a long time you and I have had discussions about it, but it is not always easy to bring aspirations for change to fruition.

Through the paradigm that we have now, we have a good, constructive model of discussion between the Government, the Leader of the House, the Manager of Opposition Business and the members of the crossbench. We have taken a big step forward. However, it should not be assumed that this should be the end of it. If we can do more over time to improve the process, we should do that. The baton of this process should be handed to the next incoming government. The new sessional order should not apply only for this term. Although I am happy for it to be done now by way of sessional order, it should be passed on. This should be a cultural change for this Parliament as much as anything. It is a great opportunity. I thank everybody for their involvement.

Mr RON HOENIG (Heffron) (12:33): In reply: I raise one issue that arises from observations made by the Leader of the House. It relates to proposed clause (9) of Standing Order 131, which states:

- (9) Points of order taken during an answer to a question should not be vexatious, repetitive, interfering or used to make a statement in response to the answer.

I heard what the Leader of the House had to say, but it is abundantly clear to anyone who knows the standing orders that that clause is superfluous because the power to control that sort of conduct vests in the Speaker in any event. In fact, the concern is that in trying to codify it in that sort of clause it is easy to find a way to get around a specific definition and say it does not fit within proposed clause (9).

Even though clause 9 was a proposed addition from the Government, I envisage that it does no more than endorse the Speaker's authority, which has been affected by various rulings from Speakers for quite some time and does not add to or detract from the Speaker's authority to control the proceedings of the House in question time. Again I thank all members for their cooperation. I particularly thank the Leader of the House, who at all times—once the numbers become clear—works in a very productive way to ensure that Opposition and crossbench members achieve their objectives. It is rare for someone in the position of Leader of the House to accept where the numbers lie and then want to make it work. That is the mark of professionalism in which a senior Minister should conduct themselves. It is certainly the way in which an eminent senior counsel should conduct themselves. The Leader of the House has demonstrated all of those qualities.

Motion agreed to.

Business of the House

SUSPENSION OF STANDING AND SESSIONAL ORDERS: STANDING COMMITTEE ON PARLIAMENTARY PRIVILEGE AND ETHICS

Mr ALISTER HENSKENS: I move:

That standing and sessional orders be suspended to permit a motion to be moved forthwith to amend the resolution of the House of 31 March 2022 regarding the referral of an inquiry to the Standing Committee on Parliamentary Privilege and Ethics.

Motion agreed to.

Committees

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PARLIAMENTARY PRIVILEGE AND ETHICS

Extension of Reporting Date

Mr ALISTER HENSKENS (Ku-ring-gai—Minister for Skills and Training, and Minister for Science, Innovation and Technology) (12:36): I move:

That the resolution of the House of 31 March 2022 regarding the referral of an inquiry to the Standing Committee on Parliamentary Privilege and Ethics be amended by omitting the words "that the Standing Committee on Parliamentary Privilege and Ethics report by 12 May 2022" and inserting instead "that the Standing Committee on Parliamentary Privilege and Ethics report by 19 May 2022".

Mr RON HOENIG (Heffron) (12:37): I support the motion proposed by the Leader of the House. I draw to the attention of the House that the timetable has been extremely tight from the time the House made the referral to that committee. The complex, constitutional issue involves getting independent advice from senior counsel. The time it has taken is not wasted time. In fact, members of the committee and the Clerks have been working overtime to try to meet the tight timetable for next week, but we are endeavouring to ensure that a report can be provided within that time frame.

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

Motion agreed to.

*Bills***RACING AND GAMBLING LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2022****Second Reading Debate****Debate resumed from 30 March 2022.**

Ms YASMIN CATLEY (Swansea) (12:38): I lead for the Opposition on the Racing and Gambling Legislation Amendment Bill 2022, which will implement a number of harm-minimisation measures around gambling, along with reforming the Harness Racing Act and the Greyhound Racing Act. I acknowledge the presence of the Minister in the House. I thank the Minister and his staff for engaging with my office on the bill, and for their work in bringing the bill before the House. I now turn to the detail of the bill.

The changes relating to the Betting and Racing Act 1998 will implement the second tranche of the set of 10 standard minimum protections in the National Consumer Protection Framework. Those new protections will help put in place harm minimisation measures to protect gamblers, particularly online gamblers. New section 33H in division 2 will establish regulations around an advisory statement that must be part of any gambling advertisement that is published in print, such as in a newspaper, in a magazine or on a poster, but will also be flexible to allow for that to be extended to other forms of advertisement as prescribed by the regulations. As the Minister said in his second reading speech, the new advisory statements will streamline regulations and provide regulatory consistency on a national basis. That is good policy and has Labor's full support.

I now turn to new section 33JF in division 3, which outlines the new requirements for a licensed betting service provider to give an account holder a monthly betting account statement that details all activity in the past month. That statement cannot contain any betting advertisements or inducements. I note the Minister's comments on the need to protect consumers' privacy, and I am very pleased to see that additional privacy protections on top of those in existing privacy laws are included in the bill. It is critical both government and industry maintain the trust of citizens in protecting their personal data, especially when dealing with a person's banking information.

An important aspect of the bill is to establish the requirement for a licensed betting service provider to ensure that its employees undergo training. That training must be completed within a month after an individual commences employment, and refresher training within a year of the initial training. The Minister will have the power to publish a list of approved courses of responsible gambling training along with a list of approved persons to conduct that training. Under the bill, a licensed betting service provider must keep records of the training received by employees. Failure by an individual or licensed betting service provider to adhere to those training requirements will result in a penalty of 100 penalty units for an individual and 1,000 penalty units for a corporation.

I share the Minister's sentiments that harm minimisation and consumer protection must be at the core of the regulatory landscape. In particular, harm minimisation is very important to the community and I look forward to working further with the Minister on this issue. I take this opportunity to join the Minister in calling on the courts to ensure that breaching any of the requirements laid out in this legislation is not seen simply as a cost of doing business. When dealing with important harm minimisation measures, such as those that are laid out in the bill, it is critical to secure industry buy-in. As such, I have reached out to industry to consult on this legislation. I am pleased to see industry is widely supportive of the bill and is currently engaging with Liquor & Gaming NSW to resolve queries on two minor issues. I ask the Minister to continue those discussions to deliver the best possible result for the broader community.

I now turn to the changes to the Harness Racing Act 2009. The bill will change the process for appointments to Harness Racing NSW to increase ministerial discretion. Harness Racing NSW is responsible for the control, supervision and regulation of harness racing in New South Wales. The industry contributes over \$450 million to the New South Wales economy and supports more than 3,000 jobs across the State. The bill seeks to implement recommendations from the 2015 review into harness racing to improve the industry's governance, integrity and accountability. The bill aligns the appointment process for Harness Racing NSW with the process in the Thoroughbred Racing Act 1996 by requiring the selection panel to consider existing experience and skill, by removing the previous restriction on Harness Racing Industry Consultation Group [HRICG] members being on the selection panel and by allowing the Minister to make an appointment from a list of suitable candidates. It also makes the Harness Racing NSW CEO a non-voting member of Harness Racing NSW.

The bill also strengthens the eligibility and conflict of interest requirements to the Harness Racing NSW board. This is a great integrity measure. It removes the provision allowing Harness Racing NSW board members to be part of decisions where they have an interest, which, as I have said and will say again, increases integrity. Harness Racing NSW requirements of board members are extended to include subcommittees. The bill also gives the Minister the authority to remove Harness Racing NSW board members for having conflicts of interest or a

pecuniary interest. Again, it is similar to the Thoroughbred Racing Act. It prohibits the appointment of candidates who have been employed by a racing club or have been a member of a governing body of a racing club or eligible industry body in the past 12 months. In addition to this, the bill will amend the Harness Racing Act 2009 to introduce objectives along with a corresponding function for Harness Racing NSW to initiate, develop and implement policies relating to the welfare of harness racing horses. It also broadens the definition of racing official to include members of the HRICG.

In addition, it will establish new requirements for Harness Racing NSW to prepare, publish and report on an annual stakeholder engagement plan and publish its annual report for free as well as publishing its staff and board codes of conduct—similar to the requirements under the Greyhound Racing Act 2017. It also will enhance the Harness Racing NSW board selection process and governance arrangements by removing the prohibition on HRICG members being appointed as selection panel members and requiring selection panel members to consider the interests of the industry as a whole when making appointment recommendations to the Minister. As I have said, this will be critically important to improving transparency and integrity of the auditor by requiring the provision of a copy of an investigation report to the racing official under investigation, Harness Racing NSW and the Minister, regardless of the outcome.

In addition to that, annual summaries of investigation outcomes of Harness Racing NSW will be in the annual report. It will also clarify HRICG's membership and introduce administrative and governance arrangements to allow for effective functioning. The bill also seeks to improve transparency of the Integrity Auditor by providing a copy of an investigation report to the racing official under investigation as well as to Harness Racing NSW and the Minister. The bill also makes minor administrative changes to the greyhound Act to provide for the effective regulation of the greyhound racing industry, protect the interest of its stakeholders and promote the welfare of greyhounds. Again, I thank the Minister and his staff for the work that they have done to bring this bill before the House. Labor will be supporting this bill.

Mr TIM JAMES (Willoughby) (12:47): I support the Government's Racing and Gambling Legislation Amendment Bill 2022. Gambling is an activity engaged in and enjoyed responsibly by the majority of consumers across New South Wales. As with other markets, gambling consumers are increasingly turning to online activities, particularly wagering on sports and racing. While most consumers use online wagering services responsibly, some do not. Sadly, problem gambling exists online as it does offline. That warrants the attention and action of policymakers and all people engaged in and around this activity.

It is critical that the right consumer protections be put in place and that consumers be equipped with the right tools to empower them to mitigate the risks and potential harms associated with online wagering. That is why the Government continues to implement the National Consumer Protection Framework for Online Wagering [NCPF]. It is also why we continue to implement the NCPF through legislation—to ensure that all betting service providers are captured by the law, not just those licensed in New South Wales. The NCPF delivers a suite of 10 standardised minimum protections for online wagering, developed by the Commonwealth, State and Territory governments. This Government delivered the first tranche of the agreed NCPF measures in 2019, putting into law restrictions on the most harmful inducements to gamble, such as offering credit to open a betting account or to refer another person to open an account.

New requirements for betting service providers to verify new customers in a timely fashion and to use consistent messaging about the risks and potential harm of gambling in their advertising, direct marketing, websites and other direct communications to customers were introduced. Consumers were empowered through new requirements to simplify the process of closing a betting account and to make it easier for consumers to monitor and manage their gambling by enabling them to set deposit limits before they start gambling. To recognise the seriousness of the Government's commitment to supporting consumers, substantial penalties for individuals and corporations that breached the new requirements were provided. The bill continues the Government's commitment to consumers of online wagering services by delivering a further tranche of pro-consumer reforms under the NCPF.

I now turn to betting activity statements. An important principle agreed when formulating the NCPF was that betting service providers should be required to send consumers meaningful activity statements that allow gamblers to easily track and monitor their online wagering spending and behaviour. The bill introduces new requirements for betting services to provide—each month and free of charge—accurate, up-to-date and easy-to-understand statements on the prior month's wagering transactions. The activity statement requirements are based on custom research developed for the NCPF. Armed with those activity statements, consumers' awareness of their spending, wins and losses will increase, empowering them to act on their gambling spending before any severe problem gambling behaviours emerge. The Government is backing up the seriousness of those new requirements with a substantial offence provision, which is a maximum penalty of \$11,000 for individuals and \$110,000 for corporations.

Turning now to responsible gambling training, another key principle agreed under the NCPF is that staff involved in the provision of online wagering services or with the capacity to influence the wagering service provided should be trained in the responsible service of online wagering. This principle is consistent with existing training requirements elsewhere in New South Wales liquor and gaming legislation, including the responsible service of gambling for electronic gaming machines and the responsible service of alcohol. Importantly, it is not a tick-the-box exercise required for the most junior staff and those manning call centres. All employees, from the board and the CEO down, will be required to undertake meaningful training on responsible gambling so that there is a culture of responsible gambling within online betting service providers.

Those persons must receive training within one month of commencing with the betting service provider and must receive refresher training every 12 months thereafter. Betting service providers will be required to keep records showing details of the responsible gambling training received in the prescribed manner and must hold those records for no less than seven years. As with the new requirements for betting accounts, substantial offence provisions for breaches of responsible gambling training requirements will be met with a maximum penalty of \$11,000 for individuals and \$110,000 for corporations. I am proud of the Government's continued record of supporting consumers in this important area, as well as engaging operators and industry. I recognise the support of stakeholders, including Responsible Wagering Australia, and I thank industry for its engagement and support. I am pleased to commend the bill to the House.

Ms JULIA FINN (Granville) (12:53): The Racing and Gambling Legislation Amendment Bill 2022 makes a number of commendable amendments to the Betting and Racing Act 1998, the Harness Racing Act 2009 and the Greyhound Racing Act 2017 to facilitate harm minimisation for gambling, improved integrity measures in harness racing, and improved animal welfare measures across harness racing and greyhound racing. The bill amends the Betting and Racing Act to implement several harm minimisation measures to mitigate the effects of problem gambling and make sure there is early intervention to prevent people getting to the stage of having gambling addictions.

The measures are part of the second tranche of the National Consumer Protection Framework. They include mandatory training for all staff, a nationally consistent gambling message for use in advertising, a requirement for activity statements, and significantly increased penalties for breaches. The proposed amendment to section 33H (4) prescribes that an advisory statement must be part of any gambling advertisement published in print or any form prescribed under the regulations. In recent years we have all seen the proliferation of gambling advertising and the frequently changing messages to work around government regulation and the encourage extraordinary amounts of expenditure, particularly on online gambling. It is really important that governments stay on top of this. It is a rapidly evolving market that needs careful regulation to protect the most vulnerable in our community.

It is also a market that grew enormously during COVID as people were at home and started using their phones to gamble more and more. The proposed changes in the bill will require a betting service provider to give every account holder an activity statement of every transaction that occurred on their account in the previous month. It will not just be a statement of overall performance over the month; it will set out all the wins and losses. It will allow people to make early and informed decisions about their gambling behaviour and to keep an eye on things to make sure they are not getting out of hand. So often people think their next win is just one bet away. These changes will allow people to better understand how they are performing and the impact that their gambling activity is having on their finances. As people are really feeling the pinch with interest rate rises and the highest inflation in a long time, the bill will help people to control their expenditure on gambling. It will help them make sure that they have money available for the things they need rather than for what is an enjoyable hobby for most but can also be extremely problematic.

The bill requires all employees of gambling-based companies to undergo training within a month of commencing employment and refresher training every year. The approved courses will be published in the *Government Gazette*, and the gambling providers will be required to keep records of the training that every staff member has undertaken. All these things will serve to reduce the impact that problem gambling has on our community, and make sure that gambling remains an enjoyable pastime and not a problem for the vast majority of participants. The bill makes changes to the Harness Racing Act to seek to implement the recommendations of a 2015 review to improve the harness racing industry's governance, integrity and accountability as well as implement the results of additional consultation undertaken with the industry in 2021 prior to the introduction of the bill.

Harness racing contributes over \$450 million to the New South Wales economy and supports 3,500 jobs right across the State. It is a sport that has been enjoyed across New South Wales for well over a century and is hugely popular, particularly in regional areas. The bill aligns the operation of harness racing with thoroughbred racing in a number of ways, including by establishing a new harness racing appeal panel framework, similar to

that in place for thoroughbred racing, to provide an interim appeal process and allow for more efficient and cost-effective hearing of appeals. It also allows the Minister to make an appointment to Harness Racing NSW from a list of candidates recommended by a selection panel, with consideration of their current skills and experience mix.

In addition, the bill amends the Harness Racing Act to introduce animal welfare objectives to promote and protect the welfare of standardbred horses, along with corresponding functions for Harness Racing NSW to develop policies and procedures relating to the welfare of harness racing horses. The bill seeks to broaden the definition of "racing official" to include members of the Harness Racing Industry Consultation Group [HRICG]. It also establishes new requirements for Harness Racing NSW to prepare and publish its annual report on stakeholder engagement and publish its codes of conduct, similar to those requirements that currently apply under the Greyhound Racing Act.

The bill will enhance the board's selection process and governance arrangements by removing the prohibition on HRICG members being appointed as selection panel members, by requiring selection panel members to consider the interest of the industry as a whole when making appointments, by prohibiting the appointment of board candidates who have pecuniary interests likely to result in conflict or who have been employed by racing clubs or been members of governing bodies in the past 12 months, and by extending the conflict of interest requirements to all subcommittees. The bill will improve the transparency of the integrity auditor. It will clarify the membership of the HRICG and introduce a whole range of improvements to make it function more effectively.

Schedule 2 to the bill implements some recommendations of the 2021 statutory review of the Greyhound Racing Act 2017. The implementation will provide for the efficient and effective regulation of the industry, protect the industry and its stakeholders, and facilitate the development and operation of a sustainable and viable industry, while also protecting and promoting the welfare of greyhounds. Those things are all very important, particularly animal welfare, which is a concern of a number of people. There is a social licence to operate races of standardbred horses, as well as thoroughbreds and greyhounds, given that many of those races take place on Crown land or public land, and that there is a lot of money invested and wagered in those industries. The social licence to operate is important to maintain.

It is important to recognise that animal welfare is much broader than the racing industry. When I was the shadow Minister, issues were raised with me on a number of occasions and I took a strong interest in this area. There are many instances of horses being sent to doggers and to abattoirs in other States. Horses cannot be sent to abattoirs in New South Wales. The overwhelming majority of those horses are not racers. The ones that are racers form a tiny percentage, and the harness racing and thoroughbred racing industries in New South Wales try to eliminate that as far as they can. To maintain the social licence to operate it is important that they do so. I thank the Minister for bringing these important reforms before us. They are supported and will assist with the minimisation of harm from gambling and with the integrity of harness racing and the improvement of animal welfare across harness racing and greyhound racing.

Mr GEOFF PROVEST (Tweed) (13:02): I speak in support of the Racing and Gambling Legislation Amendment Bill 2022, which will produce better outcomes for the New South Wales racing industry. The statutory reviews into the Harness Racing Act 2009 and the Greyhound Racing Act 2017 identified two key priorities for the racing industry: strengthening governance, integrity and consultation frameworks, and supporting animal welfare outcomes. That is very important. Members on both sides of the House have deep concerns about animal welfare. We have all seen some horrific reports in the media and have been contacted by many in our local areas about the welfare of animals. I must admit that a minority is doing despicable acts.

We have acted on those priorities. Following those statutory reviews, the Government moved to undertake a range of recommended changes that could be implemented without legislative amendment. I am pleased to note that the first tranche of reforms to the greyhound racing industry commenced with the Greyhound Welfare and Integrity Commission implementing its new online registration scheme from 1 July 2021. Those reforms include a new Registration Assessment Program, which introduced minimal standards for participant roles as a requirement for registration and requires completion of an online registration knowledge test to confirm that participants have the basic knowledge to perform the roles and understand their obligations as registered participants.

The statutory review report of the Act, tabled in Parliament in April 2021, made several recommendations about amending the Greyhound Racing NSW operating licence. It allows the Government to set high order requirements and conditions for the industry's operation, balanced against the status of Greyhound Racing NSW as a statutory body controlled by a board of directors with autonomy to meet its commercial imperatives and manage its daily operations. On 17 December 2021 the New South Wales Government enacted amendments to the operating licence to implement recommendations from the statutory review, provide new funding

arrangements for the commission, formalise arrangements for the Greyhound Racing Capital Grants Program, require commission consultation on projects and set out oversight arrangements for the expenditure of the Greyhound Industry Future Fund.

The bill represents the next step in the Government's commitment to enhancing integrity frameworks and maintaining the highest animal welfare standards in Australia. It comes at an important time—almost five years to the day since the release of the Greyhound Industry Reform Panel recommendations in 2017. The reforms in the bill include a raft of practical amendments to the Harness Racing Act and Greyhound Racing Act, as well as consequential amendments to the Racing Appeals Tribunal Act 1983 to improve governance frameworks and highlight the overarching policy objectives. Informed by the statutory reviews into the harness and greyhound racing Acts, the bill introduces consistent policy objectives for each Act to clarify the legislation's underlying purpose and provides clear accountability standards. A new animal welfare objective reinforces that the legislative intent of the Harness Racing Act includes the promotion and protection of the welfare of standardbred horses.

The bill also broadens the definition of a greyhound in the Greyhound Racing Act to ensure that participants remain liable for disciplinary action in respect of any retired greyhounds they may own or keep, thereby providing better animal welfare outcomes across the whole of a greyhound's life. That reform was suggested by the commission and is consistent with the 2017 recommendations of the Greyhound Industry Reform Panel. It also supports this Government's commitment to uphold the highest greyhound welfare standards in Australia. The bill also reforms the appointment process for Harness Racing NSW board members in two significant ways. First, the selection panel appointed to make recommendations to the Minister about suitable candidates to join the Harness Racing NSW board has been modernised to reflect best practice governance. The selection panel will now be able to include members of the Harness Racing Industry Consultation Group [HRICG], and members will be required to consider the industry as whole rather than the industry body they represent when making decisions.

Secondly, the bill reforms the appointment of Harness Racing NSW board members by prohibiting candidates who hold incompatible pecuniary interests or who have been employed by a racing club or a member of a governing body of a racing club or eligible industry body in the past 12 months. In addition, the bill strengthens provisions for panel members to consider relevant fields in the professional background of candidates before nominating them on the recommended list for the Minister's consideration. The bill also includes amendments to allow flexibility for HRICG membership by reframing the eligibility for both clubs with less than, and those with more than, six annual race meetings. The bill also provides greater administrative flexibility to allow for business to be conducted offline outside of official meetings and to ensure that the HRICG can function remotely, especially in light of the post-COVID-19 world. Those amendments allow interested parties to receive key information about investigations and provide the community with greater insight into the outcomes of integrity auditor matters.

The bill establishes a new harness racing appeals panel framework, which is similar to that in place for thoroughbred racing. That provides harness racing industry participants with an interim appeal process and allows for appeals to be heard in a more efficient and cost-effective manner. By introducing a harness racing appeals panel, for the first time there will be consistency in the approach to appeals across all three New South Wales racing codes. For those reasons, I thoroughly hope the bill improves the governance frameworks and ensures that the focus of animal welfare in the racing industry remains at the forefront in New South Wales. I commend the bill to the House.

Mr KEVIN ANDERSON (Tamworth—Minister for Lands and Water, and Minister for Hospitality and Racing) (13:09): In reply: I acknowledge and thank the member for Swansea, my shadow, for her considered reply and remarks on the bill, as well as the member for Granville, the member for Tweed and the member for Willoughby. I sincerely appreciate their contributions. As previously stated, through this bill the Government continues its support for gambling harm minimisation and a competitive, sustainable racing industry in New South Wales by enhancing consumer protections for online wagering; strengthening governance, integrity and consultation frameworks for the New South Wales harness racing industry; establishing a new avenue of appeal for harness racing participants; and providing legislative clarity to the controlling bodies for harness and greyhound racing to guide decision-makers and those exercising legislative functions.

I also thank the member for Swansea and the Hon. Courtney Houssos for engaging positively on the bill, and I note the member for Swansea's comments about privacy. I agree that any breach should be pursued to the full extent of the law. I will now respond briefly to other points made by honourable members. The amendment of the Betting and Racing Act by schedule 1 to the bill delivers a further tranche of pro-consumer reforms under the National Consumer Protection Framework for Online Wagering. In doing so, the bill continues the Government's commitment to consumers of online wagering services by strengthening protections to reduce negative outcomes for individuals who participate in online wagering and ensuring that all betting service providers are captured by the law, not just those licensed in New South Wales.

Changes to the Harness Racing Act introduced by schedule 3 will strengthen the harness racing industry's governance, integrity and accountability arrangements. The bill broadens the definition of "racing official" to include members of the Harness Racing Industry Consultation Group [HRICG], which is responsible for consulting with, and making recommendations to, Harness Racing NSW on harness racing matters. Including HRICG members as racing officials in the Harness Racing Act will bring them under the jurisdiction of the Harness Racing Integrity Auditor, providing an additional level of accountability. This change was recommended during consultation.

Schedule 3 also strengthens the eligibility and conflict of interest requirements for Harness Racing NSW board members. Currently, the Harness Racing Act provides Harness Racing NSW with the ability to determine whether a member who has disclosed an interest may take part in a deliberation or decision-making process. The bill removes this discretion, meaning that should a member disclose an interest, they are automatically prohibited from being involved in deliberations regarding that matter. The bill also extends conflict-of-interest requirements for the board. The bill also allows the Minister to remove board members for having or failing to disclose conflicts of interest.

The reforms in the bill respond to statutory reviews of racing legislation and consultation with industry stakeholders, and are part of national commitments to address harms from online gambling. I am confident that the bill implements positive changes to the regulation and governance of the wagering and racing industries for the benefit of participants and punters alike. I commend the bill to the House.

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

Motion agreed to.

Third Reading

Mr KEVIN ANDERSON: I move:

That this bill be now read a third time.

Motion agreed to.

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

Announcements

CHAMBER COVID-SAFE ARRANGEMENTS

The SPEAKER: It is great to see everyone back in the Chamber. If members would like to sit on the benches at the front or in the Speaker's Gallery to maintain distancing it is open for them to do so. It is no longer compulsory to wear masks in the Chamber, but those members who wish to do so should feel very comfortable in making that choice.

Members

MEMBER FOR KEIRA

The SPEAKER: The member for Keira celebrated his birthday yesterday. I belatedly wish him a happy birthday.

Sessional Orders

STANDING ORDER 131

The SPEAKER (14:17): As members would be aware, earlier today the House agreed to a new set of sessional orders regarding the operation of question time. In summary, the changes brought about by the sessional orders are that the maximum time for an answer to a question has been reduced from five minutes to three minutes; no question shall be asked after 60 minutes or the answering of 16 questions, whichever is the longer; and answers must now be directly relevant, rather than simply relevant, to the question asked.

I wish to make some observations regarding the new requirement that answers to questions must be directly relevant. Adjudication on the application of the relevance rule in question time is one of the most challenging duties of a Chair. Answers have always been required to bear upon or be connected or pertinent to the subject or part or parts of the question asked. With the new sessional order, answers are now required to go straight to the subject, in full or in part, in a direct manner. The adoption of this sessional order is a clear indication that the House desires fewer instances of answers straying into unrelated matters. I note that the reduction in the time for an answer might also assist in that regard.

The Legislative Assembly is by no means the first House to go down the path of requiring answers to be directly relevant. In particular, I reflect on the experience of the House of Representatives, which inserted the requirement for direct relevance in 2010, and our colleagues in the Legislative Council who adopted the same requirement more recently in 2019. *House of Representatives Practice (Seventh edition)* notes that the requirement for direct relevance afforded the Speaker "greater authority in what has long been a difficult area". The Speaker can require answers to be less wideranging and has more scope to direct Ministers to return to the subject of the question, and even to direct them to conclude their answers or resume their seat when their answers are not relevant. *House of Representatives Practice* further notes:

Even though a question may invite a 'yes or no' type of answer, Members cannot demand that an answer be in such terms. Further ... where a question has a preamble or a quotation of some breadth or length, it is not reasonable for a Member to conclude with a short sharp question and to then claim that the answer should be limited to the contents of the conclusion.

Instructive rulings from the House of Representatives include drawing the distinction between "directly relevant" and a "direct answer". While a member may couch a question with the expectation of a direct answer, a Minister may remain directly relevant without necessarily providing the direct answer sought. Similarly, the Speaker of the House of Representatives has ruled that just because members may mention something in their question, Ministers are not required to mention those words in their answer.

I also refer to the considered ruling given by the President of the Legislative Council in 2019. Among other things, it noted that "a specific question requires a specific answer, while a very broad question, or a question framed in terms of political pointscoring, does not require a more specific answer". Similarly, I note that the following longstanding conventions will continue to apply in this Chamber. It is not for the Chair to direct how a Minister should answer a question nor to direct what part of the question the Minister should answer. In answering a question a brief preamble is allowed, albeit even briefer now due to the shorter time available. The specific question should always be the focus of the Minister's answer. A Minister should not add material to their answers that is not directly relevant—although, as I said, I will allow a little bit of leeway, particularly in a shorter preamble—which will mean that some answers given previously would not meet the requirement of the new sessional order.

It may take some time for the House to become accustomed to this new practice. While I expect all members will assist in maintaining order in the House by giving due consideration to the content of questions posed and answers given, I also anticipate that there will be some points of order taken. I remind members that the new sessional orders require that points of order taken during an answer "should not be vexatious, repetitive, interfering or used to make a statement in response to the answer". I will be applying that sessional order to address what I see as spurious or disruptive points of order. I urge members to honour the spirit of these changes to question time and to make this an effective reform for the Legislative Assembly.

Finally, I will ask members on both sides to provide me with a hard copy, if possible, of their questions to assist me in making rulings, including on direct relevance. A member may provide the hard copy to me in the Chamber if they have confidentiality concerns. I will not be asking for hard copies of questions today. To be clear, if an indicative question is provided in the spirit of goodwill then it is in no way binding and the member can obviously make changes to it. Having a hard copy simply alleviates the need for me to take notes of questions as we go. I hope that provides some guidance.

Bills

ROADS AND CRIMES LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2022

GREATER CITIES COMMISSION BILL 2022

GREATER SYDNEY PARKLANDS TRUST BILL 2021

TATTOO PARLOURS AMENDMENT (STATUTORY REVIEW) BILL 2021

MOTOR SPORTS BILL 2022

MAJOR EVENTS AMENDMENT BILL 2022

HOME BUILDING AMENDMENT (MEDICAL GAS LICENSING) BILL 2022

PUBLIC INTEREST DISCLOSURES BILL 2021

CONSTITUTION AMENDMENT (VIRTUAL ATTENDANCE) BILL 2021

Assent

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

*Members***LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL VACANCY**

The SPEAKER: I report receipt of a message from Her Excellency the Governor convening a joint sitting of the members of the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly on Thursday 12 May 2022 at 10.30 a.m. for the purposes of the election of a person to fill the seat in the Legislative Council vacated by Mr David Shoebridge. I direct that the joint sitting with the Legislative Council for the election of a member of the Legislative Council be set down as an order of the day for 10.30 a.m. on Thursday 12 May 2022, as appointed in Her Excellency's message dated 4 May 2022.

There is too much audible conversation in the Chamber. Members will come to order.

*Question Time***PUBLIC SECTOR WAGES**

Mr CHRIS MINNS (Kogarah) (14:27): My question is directed to the Premier. Pat is a school cleaner from Tamworth, who worked full time during the pandemic. Despite working in the same job as a school cleaner for more than 10 years, this year Pat will earn less than \$50,000. At the same time this year the Premier chose to hand out \$750,000 of taxpayer money to 32 Government MPs, who received up to \$85,000 on top of their existing salaries. Why is it one rule for members of the Government and another rule for everybody else?

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET (Epping—Premier) (14:28): I thank the Leader of the Opposition for his question and I thank the Speaker for the changes he has outlined to the Chamber about being directly relevant. That will obviously have no impact on my answers because I have always prided myself in 11 years in this place on being directly relevant to every answer that I have given, following world best practice when it comes to parliamentary procedure. When it comes to a pay increase, we know who has had the biggest pay increase in the Parliament, and that is the Leader of the Opposition—\$140,000 for stabbing Jodi in the back, \$140,000 right there.

Mr Ron Hoenig: Point of order—

The SPEAKER: The Premier will resume his seat.

Mr Ron Hoenig: Stabbing Scott Morrison in the back, isn't it?

Mr Matt Kean: At least you did it in the front, Ron.

Mr Ron Hoenig: You are sneaking behind a lot of people, Matty.

The SPEAKER: There is no point of order. The member for Heffron will resume his seat.

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: Great ruling. See, it is already working. When it comes to public sector wages, what do we know in our State? At 2½ per cent over the past 10 years, in the main that has been higher than inflation. The wages have been higher than those in any other State and Territory and in line with the Labor Government in Queensland. We have the Victorian Government at 1½ per cent. Here at 2½ per cent, we have seen public sector wages grow in real terms at 5.4 per cent compared with the private sector at 4 per cent. Labor members are always out there campaigning and supporting the protests on Macquarie Street. When it comes to nurse-to-patient ratios, we have made our position very clear. It may be unpopular but it is the right course of action and the right decision to make. Labor members say one thing to their union bosses, one thing to the public servants, and completely the opposite when they are in committees, when they are behind closed doors, saying all things to all people—all protest, no position. That is the fundamental difference between us and them. It goes to a lack of integrity and a lack of strength of character. That is the difference between the Liberal-Nationals and the Labor Party.

EDUCATION

Ms ROBYN PRESTON (Hawkesbury) (14:31): My question is addressed to the Premier. Will the Premier update the House on how the Government is securing a brighter future for New South Wales schoolkids? Are there any threats?

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET (Epping—Premier) (14:31): It is a great question—the best question of the day—from the member for Hawkesbury.

Mr Ryan Park: You wrote it. Do you know it is supposed to be funny?

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: I did; that is why it is the best question of the day. She knows as well as I do that she is a great representative of the Hawkesbury region. I announced; she is delivering. The first selective school for Hawkesbury was announced by the former member and has been delivered by the current one. I think

year 7 and year 8 have commenced. In the Liberal-Nationals' term of office there has been an educational revolution in our State. We have opened 176 new and upgraded schools right across the State.

Ms Sophie Cotsis: Where are you in the OECD?

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: The member for Canterbury knows all too well. She is looking forward to the opening of John Howard Hall. Was that Canterbury High? She loves it. There John Howard will be in infamy, right smack bang with all those young kids coming through knowing the greatest Prime Minister of all time, supported by the member for Canterbury. You should have seen her eyes light up when he was at the school on that day. She loved it. There she was. She loves the hall. It was her idea; I was not going to do it. It was her idea.

There will be another 215 new and upgraded schools over the next four years with a capital budget in this financial year of \$3.2 billion. Compared with Labor, that is a 262 per cent increase. With a current budget of \$18.3 billion, that is 67.3 per cent up from Labor's last budget. The member for Ryde was away at the time and missed out on being with me and the education Minister at Meadowbank—a great investment in the electorate of Ryde and the electorate of Bennelong federally. We brought together new schools, including a primary school. We met Isabella, Max, Casey and Kearin, the school leaders of that State-of-the-art school at Meadowbank. It is not just a primary school but also a secondary school combined with TAFE, so it is an end-to-end education precinct in Meadowbank. Then to Parramatta—where is Geoff Lee? He knows all too well. Parramatta is a great case study. [*Extension of time*]

Parramatta is a great case study because Labor closed schools there, whereas the Government has opened Parramatta Public School and Arthur Phillip High School. The children in primary school have moved three times, which is slightly inconvenient, but they are now in a state-of-the-art facility. That is the difference between the Coalition and Labor. They mean to do well, but they closed 90 schools, while we have delivered 176. They had a secret plan to close another 100 schools because they do not manage money well. We know what happened under Labor. They represent union bosses; the Coalition represents the people of our State. We will stand with them every step of the way.

Ms Prue Car: You know that people send their children to school, right?

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: Okay, member for Londonderry. How good is Jordan Springs going to be? It is fantastic. The concrete has been poured.

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

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: Construction on the school in Jordan Springs started in term 2 of this year, and it is going to open next year.

Ms Prue Car: It is term 2 now.

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

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: It is going to be opened by the next member for Londonderry, and we have a world-class candidate. The member for Londonderry should be worried. Our candidate has already told me how excited they are going to be next year, rocking in on day one—

[*An Opposition member interjected.*]

It is not me. World-class, but not me. It will be a big swing, though. Under the education Minister, Sarah Mitchell, the Coalition is delivering more schools than ever before in our State's history. That is the Liberal-Nationals way.

PUBLIC SECTOR WAGES

Ms PRUE CAR (Londonderry) (14:36): My question is directed to the Premier. Joan Catlin from Queanbeyan earns \$49,000 a year cleaning Queanbeyan hospital. By comparison, last year the Government hired almost 350 additional public sector senior executives into jobs paying on average \$256,000 a year, at a cost to taxpayers of an extra \$89 million per year. Why is the Liberal Party prioritising higher wages for executives instead of supporting the wages of essential frontline workers?

The SPEAKER: I call the member for Rockdale to order for the first time. The question has been asked, and I expect silence when the Premier begins his answer. The Premier has the call.

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET (Epping—Premier) (14:37): What was your pay rise for stabbing Jodi in the back and for stabbing the member for Summer Hill in the back when she did not get the deputy leadership? I can tell you it was \$56,000. The member for Londonderry comes into the Chamber talking about public sector

wages, but there has been no pay rise like the Leader of the Opposition or the member for Londonderry got. They schemed away and undermined their leader to line their own pockets. As I said, public sector wages have increased over a 10-year period at a greater rate than inflation and private sector wages. As we have come through the pandemic, all States and the Commonwealth Government have invested more and put a significant focus on getting every person the best health care during the pandemic, keeping people in jobs and keeping businesses open.

The New South Wales Government has invested \$46 billion in pandemic measures to do just that. We put our people before the budget to get every single person through. I was at Engadine the other day visiting small businesses. I met Manuel at the drycleaners, who told me that if not for the financial support that the Government provided the State his business would have closed. Having said that, there will be challenges as we move through this period of time. We are encroaching on a higher inflationary period over the next two years, and that comes with challenges. The Government was able to put the people of our State in a strong position to deal with the challenges that come our way.

The Government has said that it will address wage policy in the budget and do so in a fair and reasonable way. We know that the taxes in our State are paid for by the people. It is not our money; it is our people's money. We have managed that incredibly well, and we want every single person to get through this difficult time, like we have delivered over the past two years particularly. The best thing we can do to get people through is to get them into work, which is what we have done. We currently have the lowest unemployment rate, at 3.9 per cent. During the pandemic 300,000 jobs were lost, and every single one of those people is now back in work. That is the difference between the Coalition and Labor. Those opposite are all talk, with no delivery.

REGIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Mr GURMESH SINGH (Coffs Harbour) (14:40): My question is addressed to the Deputy Premier. Will the Deputy Premier update the House on how the Government is building infrastructure to support growth in regional New South Wales?

Mr PAUL TOOLE (Bathurst—Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional New South Wales, and Minister for Police) (14:40): I thank the member for Coffs Harbour for his question. He has a strong interest in regional and rural New South Wales. He understands the investment that the Government is making and the projects that are changing the lives of people in regional New South Wales. I also thank him for his advocacy in both his local area and the Northern Rivers area. I welcome everyone back to Parliament. The past five weeks have been productive for many of us in this place. I have had the opportunity to travel across regional and rural New South Wales, to work with local MPs and members of the Legislative Council and to see some of the incredible investment that has been made in regional and rural New South Wales. Those projects are occurring because of the investment that is being made by the Liberal-Nationals Government, and I have seen the difference that it is making to regional communities. The Government is rebuilding those communities so that they become attractive places for investment well into the future.

I have a few examples, one of which is the Griffith Base Hospital redevelopment. I was there with the Minister for Regional Health, the Hon. Bronnie Taylor, and we turned the first sod on the reconstruction. This \$250 million investment will ensure that world-class facilities are maintained for the people of the Riverina. There is also our investment in Broken Hill. When the Minister for Agriculture and I were there we announced \$5.5 million for the Royal Flying Doctor Service of Australia to redevelop the visitor centre and create an interactive outback heritage visitor experience. It will attract tourists to the area and provide a much-needed boost to the local economy. That is good for the locals, but it is also important for driving the visitor economy in and around that area. It is not always the large grants that make the biggest difference; sometimes it is the smaller grants that have a huge impact in local areas. I recently went to the Pacific Palms Surf Life Saving Club and announced \$140,000 for a dedicated storage room to house vital equipment within that area, which means there will be quicker response times and more support for the hardworking volunteers in that community. [*Extension of time*]

This investment in infrastructure clearly shows that there is a boom in regional New South Wales at the moment. People are seeing what is happening and wanting to move to the regions more than ever. They want to be a part of that. I invite everyone in this place to visit regional New South Wales and see the investment that is happening in the west of the State. I am sure that those opposite may be interested in those investments that are happening west of the range. Our policy on regional investment is very clear. But I ask the Leader of the Opposition where he stands in relation to this. Does he actually care about the bush? He has had six weeks to spend away from this place. How many times did he go west of the range? Did he go 10 times? No. Did he go five times? No.

Mr Ron Hoenig: Point of order—

Mr PAUL TOOLE: He actually went zero times. He did not go once.

Mr Ron Hoenig: My point of order is taken under Standing Order 129. Wherever the Leader of the Opposition went, it is not consistent with being directly relevant to the question. The Deputy Premier was asked about matters relating to regional New South Wales, not the movement of the Leader of the Opposition.

The SPEAKER: I ask the Deputy Premier to return to the leave of the question.

Mr PAUL TOOLE: If I take the Newell Highway, for example, we have announced the successful tenderer in that area. There are five new overtaking lanes, more than 27 kilometres of road between Narrabri and Moree. There is also our work at the Broken Hill hospital. We recently announced an upgrade to the Broken Hill Health Service emergency department. There is an acute mental health inpatient unit.

Mr Ryan Park: Did you go to Bourke?

Mr PAUL TOOLE: I did go to Bourke. But the Leader of the Opposition goes to Melbourne rather than Bourke, Moree or Mudgee. It is alright for the member for Keira to call out, but his leader is more concerned about Melbourne than about regional New South Wales.

PUBLIC SECTOR WAGES

Ms JO HAYLEN (Summer Hill) (14:45): My question is directed to the Deputy Premier. Does the Deputy Premier agree with the Hon. Wes Fang's comments? For those members who have not heard of him, He is an MLC who earns over \$169,000 plus \$85,000 a year in additional pay. He told a bus driver who earns \$57,000 a year that if they do not like their working conditions or pay "they could find another role"?

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

Mr PAUL TOOLE (Bathurst—Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional New South Wales, and Minister for Police) (14:46): First of all, I acknowledge our frontline workers across the State. I acknowledge all of those who have done an amazing job over the past two and a bit years—our police, our nurses, our teachers, our freight operators and our bus operators as well. Over this particular time they have taken extraordinary measures to ensure that we keep our communities safe. During the difficult times that we have faced and the challenges that we have had to deal with over the past couple of years, they have always been there to ensure that we came out of it safely. As the Leader of The Nationals and Deputy Premier, I acknowledge the incredible work that all of those sectors have done in this State.

Today I was quite amazed to find out that the Leader of the Opposition got a \$142,000 pay increase. That is the first time I realised that. One thing has really come out over the past couple of weeks. The Opposition members ask a question and say they stand up for nurses and teachers, but what we have actually found out is their hypocrisy. We find that they will stand out in the rain and protest, they will stand next to our nurses and say they will support them with pay increases and nurse-to-patient ratios. But we have found out that the Leader of the Opposition cannot be trusted because he has clearly turned his back on our nurses. He does not actually say what he is going to do for nurses. He does not actually say what he is going to do for teachers.

Mr Ron Hoenig: Point of order—

Mr PAUL TOOLE: He does not actually say what he is going to do for freight workers or bus operators. It is all hot air.

The SPEAKER: The Deputy Premier will resume his seat.

Mr Ron Hoenig: My point of order is taken under Standing Order 129. The Deputy Premier was asked specifically whether he agreed with the comments made by the Hon. Wes Fang in the other place but he has not even gone near that comment. He wants to talk about a whole range of things that would struggle even to be generally relevant under the old rules.

The SPEAKER: Under the old rules, the Deputy Premier would have been generally relevant. But under the new rules, I ask him to come to the question more directly.

Mr PAUL TOOLE: I say what I indicated earlier. I do not think there is a member in this place who does not respect and value the work of our frontline workers across the State. I tell members what we on this side of the House will do: We will continue to serve the people of New South Wales. We will not continue to whinge and complain like members opposite. Talk about hot air balloons! A hot air balloon is part of the picture at the moment. But I tell you what, we will serve the people of this State and we will continue to support them right across New South Wales.

STATE ECONOMY

Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore) (14:49): My question is addressed to the Treasurer. Will the Treasurer update the House on how the Coalition Government's strong economic policies are securing a brighter future for families in New South Wales?

Mr MATT KEAN (Hornsby—Treasurer, and Minister for Energy) (14:49): I thank the member for North Shore for her question.

The SPEAKER: The Clerk will stop the clock.

Mr MATT KEAN: I have just started. I am being relevant.

The SPEAKER: You are. As I did for the Premier, I say again that I expect members to be silent at the start of an answer. I call the member for Campbelltown to order for the first time.

Mr MATT KEAN: I was extolling the virtues of the outstanding member for North Shore. She is passionate about families and passionate about building a stronger and more prosperous economy for everyone in this State. Notwithstanding the fact that we have gone through the worst pandemic in over a century, the New South Wales economy is booming. We are near on having the lowest unemployment rate in the State's history, at 3.9 per cent. We have created more new jobs. There are more new jobs now than there were before the pandemic, again because of the strong economic management of the Coalition Government. Today's NAB business survey shows that business conditions rose at a rate well above the decade's average.

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

Mr MATT KEAN: Again, that is because of the Liberal-Nationals Government's strong economic management. This Government is not just delivering for today; we are also building a stronger economy for tomorrow.

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

Mr MATT KEAN: That is why we have a \$110 billion infrastructure program to build the schools, hospitals, roads and rail networks that are transforming this State. We all know that the best way to give our kids the best chance at life is to ensure that they get a quality education. That is why we are building new schools. We know that the best way to support families is by making sure people do not have to spend more time on the roads but can spend more time with their families. That is why we are building infrastructure like NorthConnex and WestConnex, so that people can get around Sydney far quicker and far better than they previously could. We are building hospitals and rail networks to transform this State for the better. It is because we care about running a strong economy today and we also care about ensuring that we have a strong economy into the future. We have an economic plan. We have a plan to build a strong economy, which is in stark contrast to the Leader of the Opposition's economic policy. The only economic policy he has is to have the year of the strike.

Mr Ron Hoenig: Point of order: My point of order is taken under Standing Order 129. The Treasurer was asked specifically about the Government's economic policy, not about an alternative arrangement or anything that the Leader of the Opposition might have said. The Treasurer should answer the question.

The SPEAKER: I rule that the Treasurer has been directly relevant for 2½ minutes. I permit a slight comparison. That is fine.

Mr MATT KEAN: I am talking about economic policy, and I am talking about the Leader of the Opposition's economic policy, which is to have the year of the strike—to shut down the economy and to ensure that families cannot send their kids to school.

Ms Felicity Wilson: Mr Speaker—

The SPEAKER: The member for North Shore rises under Standing Order 131. I will grant an extension of time. Before those additional two minutes start, I make it clear that the Treasurer was talking directly about the Government's performance for 2½ minutes. He did not commence with a preamble. Consistent with what I said earlier, I am happy to have a slight preamble or digression as long as it is not too long.

Mr MATT KEAN: I am contrasting the Government's economic policy with the economic policy of the Leader of the Opposition, which is to have the year of the strike. He is sitting in his puffer jacket with the union bosses in their bomber jackets.

Mr Ron Hoenig: Point of order—

Mr MATT KEAN: He is out there shutting down schools, shutting down our trains and making sure it is harder for families to get around Sydney.

The SPEAKER: The Treasurer will resume his seat.

Mr Ron Hoenig: If the member wanted the Treasurer's opinion of the Opposition's economic policy then the member could have asked the Treasurer that question. First, that is not the question that was asked.

The SPEAKER: The Clerk will stop the clock.

Mr Ron Hoenig: Secondly, Mr Speaker, when you gave leave for an additional two minutes, you did so under the expectation that the Treasurer would be talking about the Government's economic policy and not the Opposition's. I ask you to require him to be directly relevant to the question asked.

Mr Alister Henskens: To the point of order: The member for Heffron started that point of order by directly attacking the answer that was being given, as a statement in response to the answer, which is directly not allowed under the new standing orders.

The SPEAKER: I will rule on both parts of the point of order. On the first part, I ask the Treasurer to return more directly to the question. I have extended a degree of latitude and it has been exhausted. I uphold the second part of the point of order. To be clear, points of order need to be taken more directly in future. I have upheld the point of order, but the member for Heffron took it in slightly the wrong way.

Mr Dominic Perrottet: Point of order: How can a point of order against the Treasurer that is itself out of order have effect?

The SPEAKER: Parts of the point of order were out of order; parts were not. The Treasurer will continue.

Mr MATT KEAN: I am talking about economic policy, and I want the Leader of the Opposition to know that one does not grow the economy by shutting it down. I want the Leader of the Opposition to know that economic policy that shuts down our schools does not help the long-term productivity of the State.

Mr Ron Hoenig: Point of order—

Mr MATT KEAN: I want the Leader of the Opposition to know that it is not productive to shut down our train lines across New South Wales so that people cannot get to work and earn a fair day's wage.

The SPEAKER: The Treasurer will resume his seat.

Mr Ron Hoenig: First, the Treasurer is continuing to flout your ruling, Mr Speaker. The other issue I bring to your attention is that it is not for the Premier to dissent from rulings that you make. He should be better than that.

The SPEAKER: We will move to the next question.

SOLAR ENERGY

Dr JOE McGIRR (Wagga Wagga) (14:56): My question is directed to the Minister for Agriculture. Given that the new *Large-Scale Solar Energy Guideline* remains a draft and the Agriculture Commissioner has only just begun his review of agriculture and renewable energy, what steps will the Government take to ensure that current developments meet the standards expected by farmers and rural communities? Why will the Government not support a moratorium on new solar developments until the review is completed and guidelines are adopted?

Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS (Dubbo—Minister for Agriculture, and Minister for Western New South Wales) (14:57): I thank the member for Wagga Wagga for the question. I start by saying that, as much as anyone in this place, I am well aware of what is happening in renewable energy. I am part of the first declared renewable energy zone in New South Wales, and so I appreciate that we are seeing large-scale developments.

Mr Greg Warren: Oh, so you're smarter than all of us.

Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS: Come on. Any chance the member for Campbelltown could give me a chance to answer the question?

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

Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS: I will shortly expand on what the renewable energy zones are doing, but I should also say that I understand the department of planning has recently undertaken consultation on revised draft guidelines for new large-scale solar energy developments. It is currently considering those proposals, so questions around those draft guidelines are better suited to the Minister for Planning. We all know that regional New South Wales is the provider of energy across the State, and I think that most people would agree that a mix of energy is a really good way of looking at that. We know that current energy production is coming to an end at

some point, but a mix of energy is a practical way forward. A major part of that will be renewable. Whether it is solar, pumped hydro or wind, a major part of our energy will come from renewables in the future.

The renewable energy zone that my area is part of is due to deliver three gigawatts of new power into the Central West and Orana region by 2030 and to support around 3,900 construction jobs at its peak. I know that more and more of those types of proposals around large-scale solar are popping up around the State, and that level of growth absolutely puts pressure on all sorts of resources. It includes competition with agricultural land, housing and other forms of accommodation, as well as local amenities. To that end, on 8 March the Treasurer and I announced a task force to look at the pathways forward.

The Agriculture Commissioner will review the range of issues that are coming up, and this is a fair dinkum attempt to deal with the problems that are being mentioned. Submissions are now coming in and will continue until 23 May. Those submissions will be considered by a panel chaired by the Agriculture Commissioner to look at the issues and the opportunities that are coming up with the agricultural sector combining with the renewables sector, so there is definitely a pathway forward. The main issue here is that the Government has a pathway and is not simply calling for an end to everything, which does not actually provide a clear pathway. That is what the Government is looking for. All parties involved, whether it is in development of agricultural land or in renewable energy, are encouraged to be part of the issues paper. I met with a local farmer just last week to ask him to be part of the discussion and part of the paper, to make sure that we actually have a pathway forward. I thank the member for his interest.

DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Ms WENDY LINDSAY (East Hills) (15:00): My question is addressed to the Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government. Will the Minister please update the House on how New South Wales is leading the nation in delivery of digital infrastructure?

Mr VICTOR DOMINELLO (Ryde—Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government) (15:00): I thank the member for her question. I can answer it in one word: profoundly. Over the past decade we have seen an enormous transformation in our digital ability in New South Wales when we compare ourselves to where we were in 2011. I remember the attempted rollout of the Tcard in 2011. At the time the Tcard was not really fancy tech because other jurisdictions had something similar, but they just could not roll it out. Then came Gladys Berejiklian and she rolled out the Opal card, and that has been a runaway success.

The Government quickly moved on from that. We then started rolling out Service NSW centres across the State. There are 110 now, with more coming. There was a critical digital infrastructure piece in around 2017 or 2018 when the then Premier, who was in charge of Service NSW, and I were discussing what the future of the Service app would look like. To the Premier's eternal credit, he saw the vision behind the Service NSW app, which then enabled us to design big and build small. We then started with the driver licence. Prior to the pandemic, the driver licence quickly got up to about 20 per cent, from memory, but then there was a very slow, incremental increase and it plateaued at 25 per cent and then 30 per cent. But after the pandemic, as a result of the enormous uplift in the digital maturity of the people of our State, around 72 per cent of people in New South Wales have downloaded the digital driver licence. That is just a touch over four million people.

That platform alone enabled the Government to quickly pivot in the following year, when we had the pandemic, to go into QR codes. Over seven million people have downloaded the Service NSW app and are using it for multiple purposes—whether it was for checking in during really challenging times or accessing their Dine & Discover vouchers. That is also digital infrastructure. With the Dine & Discover vouchers, we have done what no other government around the world has done, to my knowledge. Traditionally, when administering grants and the like, one asks the public to spend the money up front. They then give us a receipt together with an application form, and a line of bureaucrats behind the wall process them and send the money back, in an elongated, not user-friendly way. We have reverse-engineered that to make sure that it is super simple. [*Extension of time*]

People can literally download the app and get the vouchers within minutes. The businesses get paid within three days, and it is an extraordinary success story. The knock-on multiplier effect of the \$25 Dine & Discover vouchers is about \$41. For every \$25 spent, an extra \$16 is spent by the people of New South Wales—and that is just the direct spend. It does not include the taxi to or from the venue. It does not include the affogato afterwards at another venue. Using digital infrastructure is not just good for the people of our State in terms of service delivery; it also helps in terms of resilience, whether it is economic recovery or the like.

There are so many other things that the Government has done, like the trade wallet. I will run through some statistics. Close to 200,000 people have used the digital white card. There is a digital contractor licence, a qualified supervisor certificate, a tradesperson certificate and so many other licences that are coming on board. It is one thing for a government to roll out digital products and services; it is another thing for them to be good and for

them to be liked. But what we on this side do is we ask the people of our great State to give us feedback. Overwhelmingly, the average feedback score is in the 90 to 95 percentile, which is extraordinary. If I show those figures to my counterparts across jurisdictions here or around the world, they cannot believe it. They cannot believe that a government would be delivering a service that would be getting the 90 to 95 percentile.

MEMBER FOR EAST HILLS

Mr CHRIS MINNS (Kogarah) (15:05): My question is directed to the Premier. The member for East Hills is the only backbencher in the entire Government not to receive a taxpayer-funded salary top-up. Will the Premier guarantee that he will not appoint the member to any role which earns her an additional salary, which he has done for every other backbencher in his Government?

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET (Epping—Premier) (15:06): That is a very sexist question. On this side of the House we believe in promoting women, unlike those opposite, who are knifing the former Leader of the Opposition. Brutus and Lady Macbeth are sitting there. I note that the shadow ministry has more people in it than the current ministry.

Ms Yasmin Catley: We don't get paid.

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: Nor should you. You actually have to do something to get paid, generally. You have to contribute and add value.

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

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: When it comes to wages, we need to do things in a way that is fair and reasonable and at the same time balances the competing interests when it comes to the budget position, particularly in circumstances where, as a State, we have come through a one-in-100-year pandemic. They are facts. Every government around the world—certainly every government around the country—has invested so much in getting people through this difficult time. We need to make sure that we continue that strong financial management in a way that enhances continued investment in infrastructure and quality services right across the State. That is what we have done whilst being in government. That is what we will continue to do going forward.

We are certainly aware, like everyone is around the country, of the competing interests and rising pressures that are coming in an inflationary environment. We have allowed public sector wages over the past 10 years to be above inflation and private sector wage growth. We never reduced that. Only once at the outset of the pandemic, when we had lost 300,000 people from work, did we make those decisions. I accept that they were unpopular at the time, but they were right to get our people through. Unlike Labor, the Government will not do what is populist; it will do what is right for the people of our State. Those opposite stand with the union bosses every day of the week against the people of our great State. What people will see from the Liberals and The Nationals is a balanced and fair approach that understands the competing pressures across the State. That is why the Government has cut \$9 billion in taxes since coming into office. In the last election Labor ran on increasing 10 taxes on the people of New South Wales. That is what happens under Labor; it does not happen under the Liberals and The Nationals.

The SPEAKER: The member for Tweed will come to order. He spoke throughout that answer, and he is continuing to speak. I call the member for Tweed to order for the first time.

SKILLS AND TRAINING SECTOR

Mr KEVIN CONOLLY (Riverstone) (15:09): My question is addressed to the Minister for Skills and Training. Will the Minister update the House on how the New South Wales Government is investing in communities across the State to help people get the skills they need for the jobs they want?

Mr ALISTER HENSKENS (Ku-ring-gai—Minister for Skills and Training, and Minister for Science, Innovation and Technology) (15:09): I thank the member for his question. It is great to be able to inform the House about the Government's investment in our State's human capital. Recently I spent some time in north-west Sydney with the member for Riverstone and the member for Seven Hills, who are both strong advocates for the skills and training sector in their communities. We visited the local TAFE and met Danielle and Anika, two young women who are apprentice carpenters. They are part of the enormous increase in the number of women commencing apprenticeships and traineeships across New South Wales. There has been a 91 per cent surge in the year to September 2021, and it is all because of this Government's investment in TAFE and in the skills and training sector, which is helping people get a first job, a new job or a better job. I was in western Sydney again yesterday, in Mount Druitt, with my friend and colleague the Hon. Bronnie Taylor, the Minister for Women. We met four women apprentice plumbers in one class. They are part of the female tradie boom in New South Wales.

Ms Sophie Cotsis: Oh, wow. Pru Goward was talking about that 10 years ago.

Mr ALISTER HENSKENS: You don't care about it, do you? You don't care about women being in trades.

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

Mr ALISTER HENSKENS: We are slashing fees for training and helping young people get the skills they need for the jobs they want, but those opposite do not care about it. They want to shout out abuse when we are helping women get the skills they need for the jobs they want. These are hardworking young people right across our State, but hard work is not something that the Leader of the Opposition understands. It would be great if I could contrast the Government's policies to Labor's policies, but the Leader of the Opposition has no policies on skills and training. He does not care about skills and training. He cares so little about skills and training that he made the member for Newcastle the shadow Minister. We all know that the member for Newcastle has an obsession with talking down TAFE.

Mr Ron Hoenig: Point of order—

The SPEAKER: The Minister will resume his seat.

Mr Ron Hoenig: I take a point of order under Standing Order 129. The Minister has deviated from being very informative—

The SPEAKER: The Minister will please return more directly to the question.

Mr ALISTER HENSKENS: Unfortunately, Labor does not seem to understand that TAFE is Australia's largest and best training provider. Labor does not understand that TAFE has a record budget which those opposite could only dream of having provided.

Mr Kevin Conolly: I seek additional information from the Minister.

The SPEAKER: I will grant a two-minute extension of time, but I remind the Minister that I have asked him to return more directly to the question.

Mr ALISTER HENSKENS: This Government has invested a record amount in infrastructure—roads, hospitals, schools and more—and with infrastructure investment comes job creation and opportunity. That is not something that those opposite understand. Of course, with jobs comes the need for skilled workers. It is important to invest in our human capital. The Infrastructure Skills Legacy Program capitalises on the New South Wales Government's record infrastructure investment of over \$100 billion over the next four years, and that is going to boost the number of skilled construction workers and create training pathways to jobs all across the State. This program is delivering real-life skills.

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

Mr ALISTER HENSKENS: That is something that the member for Newcastle does not understand because he is skill-less. It is creating training for apprentices and creating a strong pipeline of skilled workers. The Liberal-Nationals Government is securing—

Mr Ron Hoenig: Point of order—

The SPEAKER: The Clerk will stop the clock. I call the member for Rockdale to order for the second time.

Mr Ron Hoenig: I take a point of order under Standing Order 73. The Minister cannot hurl those sorts of insults at the member for Newcastle as he has been doing. I also take a point of order under Standing Order 130. The Minister is debating the answer.

The SPEAKER: I have ordered the clock to be stopped. There is no point of order. I also point out that when a Minister is responding to an interjection there is a little more licence to make a comment.

Mr ALISTER HENSKENS: And truth is always a defence, Mr Speaker. The Liberal-Nationals Government is securing a better future for New South Wales families by investing in our communities. The reality is there has never been a better time to study at TAFE, with fee-free and low-fee courses, a huge demand for skilled workers. That is an enormous opportunity because of this Government's record infrastructure investment.

PUBLIC SECTOR WAGES

Ms KATE WASHINGTON (Port Stephens) (15:15): My question is directed to the Premier. Lee from the Riverina works as a disability support worker, earning \$50,000 a year. Meanwhile, the Premier gave his cluster lead chiefs of staff pay rises of up to 10 per cent last year, increasing their top salary band from \$320,000 to

\$354,000. Why is it that everyone associated with the Premier's Government is getting a massive pay rise while he continues to hold tens of thousands of frontline and essential workers to a 2½ per cent wage cap?

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET (Epping—Premier) (15:16): Why is it that Labor does not have a position? This is not a fair fight. Have integrity and have a position. Opposition members sit there day in, day out. Our position is clear. We have had a 2½ per cent pay increase in our State.

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

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: We have had 2½ per cent over the last 10 years, while Labor governments around the country, which do not manage money well, have had to freeze public sector wages. I do not see Opposition members raising Dan Andrews and Labor in Victoria with its 1½ per cent increase when, even now, in New South Wales we are at 2½ per cent. They would have more credibility if they actually had a position. I am open to debate them on it, but they should have a position. They have got to stand for something. They cannot go out there—like the member for Rockdale—campaigning in the streets with nurses, unions and teachers, saying, "We are with you", but they are really not. They should have a position on wages because we know, as a mature government, we will always get the balance right. We will look at these issues in a fair and reasonable way. That is exactly what we have done.

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Swansea will come to order. The member for Port Stephens will come to order.

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: That is why, at 2½ per cent, what we have seen in New South Wales is wage growth above the private sector and wage growth above the CPI.

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

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: What we have seen in Labor States that do not manage money well is wage growth below the CPI. And guess what? The union movements in those States are not walking out of schools or hospitals. What does that tell you? We all know. The Leader of the Opposition should come clean and disclose his diaries on how many meetings he has had with Unions NSW. As the Treasurer has said, it is the year of the strike, with all the union meetings encouraging the unions to strike in circumstances where we have said we will deal with this in a fair and reasonable way. Yes, as Premier and as a government, we have a policy. We have made it very clear that 2½ per cent will be addressed in the budget. If Opposition members want to continue to complain and if they want to continue to protest with people, they should actually tell them what they stand for because until they do they have absolutely zero credibility.

NORTHERN RIVERS FLOOD ASSISTANCE

Mr GEOFF PROVEST (Tweed) (15:19): My question is addressed to the Minister for Emergency Services and Resilience, and the Minister for Flood Recovery. Will the Minister update the House on the flood recovery efforts across the Northern Rivers region and how the Government is investing in the community?

Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra—Minister for Emergency Services and Resilience, and Minister for Flood Recovery) (15:19): I thank the member for Tweed for his question. It was great to spend some time last week with him and the member for Clarence, travelling around their communities, which, as we all know in this place, have been deeply impacted by recent flooding events that occurred in February and March this year. In fact, more than 169,000 people in the Northern Rivers region were impacted by either an evacuation order or an evacuation warning over that time. What we saw was unprecedented flooding, the likes of which we hope we never see again and that we know will take years to recover from. On that basis, the New South Wales Government has committed \$1.6 billion—and more than \$3 billion combined with the Commonwealth Government—to the recovery efforts, which include grants to families, farmers and business owners as well as funding for housing solutions, reconstruction, essential infrastructure like roads and sewerage, and some of that huge physical clean-up effort that I am pleased to say we have managed to close out.

One of our greatest challenges that we continue to tackle, particularly in the Northern Rivers region, is the long-term housing solutions. Approximately 25,000 households still need support and will need support for some time. We know we need flexible options to cater for the range of different household sizes and the circumstances that those families face. To that extent, one of our housing solutions has been the pod villages and many of them are now being established. I must say, it was great to meet with the team from Minderoo Foundation, Public Works and Ballina Shire Council a couple of weeks ago. We saw the first pods arrive at Wollongbar. They were being connected to water and sewerage at the time.

We are in a position where the keys to those pods are about to be handed over to the first residents, where they may very well find themselves living for up to two years. I am very pleased to say that Darren is the first resident. He will move in by tomorrow night. We have seven groups of people going through today, looking and

seeing if it is going to meet their needs ahead of moving in. As of this morning, we still have 1,300 people in emergency accommodation. We will continue working with those families. We have deployed motorhomes and caravans to a number of different locations. From my perspective, I must say that I am proud of the work that we have done so far, but we have got a lot more to do and a long way to go. We will stand with those communities until the very end.

COMMITTEE ON INVESTMENT, INDUSTRY AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Mr RYAN PARK (Keira) (15:22): My question is directed to the Chair of the Committee on Investment, Industry and Regional Development. Three weeks ago, after the member for Monaro gave her inaugural speech, she was appointed as Chair of the Committee on Investment, Industry and Regional Development, earning an additional \$21,000. Since her appointment as chair on 12 April, her committee has not met or held a hearing and has cancelled pre-organised visits. Will the member please advise the New South Wales taxpayers when her committee will do some work?

The SPEAKER: Order! The question has been asked and members will be silent. I call the member for Macquarie Fields to order for the first time.

Mrs NICHOLE OVERALL (Monaro) (15:23:51): I thank the member for his very kind question. I put myself forward to say that I believe I am very well suited to the appointment of chair of this very important committee, given my extensive background—

Mr Ryan Park: Very experienced.

Mrs NICHOLE OVERALL: Yes, in fact, it is an extensive background. I thank the member for pointing that out to everybody. It is an honour and a privilege to serve in this capacity. In relation to when this important committee is going to meet, as you should well know, the election was held on 12 February and I was sworn into Parliament on 22 March. I am endeavouring to get across and abreast all of the work that is part of the important roles that I have been appointed to.

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

Mrs NICHOLE OVERALL: I have also been appointed to the ICAC committee, for which there is no remuneration and for which I spent an entire day doing what is required of me as a backbencher of this marvellous Government. I intend to continue to do all I can to be across the information, as is required of me, to call this committee and to go forward with the meetings and important work that we will be going forward with, as time permits, and as committee members on both sides of this House are able to come together in order to achieve it. I thank you kindly for continuing to point it out. If you would like me to also give you my résumé, I am happy to do so. There are no problems whatsoever. I have run businesses. I have held board and committee positions, and I will continue—

The SPEAKER: The Clerk will stop the clock. I place the member for Keira on three calls to order. The member for Monaro will be heard in silence. The member for Monaro will direct her future comments through me.

Mrs NICHOLE OVERALL: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I am happy to do so. As a proud Nationals member, I am very committed to industry, investment and regional development. As I said, it is a privilege to serve as chair.

Mr Ron Hoenig: Point of order—

Mrs NICHOLE OVERALL: I understand that you wanted to put taxes on farmers during a drought.

The SPEAKER: The answer has concluded.

ACTIVE TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE

Mr JUSTIN CLANCY (Albury) (15:27): My question is addressed to the Minister for Infrastructure, Minister for Cities, and Minister for Active Transport. Will the Minister update the House on how the Government is securing a brighter future for New South Wales families by investing in active transport infrastructure?

Mr ROB STOKES (Pittwater—Minister for Infrastructure, Minister for Cities, and Minister for Active Transport) (15:27): I thank the member for Albury for his question and for his interest in active transport and particularly for the way in which it is transforming opportunity in his electorate, which is on the New South Wales border with Victoria. The great active transport routes such as the Tumbarumba-to-Rosewood rail trail springs to mind. It is 21 kilometres and provides a great opportunity for active transport, walkers, cyclists and families, and is a real driver of tourism for the local community. We look to see many more of those sorts of projects provide jobs, and new and ongoing opportunities for people across New South Wales.

As the Treasurer said earlier in question time, a bit over \$110 billion, which is an unprecedented amount, is being spent over the forward estimates on infrastructure projects across the length and breadth of New South Wales. Of direct relevance to the question is that almost a billion dollars of that amount is directed towards active transport projects. Those projects are in a range of areas around the State. A good example is that I was with the Premier and the member for Parramatta recently at the escarpment boardwalk, which is an incredible connective bit of walking and cycling infrastructure along the riverfront of Parramatta. The Alfred Street Bridge is another active transport link in that traditionally car-dependent part of Sydney. It is an amazing opportunity to get people out of their cars, particularly for local trips.

A statistic in which the House might be interested is that about two million car trips in New South Wales every day go for less than two kilometres. If we can displace even a fraction of those trips with active and cycling routes, by making those routes more attractive and safer and easier for older and younger people to traverse, we can quite literally get people out of their cars, making for a cheaper, healthier and more enjoyable route to wherever they are going. Those active transport links across New South Wales are critical. I look forward to updating the House about many new active transport routes that will be funded through programs such as our \$110 million Get NSW Active grants program. There is a doubling of that project this year, to ensure that there can be more opportunities for healthy, active transport across the length and breadth of New South Wales.

INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION FUNDING

Mr JAMIE PARKER (Balmain) (15:30): My question is directed to the Premier. Last week the Chief Commissioner of the ICAC gave evidence to the Committee on the Independent Commission Against Corruption, saying that the Premier's Government intends to grant Treasury the power to determine the ICAC's budget. Will the Premier confirm that he intends to reject the ICAC's model for genuinely independent funding?

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET (Epping—Premier) (15:30): I thank the member for Balmain for his question and understand the concerns he has raised and the issues that have been raised by the integrity agencies. On becoming Premier, with the Secretary of the Department of Premier and Cabinet [DPC], I met with the integrity agencies—the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission, the Ombudsman, the Auditor-General, the NSW Electoral Commission and the ICAC—to discuss their issues in relation to the funding model. I understood their concerns and took them on board. We have come up with what we believe to be a model that fundamentally addresses the concerns the integrity agencies have raised. I understand that the ICAC's model is different to the one we have finalised. But ultimately I believe it is one that will address those concerns.

We have now gone back and raised the new model with the integrity agencies. I inform you today that the majority of changes we will make to the funding model will come into play in this year's budget. Those changes to cluster arrangements, I can inform the member, will remove integrity agencies from usual cluster financial management processes but retain them in the Premier and Cabinet cluster. We will adjust the level of funding in the 2022-23 State budget to better reflect current and future resourcing needs in advance of a broader re-baselining exercise. That will not occur in time for this year's budget, but we are committed to that re-baselining. We will work with those agencies in relation to that. Appropriations will be made to the Premier, who delegates expenditure of appropriated funds to the integrity agencies, which is no change from existing arrangements.

The agencies raised concerns, as the member for Balmain would be aware, in relation to efficiency dividends. I have agreed to not impose any requirement for efficiency dividends on integrity agencies. In relation to the review of funding bids, there is an enhanced process for integrity agencies, which is codified in a charter of independence issued under a Treasurer's direction, including bids reviewed by a specialist unit within Treasury and a senior DPC representative. I think that goes to the heart of the agencies' concerns. Integrity agencies will be provided with the opportunity to comment on Treasury's proposed advice to the Expenditure Review Committee. Treasury will provide advice and they will be able to comment on it. The Premier will receive DPC advice on the bid, Treasury advice and integrity agencies' responses. [*Extension of time*]

This is new information for the House. So it is very important, as the member knows. The Treasurer will write to the integrity agencies, copy in the relevant parliamentary committee, with written confirmation of the decision that the ERC made and, if relevant, provide reasons for any variation to an agency's bid. If it is less than they have asked for, we will provide an explanation as to why, and that will be transparent for the committee and for the public. Finally, in terms of supplementary funding, annual appropriations Acts include contingency funding for integrity agencies. Expenditure of contingency funds may be approved by the Treasurer at the request of the integrity agencies, with the request and response also provided to the relevant parliamentary committee.

I believe this strikes the right balance. I accept that it is not completely in line, from their perspective, with the model that those at the ICAC proposed. But ultimately, in my view, it deals substantively with the issues that they have raised. In relation to the other integrity agencies, I know two of them are supportive of the changes that

we have made to the model and the others are supportive in principle. They may disagree with certain aspects of it, but I believe this is a much better process and model than has been in place in the past.

HOUSING SUPPLY

Mr PETER SIDGREAVES (Camden) (15:35): My question is addressed to the Minister for Planning, and Minister for Homes. Will the Minister update the House on what the Government is doing to help fast-track critical infrastructure and unlock housing?

Mr ANTHONY ROBERTS (Lane Cove—Minister for Planning, and Minister for Homes) (15:35): On behalf of the House, I acknowledge that we have cadets here from *The Sydney Morning Herald*, under the watchful eye of Alex Smith. They would have realised today that things have changed in question time. It is sort of like political speed dating now: There is a lot of passion, but I do not think there is going to be a lot of second dates coming out of it. I thank the member for Camden for his question and the opportunity to inform the House about how the Government is fast-tracking critical infrastructure and increasing housing supply in New South Wales. In fact, the member's electorate is set to benefit from the delivery of accelerated infrastructure along the Camden Valley Way. I congratulate him.

It is our priority to increase housing supply throughout metropolitan and regional New South Wales, and we are exploring all avenues to remove any barriers and red tape. It gives me no pleasure to inform the House that during the five years between 2006 and 2011, under the previous Labor Government, Sydney experienced an extended period of high population growth combined with a lack of new housing supply. But, unlike Labor, this Government is working hard to unblock the housing pipeline so that more new homes can be built to meet market demand and meet the needs of the community, whether that be in Sydney or, indeed, the regions.

It is very simple. New housing needs key infrastructure. Communities cannot function without connection to water, energy, roads and public transport, which is why we are driving 390 projects worth \$3 billion. Most of them are in high-growth areas and in various stages of planning, design and construction. As the Minister for Planning, and Minister for Homes, I have various levers at my disposal, and I will use them to incentivise councils to support housing supply and get more keys in doors. Different government funding programs will deliver and improve essential infrastructure, such as roads, waste and water, as well as create and enhance public and green spaces. By putting the right infrastructure in place at the right time, we are creating the right conditions for those building new homes to invest.

First we have the Accelerated Infrastructure Fund, and that is just one of the levers. Round one was incredibly successful, delivering 14 projects that developed the potential for 40,000 new homes, 115 hectares of employment land and the creation of thousands of jobs. Delivery is well on its way. Following the success of round one, the Premier and I announced the Accelerated Infrastructure Fund round two, with \$140 million invested to deliver local infrastructure, helping to unlock thousands of new homes in high-growth areas across western Sydney. Twenty-four council-led projects across seven councils will enable the building of up to 65,000 new dwellings and enable the potential development of some 570 hectares of employment land—homes and jobs. This Government's investment will be matched by recipient councils, with a total of half a billion dollars in local infrastructure projects to be delivered under the programs and creating, again, thousands more jobs.

Documents

SUPPLEMENTARY ORDINARY RETURNS

The SPEAKER: I table the Supplementary Ordinary Returns by members of the Legislative Assembly as at 31 December 2021. I note that all relevant returns have now been received. I order that the document be printed.

LAW ENFORCEMENT CONDUCT COMMISSION

Reports

The SPEAKER: In accordance with section 142 of the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission Act 2016, I announce receipt of the report of the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission entitled *Operation Kimbla*, dated April 2022, received on 5 April 2022. I order that the report be printed.

OMBUDSMAN

Reports

The SPEAKER: In accordance with section 31AA of the Ombudsman Act 1974, I announce receipt of the report of the NSW Ombudsman entitled *The Ombudsman's jurisdiction to investigate when there are related court proceedings*, dated 4 May 2022, received on 4 May 2022. I order that the report be printed.

AUDITOR-GENERAL**Reports**

The CLERK: In accordance with section 38E of the Government Sector Audit Act 1983, I announce receipt of the following reports:

- (1) Performance Audit Report of the Auditor-General entitled *Police responses to domestic and family violence*, dated 4 April 2022, received out of session on 4 April 2022 and authorised to be printed.
- (2) Performance Audit Report of the Auditor-General entitled *Building regulation: combustible external cladding*, dated 13 April 2022, received out of session on 13 April 2022 and authorised to be printed.
- (3) Performance Audit Report of the Auditor-General entitled *Facilitating and administering Aboriginal land claim processes*, dated 28 April 2022, received out of session on 28 April 2022 and authorised to be printed.
- (4) Financial Audit Report of the Auditor-General entitled *Treasury 2021*, dated 20 April 2022, received out of session on 20 April 2022 and authorised to be printed.
- (5) Financial Audit Report of the Auditor-General entitled *Transport 2021*, dated 6 May 2022, received out of session on 6 May 2022 and authorised to be printed.

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

The CLERK: I announce receipt of the Government response to Report No. 3/57 of the Committee on Investment, Industry and Regional Development entitled *Inland Rail project and regional NSW*, received out of session on 26 April 2022 and authorised to be printed.

COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**Government Response**

The CLERK: I announce receipt of the Government response to Report No. 3/57 of the Committee on Children and Young People entitled *2021 Review of the annual reports and other matters of the Office of the Advocate for Children and Young People and the Office of the Children's Guardian*, received out of session on 22 April 2022 and authorised to be printed.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON LAW AND SAFETY**Chair and Deputy Chair**

The SPEAKER: In accordance with Standing Order 282 (2), I advise the House that on 6 April 2022 Raymond Craig Williams was elected chair and Geoffrey Keith Provost was elected deputy chair of the Legislative Assembly Committee on Law and Safety.

COMMITTEE ON THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION**Chair and Deputy Chair**

The SPEAKER: In accordance with Standing Order 282 (2), I advise the House that on 7 April 2022 Leslie Gladys Williams was elected chair and Ron Hoenig was elected deputy chair of the Committee on the Independent Commission Against Corruption.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE**Chair and Deputy Chair**

The SPEAKER: In accordance with Standing Order 282 (2), I advise the House that on 7 April 2022 Timothy Charles James was elected chair and Mark Owen Taylor was elected deputy chair of the Legislative Assembly Committee on Transport and Infrastructure.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON INVESTMENT, INDUSTRY AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT**Chair and Deputy Chair**

The SPEAKER: In accordance with Standing Order 282 (2), I advise the House that on 12 April 2022 Nichole Lorraine Overall was elected chair and Gurmesh Singh was elected deputy chair of the Legislative Assembly Committee on Investment, Industry and Regional Development.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING**Deputy Chair**

The SPEAKER: In accordance with Standing Order 282 (2), I advise the House that on 9 May 2022 Robyn Anne Preston was elected deputy chair of the Legislative Assembly Committee on Environment and Planning.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE**Reports**

Mr GREG PIPER: As Chair: I table the following reports of the Public Accounts Committee:

- (1) Report entitled *Examination of Selected Auditor-General's Financial Audit Reports 2020*, Report No. 8/57, dated May 2022.
- (2) Report entitled *Examination of Selected Auditor-General's Performance Audit Reports August 2019 – June 2020*, Report No. 9/57, dated May 2022.

I move:

That the reports be printed.

Motion agreed to.

LEGISLATION REVIEW COMMITTEE**Reports**

Mr DAVID LAYZELL: As Chair: I table the report of the Legislation Review Committee entitled *Legislation Review Digest No. 42/57*, dated 10 May 2022. I move:

That the report be printed.

Motion agreed to.

*Petitions***PETITIONS RECEIVED**

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

Lismore Floods Reconstruction

Petition requesting the Legislative Assembly establish a Lismore floods reconstruction commission, received from **Ms Janelle Saffin**.

International Students' Work Rights

Petition requesting the Legislative Assembly call on the Government to allow international students to acquire security guard licences, received from **Ms Lynda Voltz**.

Northern New South Wales Perinatal Care

Petition requesting the Legislative Assembly call on the Government to take immediate action to improve perinatal care for all women in the Northern NSW Local Health District, received from **Mr Christopher Gulaptis**.

Blue Mountains Aboriginal Culture and Resource Centre

Petition requesting the Legislative Assembly ask the Government to secure permanent premises and provide ongoing funding for the Blue Mountains Aboriginal Culture and Resource Centre, received from **Ms Trish Doyle**.

RESPONSES TO PETITIONS

The CLERK: I announce that the following Minister has lodged a response to a paper petition signed by 500 or more persons:

The Hon. Rob Stokes—Bridge Road Pop-up Cycleway—lodged 30 March 2022 (Mr Jamie Parker)

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

The Hon. Anthony Roberts—Coila Lake Foreshore Development—lodged 22 March 2022 (Mr Paul Scully)

The Hon. Anthony Roberts—Hawks Nest Land Rezoning—lodged 22 March 2022 (Ms Kate Washington)

The Hon. David Elliott—Toxic Waste Dumping—lodged 22 March 2022 (Mr Tim Crakanthorp)

The Hon. Sarah Mitchell—Public School Funding—lodged 22 March 2022 (Dr Marjorie O'Neill)

The Hon. Sarah Mitchell—Floraville Public School Out of School Hours Care—lodged 29 March 2022 (Ms Yasmin Catley)

Bills

WORK HEALTH AND SAFETY (MINES AND PETROLEUM SITES) AMENDMENT BILL 2022

Second Reading Debate

Debate resumed from 30 March 2022.

Ms TANIA MIHAILUK (Bankstown) (15:43): The Government's Work Health and Safety (Mines and Petroleum Sites) Amendment Bill 2022 seeks to give effect to the recommendations of the Kym Bills report on the 2020 statutory review of the work health and safety mines and petroleum site laws, which was tabled in Parliament on 10 November 2020. A public consultation period for the review ran from 1 March 2020 until 1 May 2020. The review received 24 submissions and 18 survey responses across all areas and types of mining and petroleum production. Submissions were provided from various individuals and organisations, including submissions from the Association of Mining and Exploration Companies; the Australian Workers' Union; Coal Services; the Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union—Mining and Energy division; and the NSW Minerals Council, amongst many others.

The review held five public consultation forums in person at Broken Hill, Dubbo, Penrith, Wagga Wagga and Wollongong, and three online forums for Muswellbrook, Newcastle and Sydney. The review also held targeted consultation forums for the Australian Workers Union; the Construction, Forestry, Maritime, Mining and Energy Union; Cement Concretes and Aggregates Australia; Coal Services; Lightning Ridge Miners' Association; NSW Minerals Council; NSW Resources Regulator, mine safety inspectorate; and the senior executive of the NSW Resources Regulator. Forty recommendations were made in the final report. Only 11 of the 40 recommendations relate to the Work Health and Safety (Mines and Petroleum Sites) Act 2013, which are being addressed in part by the present Work Health and Safety (Mines and Petroleum Sites) Amendment Bill 2022. I note the Bills review highlighted that the Queensland legislation is somewhat superior to the New South Wales legislative regime, as it allows for suspension of certificates of competency, expanding notification requirements for reportable diseases and the proactive release of information to improve safety learnings without prejudicing future investigations.

The Bills review also highlighted Queensland's industrial manslaughter laws. I will touch on the recent steps that NSW Labor has taken on that shortly. Following consultation with numerous stakeholders regarding the Bills review, NSW Labor agrees with the prevailing view that increased resourcing should be given to regulators for more inspections, compliance and enforcement, with higher penalties for wrongdoing. As explained in the Minister's second reading speech, most of the remaining review recommendations will be addressed via regulation. The update forms part of the staged repeal process of the Work Health and Safety (Mines and Petroleum Sites) Regulation 2014. The regulations are due for a staged repeal in September 2022. I note that the Government is relegating a substantial part of its work health and safety reform to statutory regulations. That is also the case with the Government's recent Mining and Petroleum Legislation Amendment Bill 2022. I fear the Government is simply railroading major legislative changes by amending regulations rather than the usual course of substantive legislative amendment, presumably in order to avoid the usual scrutiny and debate that accompanies that process.

I will now refer to the substance of the amendments in the Work Health and Safety (Mines and Petroleum Sites) Amendment Bill 2022. Schedule 1 [1] amends section 5 (1) to update the definition of "Department" to mean the Department of Regional NSW, as a consequence of recent administrative changes to government departments. Schedule 1 [2] updates the definition of "regulator" to mean the secretary of the department, correcting an out-of-date reference to the head of the department. Schedule 1 [3] inserts subsection 5 (3) to provide the "regulator" is to be known as the NSW Resources Regulator. Schedule 1 [4] to 1 [7] and 1 [10] to 1 [16] amend offence provisions to convert penalties from a monetary value to the equivalent amount in penalty units.

Schedule 1 [8] and [9] amend section 28 to provide that, when determining whether a person is suitable to be appointed as an industry safety and health representative, the Minister may make inquiries about the person,

including a nationwide criminal record check and other relevant probity checks. Schedule 1 [17] and [18] amend section 65 to provide that the person appointed as Chair of the Mining and Petroleum Competence Board must be independent of the entities that may nominate persons to represent the interests of employers or workers. Schedule 1 [19] and [20] amend section 69 to provide that documents may be served on a natural person or a body corporate by email to an email address specified by the person or body corporate.

Work health and safety is a fundamental tenet of Labor values. As NSW Labor leader Chris Minns said in his speech to mark the International Day of Mourning on 28 April, a day when we commemorate the lives of those we have lost to work-related incidents or illnesses, "for 130 years the Labor Party, and the labour movement, have fought for safety and dignity at work". It should be acknowledged that NSW Labor has a very proud history of legislative reform in work health and safety. In its previous period in government, NSW Labor enacted the following key pieces of work health and safety legislation: the Mines Inspection Amendment Act 1998, the Mines Legislation Amendment (Mines Safety) Act 1998, the Mining Legislation Amendment (Health and Safety) Act 2002, the Coal Mine Health and Safety Act 2002, the Mine Health and Safety Act 2004, the Mine Safety (Cost Recovery) Act 2005, and the Coal Mine Health and Safety Amendment Act 2010.

I will now briefly highlight the key reforms of each Act. I thank the NSW Parliamentary Research Service for its research assistance on this topic. The Mines Inspection Amendment Act 1998 amended the Mines Inspection Act 1901 to "make further provision with respect to the appointment of managers at mines (other than coal and shale mines) and the safety of persons at those mines". A key amendment was introducing a new section 5, which required that a general manager of a mine be appointed, reside in the vicinity of the mine and be responsible for the daily supervision, control and management of the mine. Additionally, under section 5B:

The general manager of a mine must ensure that the production operations at the mine are supervised by a person who is qualified to be a production manager.

Blasting operations were to be undertaken only by a qualified "shotfirer", pursuant to section 18E. Risk management strategies were required under section 46 and requirements for the notification of serious accidents or dangerous incidents were introduced by section 47. The Mines Legislation Amendment (Mines Safety) Act 1998 amended the Coal Mines Regulation Act 1982 and the Mines Inspection Act 1901 with respect to "the functions of inspectors, investigators, mine safety officers, assessors, the Director-General of the Department of Mineral Resources and other persons, the role of Boards of Inquiry and the matters that are subject to special reports to the Minister".

The Mines Legislation Amendment (Mines Safety) Act 1998 also amended the Coal Mines Regulation Act 1982 "to improve safety measures for unused mine shafts and outlets". The Mining Legislation Amendment (Health and Safety) Act 2002 amended the Coal Mines Regulation Act 1982, the Mines Inspection Act 1901 and the Occupational Health and Safety Act 2000 with respect to the appointment of inspectors in relation to mines, to amend the Mining Act 1992 to provide a legislative basis for the Mine Safety Advisory Council, and for other purposes. Providing a legislative basis for the Mine Safety Advisory Council was critical in ensuring its elevated status and its permanence, and I am proud to say that the Mine Safety Advisory Council is still in operation today. The Coal Mine Health and Safety Act 2002 introduced "special additional obligations, protections and procedures necessary for the control of particular risks arising from coal operations".

Key reforms of this legislation included introducing a duty on the operator of a coalmine to prepare and abide by a health and management system; requiring an employee who works at a coal operation to comply with the operator's health and safety management system; introducing a duty on the operator of a coalmine to prepare and abide by an emergency management plan; providing for the external oversight of coal operations; constituting the coal competence board and establishing its functions; requiring an employee who works at a coal operation to immediately report to his or her supervisor any situation that the employee believes could present a risk to health and safety, and that is not within the employee's competence to control; providing that every employee has a right to remove himself or herself from any location at the coal operation when circumstances arise that appear to the employee, with reasonable justification, to pose a serious danger to his or her own safety or welfare; and prohibiting an employer from dismissing or victimising an employee who exercises rights under the Act or complies with duties under the Act.

The scope of the Mine Health and Safety Act 2004 was the health and safety of workers in mines other than coalmines—that is, principally, in metalliferous mines. Key reforms of this legislation included imposing a duty on the operator of a mine to prepare and comply with a mine safety management plan which details how the health and safety of the persons who work at the mine, or who are directly affected by the mine, will be protected; imposing a duty on the operator of a mine to ensure that all persons working at the mine, including managers and supervisors, have the necessary skills, competence and resources to undertake their work safely and to ensure the safety of others; imposing a duty on the operator of a mine to ensure that an emergency plan is prepared for the

mine and complied with; requiring an employee who works at a mine to comply with the mine safety management plan. It also imposed other duties.

An employee is required to immediately report to a supervisor any situation that he or she believes could present a risk to health and safety that is not within the employee's competence to control. Additional measures included providing that every employee has a right to remove himself or herself from any location at the mine when circumstances arise that appear to the employee to pose a serious risk; ensuring that further obligations are set out for those who hold management positions, including to ensure that workplace and work methods are safe; providing for site inspections by government officials; and, of course, providing for the development of mining industry codes of practice.

The Mine Safety (Cost Recovery) Act 2005 also developed the Mine Safety Fund, today known as the Mine Safety Levy, following recommendations from the Wran Mine Safety Review in 2004. The fund was established to cover the costs incurred by the Department of Primary Industries to carry out its regulatory activities under the mine safety legislation and generally in administering that legislation. As with the Mine Safety Advisory Council I am also very proud to say that the Mine Safety Levy is still in operation today and is a lasting legacy of the former New South Wales Labor Government. The Coal Mine Health and Safety Amendment Act 2010 introduced amendments to clarify the operation of the Coal Mine Health and Safety Act 2002 following a statutory review conducted in 2009. As stated in the second reading speech of the bill:

The Review identified the need to clarify the places of work to which the Coal Mine Health and Safety Act applies. In particular, the review identified difficulties with using colliery holding boundaries to identify the jurisdiction boundary for most mining activities.

...

The amendments before the House will ensure that whenever a breach of duty has occurred, whoever is responsible can be held accountable.

Labor also enacted the significant Occupational Health and Safety Act 2000, which applied to all workplaces, and the Occupational Health and Safety Amendment (Workplace Deaths) Act 2005, which made it an offence for the person who owes the relevant duty to engage in reckless conduct that causes death at a workplace. As I previously mentioned, NSW Labor has recently continued its commitment to protecting workers with the Work Health and Safety Amendment (Industrial Manslaughter) Bill 2021, which was passed in the Legislative Council in November last year and is currently awaiting debate in this place. Sophie Cotsis, the member for Canterbury, is our shadow Minister for Industrial Relations and has carriage of that bill. We hope that the debate will resume either this Thursday or next week. The introduction of industrial manslaughter laws was a very clear recommendation from the 2018 Boland review of the model work health and safety laws. I quote Ms Boland's report:

I am recommending a new offence of industrial manslaughter be included in the model WHS laws. The growing public debate about including an offence of industrial manslaughter in the model WHS laws was reflected in consultation for this Review. I consider that this new offence is required to address increasing community concerns that there should be a separate industrial manslaughter offence where there is a gross deviation from a reasonable standard of care that leads to a workplace death. It is also required to address the limitations of the criminal law when dealing with breaches of WHS duties.

The object of NSW Labor's Work Health and Safety Amendment (Industrial Manslaughter) Bill 2021 is to amend:

... the Work Health and Safety Act 2011 to insert a new part 2A in the legislation to create two new offences relating to industrial manslaughter. The legislation will reform the State's workplace safety laws by creating industrial manslaughter offences, and will include a maximum penalty of 25 years' imprisonment for an individual.

It is entirely reasonable that when employers are negligently responsible for the death of their employees at work, there should be appropriate and severe penalties for that crime. No worker's family should ever have to face the tragedy of a loved one not coming home from work due to a negligent or preventable workplace accident. While the Work Health and Safety Amendment (Industrial Manslaughter) Bill 2021 may seem to be reserved for extreme examples of negligent workplace fatalities, I take a few moments to remind the House of how dangerous mining worksites can be and why this particular issue of industrial manslaughter was raised in a number of the submissions that were presented to Kym Bills when reviewing this statute. Occurring just this year alone, the following list of dangerous incidents on mining sites should give us all pause in this place to be thankful for the relative comfort and safety of our everyday working environment.

In April of this year at an underground coalmine a roof bolting rig was being removed from a continuous miner. When the last bolt was removed the rig swung, pinning a worker to the rib protection. The worker was driven out of the mine and transferred to hospital. The worker suffered two broken ribs and a lacerated lung. Again in April this year at an open-cut coalmine there was a very serious near miss when a highwall failed and material breached the exclusion control zone in a known geotechnical hazard area. A grader was operating in the area at the time and the operator felt a vibration, noticed dust and quickly drove away from the highwall. The worker was clear of the falling material. In March of this year in an underground metals mine a haul truck was travelling on a

decline and pulled into a return air drive to allow another vehicle to pass. The truck struck the ventilation ducting, tearing the duct, which resulted in a large amount of dust being stirred up. As the operator exited the haul truck a large connecting pipe, weighing approximately 200 kilograms, fell from the headboard of the truck and struck the operator. The operator was knocked to the ground but was luckily uninjured.

Also in March this year at a quarry, a worker's arm was broken when it was pinned between a trailer and a water tank. In February of this year at an open-cut coalmine three workers were in the process of removing the front wheel hub from a large dump truck. The wheel hub, weighing about 4.8 tonnes, fell to the ground with the workers very lucky to avoid the falling hub. In January this year at a metals mine a mining engineer was assisting with bolting on a rock drilling machine. During the installation of the last bolt a finger on the worker's left hand was crushed and required surgery.

As evidenced by those very serious and dangerous incidents that may not always make headline news, workplace safety, particularly on mining sites, remains a very significant issue and one that NSW Labor is committed to supporting and strengthening. In closing, I assure the House that later in September NSW Labor will be reviewing the proposed regulations attached to the bill very carefully to ensure that all the relevant matters have been addressed. I reiterate our support for this legislation and the fact that we will work with government to ensure that work health and safety measures are always strengthened in this House and that we put the safety of workers first when we think about how we legislate, support and further enhance this type of legislation.

Ms ELENI PETINOS (Miranda—Minister for Small Business, and Minister for Fair Trading)
(16:02): I speak in support of the Work Health and Safety (Mines and Petroleum Sites) Amendment Bill 2022, and I thank the Deputy Premier for his work in introducing the bill to this place and acknowledge his presence in the Chamber during the debate. From the outset, as the Minister with responsibility for SafeWork in this State, the safety of workers will always be a key priority for the New South Wales Government. We know that every single worker in this State has the right to a safe workplace and to make sure that they get home to their families and loved ones safely at the end of a day's work. We also know that the New South Wales mining sector has a skilled workforce and a reputation for safe, responsible and innovative practices. That is why it is important that we acknowledge that the bill will deliver on the recommendations of the 2020 statutory review, building upon this reputation and creating better outcomes for the people of regional New South Wales.

This morning I was in Parramatta at the inaugural SafeWork NSW Building and Construction Safety Symposium. Its focus was on improving safety for construction industry workers and is just one example of SafeWork NSW and industry coming together in a major symposium to share best practice on work, health and safety. Just as this Government understands the importance of safety in the construction sector, we understand the importance of safety in the mining and petroleum sector. The bill gives confidence to not only the mining and petroleum sector but also our community about the safety arrangements in place for the sector. In particular, we seek to align the penalty system for unsafe work practices with the work health and safety national model framework. This will provide greater consistency for industry, streamline interjurisdictional collaboration on compliance and make it easier for businesses to work across borders. In simple terms, it reduces red tape.

Wearing my other hat, as the Minister for Small Business, I appreciate that both big and small businesses need to be efficient. These amendments strike a good balance. We have made it easier for work health and safety inspectors by enabling digital processes for compliance and bringing work health and safety in the mining sector into the modern age. It is sometimes the small changes that make the biggest difference. In addition, we have ensured that there is greater transparency by formalising probity checks and integrity screening as eligibility requirements for work health and safety representatives. This will provide greater confidence in industry regulation and clearer grounds to refuse appointments. The bill also provides for the appointment of an independent chair to the Mining and Petroleum Competence Board to enhance governance arrangements and elevate the safety-first approach. A chair independent from industry nominating bodies will bring the legislation in line with the New South Wales Government's broader conflict of interest and probity principles. The principle of independence is critical in work health and safety to ensure that the primary focus remains on the safety of workers, as the Act intends.

The mining and petroleum sector is of critical importance to the New South Wales economy, with \$23.1 billion in economic output and more than 100,000 people indirectly and more than 30,000 people directly employed. With long-term projects and global demand for our commodities remaining strong, mining will continue to help build and support economies and communities across regional New South Wales. Strong performance is only possible when our industry thrives, and a thriving industry is only possible when workers are safe. I appreciate the challenges inherent in upholding safe work practices and ensuring that everyone in industry maintains best practice standards. I commend the Deputy Premier on his leadership in maintaining a safe mining industry and responsible mineral resource development. The bill is an important step in updating the mines and petroleum health and safety legislation. I commend the bill to the House.

Mr DAVID LAYZELL (Upper Hunter) (16:07): I speak in support of the Work Health and Safety (Mines and Petroleum Sites) Amendment Bill 2022 and thank the Deputy Premier for his work in introducing the bill to the House. The New South Wales mining sector has a skilled workforce and a reputation of safe, responsible and innovative practices. The mining sector in the Upper Hunter employs highly skilled electricians, carpenters and drivers who work hard while maintaining safety standards. The work method statements that they develop and follow are some of the best in the world. They have great work plans and use PPE on site in a manner that has created a safe culture. Through work health and safety procedures, we make sure that we do the best we can in the mining industry. One accident is one accident too many and we have got to work to make sure that we are doing the best we can to create a safer industry.

The bill improves government legislation, while maintaining a safe mining industry and responsible mineral resource development. It implements recommendations from the 2020 statutory review into work health and safety laws for mines and petroleum sites. The amendments are uncontroversial and are supported by industry, including unions. Changes to probity requirements for industry safety and health representatives are supported and promote confidence in industry regulation. Industry safety and health representatives exercise specific legislative powers and functions around workers' health and safety in the coal industry. The Minister appoints safety and health representatives on nomination by the mining and energy division of the Construction, Forestry, Maritime, Mining and Energy Union. Under section 28 (1), the person must be a work health and safety entry permit holder under the Work Health and Safety Act. They must also hold qualifications prescribed by the regulations to be eligible for appointment as an industry safety and health representative.

The Department of Regional NSW currently applies government appointment standards on any appointment made on the Minister's behalf. This happens even when industry nominates the appointment, which ensures that the appointed persons are fit and proper to exercise those powers and functions. For transparency, amending section 28 (1) codifies probity checks and integrity screening as eligibility requirements. The amendment will provide greater confidence in industry regulation and provide for clearer grounds to refuse appointments. Changes to the Mining and Petroleum Competence Board will enhance its governance arrangements. The Act provides for the establishment of the Mining and Petroleum Competence Board and sets out the board's functions, memberships, procedures and other related matters. Additional provisions, such as board membership requirements, are set out in the Act and the regulation.

As a tripartite body, the board includes persons from both employer advocacy groups and trade unions. Those persons are nominated by the key stakeholder bodies specified in the regulation. There is currently no requirement in the Act or regulation for the Minister's appointed chair to be independent of the nominating bodies; however, in practice, the Minister appoints an independent chair. Consistent with broader New South Wales Government conflict of interest and probity principles, it is necessary to formalise the current practice. The bill proposes to amend the Act so that the board's chair is independent of the nominating bodies, which is consistent with the requirements for the other ministerial committee under the Act, the Mine Safety Advisory Council. The proposed amendment will ensure that the chair is not an officer of the Department of Regional NSW.

In closing, the amendments give the community confidence about the safety arrangements in place for our mining and petroleum sector. We need this confidence to have a strong industry. It is only with community support that people go to work every day knowing that they will be in a safe and productive environment. The bill is an important step in updating the mines and petroleum health and safety legislation. It will deliver on the recommendations from the 2020 statutory review and create better outcomes for the people of regional New South Wales. I commend the bill to the House.

Mr LEE EVANS (Heathcote) (16:13): The Heathcote electorate has a long coalmining history. The Peabody coalmine in Helensburgh has been going for over 135 years. There is nothing more pleasing than driving past its gateway and seeing that it has been 400 days since the last accident. It is fantastic to see that accidents are not that prevalent in the coal industry, but anything could happen in the mining sector. If something happens, it will more than likely be a very serious or deadly accident. As a strong supporter of the New South Wales mining industry, I speak in favour of the Work Health and Safety (Mines and Petroleum Sites) Amendment Bill 2022.

Mining has played a vital part in the State's economy and will continue to do so in the future. It is an industry with significant risks; however, the New South Wales mining sector is one of the most advanced in the world. It also has a safety record that ranks amongst the best in the world. This is in large part due to the State's strong mining and petroleum sector, health and safety laws and regulations, and its strong tripartite approach. These laws have been put in place by successive governments throughout the State's long history of mining. The community rightly expects businesses to act responsibly, and regulation plays an important part in delivering on that expectation. The amendments in the bill ensure that government enforcement powers can be used effectively, without creating additional red tape. They will continue to ensure that New South Wales remains at the forefront of best practice safety regulation.

I am pleased to see a proposed change from monetary penalties to penalty units linked to the consumer price index [CPI]. The New South Wales Work Health and Safety Act 2011, or the WHS Act, and Work Health and Safety Regulation 2017 use indexed penalty units for offences. That change followed the passing of the Work Health and Safety Amendment (Review) Act 2020. Indexed penalty units reflect those in the national model work health and safety laws. The penalty amounts have not increased since they commenced on 1 January 2012. The penalties for offences under the general New South Wales WHS Act will maintain their value against the consumer price index. The value of a penalty unit under the general New South Wales WHS Act was set as \$110 for the 2019-20 financial year. It is subject to CPI for each subsequent financial year, and the method of calculation for CPI is set out in the Act. The amendment enacts the change to indexed penalty units and reflects the seriousness of offences under the Act.

Other statute law revisions are sensible, incremental changes to bring the Act up to date with regulatory best practice. The bill clarifies the allowable methods of serving certain documents on a body corporate under the Act. Documents will be able to be served by email to persons exercising statutory functions at a mine or petroleum site. Currently the Act allows service to the email address of only the relevant body corporate. Enabling service of documents via email to an email address nominated by the body corporate ensures certainty in serving documents and reduces risk of a service error. It also brings those requirements into line with best practice and the New South Wales Beyond Digital strategy.

The bill updates the definition of "Department" following the establishment of Regional NSW as the responsible department. It also identifies the Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional New South Wales and Minister for Police as the responsible Minister. The bill clarifies that the head of the department, as the regulator, is to be known as the NSW Resources Regulator. It will ensure that there is consistency with the approach taken under the WHS Act. For example, the Secretary of the Department of Finance, Services and Innovation, as the regulator under that Act, is to be known as SafeWork NSW.

The amendment will also allow prosecutions to commence in the name of the NSW Resources Regulator, rather than a named individual prosecutor. The changes are sensible and incremental. I believe the bill is an important step in ensuring that we have safe workplaces in our community. As the Deputy Premier outlined, the amendments contained in the bill will make important updates to several aspects of the legislation. The amendments bring about important change that will support government officials prosecuting safety offences. I commend the bill to the House.

Mr PAUL TOOLE (Bathurst—Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional New South Wales, and Minister for Police) (16:18): In reply: I thank the member for Bankstown, the member for Miranda, the member for Upper Hunter and the member for Heathcote for their contributions to this important debate on the Work Health and Safety (Mines and Petroleum Sites) Amendment Bill 2022. The bill makes important changes to the Work Health and Safety (Mines and Petroleum Sites) Act 2013 that seek to deliver the recommendations from the 2020 statutory review. Changes relating to industry safety and health representatives are uncontroversial and promote confidence in how the industry is regulated. Industry safety and health representatives exercise specified powers and functions relating to the health and safety interests of workers in the coal industry. Part 5 division 2 of the Act provides for safety and health representatives to do that. Industry safety and health representatives are appointed by the Minister and must be nominated by the Construction, Forestry, Maritime, Mining and Energy Union—Mining and Energy division.

Under section 28 (1) of the Act, the person must be a "WHS entry permit holder" under the Work Health and Safety Act 2011, or WHS Act, and have the qualifications prescribed by the regulation to be eligible for appointment as an industry safety health representative. The current practice of the Department of Regional NSW is to apply New South Wales Government appointment standards on behalf of the Minister to any ministerial appointment, even when nominated by industry. That ensures that persons are fit and proper to exercise those powers and functions. For transparency, amending section 28 (1) formalises probity checks and integrity screening in the legislation as an eligibility requirement. That amendment promotes confidence in how the industry is regulated and provides for a clear ground for refusal of an appointment, which does not currently exist.

Changes relating to the Mining and Petroleum Competence Board will enhance its governance arrangements. The Act provides for the establishment of the Mining and Petroleum Competence Board. Part 8 of the Act sets out the functions, membership, procedures and other matters relating to the board. Additional provisions are set out in the Act and regulation. Requirements for membership of the board are contained in both the Act and regulation. Currently there is no requirement in the Act or regulation for the chairperson of the board, also appointed by the Minister, to be independent of the nominating bodies. Consistent with broader New South Wales Government principles on conflicts of interest and probity, it is desirable to formalise the current practice. Therefore, the bill amends section 65 (1) (a) of the Act so that the chairperson of the board is independent of the nominating bodies and is also not an officer of the Department of Regional NSW.

I am pleased to see that changes are being made to penalty units to automatically link them to the consumer price index. The penalty amounts in the Work Health and Safety Act 2011 and the Work Health and Safety Regulation 2017 reflect those in the national model work health and safety laws. Consistent with the WHS Act and regulation, the Act is amended to specify that penalty units should be automatically indexed with the consumer price index. The penalty amounts have not increased since they commenced on 1 January 2012. The penalties for offences under the New South Wales WHS Act will maintain their value in accordance with the consumer price index, calculated as set out in the WHS Act. The amendment reflects the seriousness of offences under the Act. The bill enacts that change. Other statute law revisions are sensible, incremental changes to the Act to bring it up to date with regulatory best practice.

The bill clarifies the service of certain documents on a body corporate under the Act. Currently the Act allows service to the email address of only the body corporate. Enabling service of documents via email to an address nominated by the body corporate has multiple benefits, including certainty in serving documents, reducing risk to the regulator of the documents not being given to the correct person, and bringing those requirements into line with best practice and the New South Wales Beyond Digital strategy. The definition of "Department" in the Act—the Department of Planning and Environment—is being amended following the establishment of Regional NSW as the department responsible to the Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional New South Wales and Minister for Police, who has administration of the Act.

The bill contains a new provision to clarify that the head of the department, as the regulator under the Act, is to be known as the NSW Resources Regulator. That will ensure that there is consistency with the approach taken under the WHS Act, where the Secretary of the Department of Finance, Services and Innovation, as the regulator under that Act, is to be known as SafeWork NSW. This amendment will also allow prosecutions to be commenced in the name of the NSW Resources Regulator rather than by a named individual prosecutor. Those changes are uncontroversial. The bill is an

important step in updating the Work Health and Safety (Mines and Petroleum Sites) Act 2013 to support safety, safe workplaces and the community. The New South Wales mining sector has a skilled work[force] and a reputation for safe, responsible and innovative practices. That is why the Government strongly supports a safe mining industry and the responsible development of our mineral resources. The bill gives effect to the recommendations in the 2020 *Statutory Review of the Work Health and Safety (Mines and Petroleum Sites) Act 2013 and Regulation*. The amendments are supported by industry. 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 PAUL TOOLE: I move:

That this bill be now read a third time.

Motion agreed to.

RSL NSW AMENDMENT BILL 2022

First Reading

Bill introduced on motion by Mr David Elliott, read a first time and printed.

Second Reading Speech

Mr DAVID ELLIOTT (Baulkham Hills—Minister for Transport, and Minister for Veterans) (16:26): I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

I note the presence in the Chamber of the shadow Minister for Veterans, the member for Campbelltown, and the member for Bankstown. It is quite proper that both of those members are in the Chamber, the shadow Minister being the first sniper to be elected to the New South Wales Parliament—certainly in recent times. Before I move to the substantive part of my speech, I acknowledge the member for Bankstown. She recently joined me at the funeral of Bert Collins, the oldest surviving World War II veteran and a man who was well regarded not only in her electorate of Bankstown but also throughout the veterans community, and who is sorely missed.

The object of the RSL NSW Amendment Bill 2022 is to amend the RSL NSW Act 2018 to provide that duty is not payable under the Duties Act 1997 in relation to an act, matter or thing to give effect to the incorporation, under the Corporations Act 2001 of the Commonwealth, of a sub-branch of RSL NSW as a company limited by guarantee. That amendment will facilitate the reorganisation of sub-branches as companies

limited by guarantee, which will serve to bolster the governance regime of RSL NSW sub-branches and reduce administrative functions and expenses of sub-branches.

On 31 January 2018 the Hon. Patricia Bergin, SC, reported to government on an inquiry under the Charitable Fundraising Act 1991 that investigated RSL NSW's fundraising activities following allegations of financial misconduct. The report indicated that the corporate governance framework of RSL NSW was not sufficient to ensure that the organisation was accountable to its members. The inquiry found breaches of the statutory regime in place for the protection of funds raised from the public as well as widespread failures of governance. As a result of the inquiry recommendations, the New South Wales Government worked with RSL NSW to amend the Returned and Services League of Australia (New South Wales Branch) Incorporation Act 1935 to help ensure that there is transparent governance. The amended RSL NSW Act commenced on 31 December 2018. The amendments strengthened the RSL NSW corporate governance and accountability and made RSL NSW subject to additional reporting requirements, including an annual report tabled in Parliament.

RSL NSW initiated wideranging reforms to improve governance and accountability and revitalise its leadership. As part of the reforms, RSL NSW determined that its sub-branches—which are unincorporated associations established by the issue of a charter by RSL NSW—may benefit from being reconstituted as companies limited by guarantee under the Corporations Act 2001. Although each sub-branch is required to confirm its commitment to adhere to the constitution of RSL NSW, which includes various governance measures and protocols to be observed by sub-branches, RSL NSW has determined that the more enhanced regulatory and governance regime available under the Corporations Act is now more appropriate and better suited to the current circumstances for some sub-branches. A new constitution was adopted at the December 2019 State Congress and states that nothing in the constitution precludes a sub-branch from forming and becoming an incorporated body.

RSL NSW is seeking to encourage sub-branches to incorporate, and there are approximately 340 sub-branches. The assets of many sub-branches, including those that wish to incorporate, include real estate. The incorporation process will necessarily entail the transfer of the sub-branch's real property to its replacement incorporated sub-branch. Furthermore, the case for incorporation is strengthened because all property is managed by trustees under the current sub-branch structure. The trustees of each sub-branch hold all assets of their respective sub-branch on trust and in accordance with the RSL NSW constitution. Whenever there is a change in trustees, which is becoming increasingly common as the sub-branch population ages, sub-branches must spend charitable money to amend the trust documentation. Where sub-branches own property, that is expensive and complicated. In addition, all agreements entered into by a sub-branch must be entered into by the trustees of the sub-branch, who may incur personal liability under the agreement.

Furthermore, sub-branches are not able to make their own grant applications. Most grant applications by a sub-branch must be made under the auspices of RSL NSW, which creates a regulatory burden for RSL NSW. Absent any concession, exemption or amendment to the Duties Act 1997, real estate owned by the sub-branch will constitute dutiable property under that Act. The conveyance of that real property by or on behalf of each sub-branch to the incorporated replacement sub-branch will constitute a dutiable transaction and attract duty, which will be payable by the incorporated sub-branch. For all intents and purposes, the practical effect of each conveyance will not alter the ultimate beneficial ownership of the real property, as all property of a sub-branch must be applied to further the RSL's charitable purpose as defined in the constitution of RSL NSW and none of the assets may be distributed or transferred, directly or indirectly, to any of its members.

However, any duty payable as part of that restructuring exercise will significantly deplete the cash reserves of RSL NSW, which in turn will affect its charitable operations and other related activities and operations. It should be noted that the duty payable is applied on a sliding scale depending on the value of the property. For example, the Revenue NSW website notes that a \$1 million property would incur duty of \$40,305, a \$5 million property would incur duty of \$259,875 and a \$15 million property would incur duty of \$809,875. As sub-branches are seeking to become companies limited by guarantee, their land is not being sold. In some cases, they may not have the funding available to pay the duty. There is no change in ownership upon transfer.

I know many members of Parliament have received correspondence from their sub-branches on this matter. The clear way to resolve this would be an amendment to the RSL Act 2018, because incorporation under the Corporations Act 2001 will preserve the current relationship under the RSL NSW constitution between the State office and the sub-branch as one organisation while enabling improved governance. RSL NSW and its fantastic president, Ray James, support this approach. I now turn to the particulars of the bill. It inserts new section 15A, which notes the application of the Duties Act 1997. New section 15A (1) notes:

This section applies if, with the approval of RSL NSW, a sub-Branch incorporates under the *Corporations Act 2001* of the Commonwealth as a company limited by guarantee.

New section 15A (2) clearly notes:

Duty is not chargeable under the *Duties Act 1997* in relation to an act, matter or thing to give effect to the incorporation, including in relation to the transfer of assets, rights or liabilities from the unincorporated sub-Branch to the incorporated sub-Branch.

New section 15A (3) notes:

... *sub-Branch* means a sub-Branch of RSL NSW within the meaning of the RSL NSW Constitution.

The amendment will greatly assist sub-branches to incorporate. That will also allow sub-branches to modernise their governance structure and achieve an enduring structure whereby property is held by the incorporated entity so that property ownership is not tied to individual members. In addition, it will have a positive impact on the operations of sub-branches. The majority of RSL NSW members and sub-branches are outside the Sydney metropolitan area. Changes to their corporate governance will make it easier for them to do business and fulfil their charitable obligations to support veterans, which is why I humbly commend the bill to the House.

Debate adjourned.

Community Recognition Statements

NURSE JENNY LAWRENCE RETIREMENT

Mr JUSTIN CLANCY (Albury) (16:35): I acknowledge the retirement this April of clinical nurse and educator Jenny Lawrence after working at the Corowa hospital for the past 37 years. Mrs Lawrence first commenced employment as a nurse at the Corowa hospital in 1985 in a position that became available when a midwife left. Over the decades, Jenny had the opportunity to work in various wards, such as aged care, theatre, acute care, maternity and the emergency department. It was in the emergency department where she discovered her passion. In 2008 this led to a new role as an educator responsible for coordinating student nurses in highly sought-after first-line emergency care courses every year. This gave Jenny the opportunity to pass on her knowledge and watch as the students grew in confidence and leadership, becoming more effective in their roles. I congratulate Jenny. She has worked so hard over the years. I offer her my best wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and all the best with her involvement with the Riverina Plants and Gardening group.

BANGLADESH INDEPENDENCE DAY

Mr JIHAD DIB (Lakemba) (16:36): I congratulate the Australian-Bangladeshi community, including the 5,000 people living in the electorate of Lakemba, who are celebrating independence and the national day of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. This year's independence day marked the fifty-first anniversary of Bangladeshi independence. With Bangladesh being the eighth most populous country in the world, it is no wonder that it celebrates its independence with massive parades, fairs, concerts, ceremonies and various other events commemorating its history and traditions. The Bangladeshi community has shared with Australia its rich culture and history through music, celebrations and food. Its deep and rich heritage adds value to the core of the country that we call home. I thank the Consul General of Bangladesh for New South Wales and Queensland, His Excellency Khandker Masudul Alam, for hosting a wonderful celebration of Bangladesh in the New South Wales Parliament. I further extend my thanks to the Australian-Bangladeshi community, which has contributed towards the greater good of our people, and recommit my support to all groups of people doing good work around the State.

OXLEY ELECTORATE ROAD PROJECTS

Mrs MELINDA PAVEY (Oxley) (16:37): Recently the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads, the Hon. Sam Farraway, visited the four valleys of the Oxley electorate and met with senior local government representatives and mayors. It was a great day. We did a lot of kilometres, but we also achieved a lot. We met with the mayor of Port Macquarie Hastings Council, Peta Pinson, and explained that funding has been set aside in the budget to support Lorne Road. Her council has set some money aside. This is in addition to money allocated by the Federal Government, which increased by another \$10 million today. The Minister gave his absolute assurance that he will work towards finding that support. We also received an update on the King Creek intersection on the Oxley Highway. Following community feedback, some final tweaking is currently happening. In natural disaster work, there has been a major, catastrophic failure of Toose Road at the back of Kempsey, near Bellbrook. We met with the mayor of Kempsey Shire Council, Leo Hauville. We are working through that and supporting the council to fix that important road.

COUNTRY WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Ms TRISH DOYLE (Blue Mountains) (16:38): The Country Women's Association of NSW has recently celebrated its 100th year, a celebration that is testament to the incredible work of the organisation and its role in improving the lives of women and children in rural areas particularly. When communities face hardship, the CWA is there to offer support, to nurture and to display a show of solidarity that has the ability to inspire and change the lives of those facing the most extreme of challenges. Through fires, floods, pandemics and plagues, the

organisation steps up as a beacon of hope when it can feel as though all hope is lost. I acknowledge the Blue Mountains branches of the CWA: Blackheath, Leura day and evening branches, and Glenbrook day and evening branches. I thank them for selflessly volunteering their time to others in our community and for their values of inclusivity, action and compassion. The CWA is a much-respected pillar of our society—women supporting women, embracing diversity and committing to continuing the incredible legacy of the CWA for generations to come.

HOCKEY PLAYER EMILY CHALKER

Mrs WENDY TUCKERMAN (Goulburn—Minister for Local Government) (16:39): I recognise the efforts of Hockeyroo Emily Chalker. Emily is a three-time Olympic-winning hockey player. She made her debut at 20 years of age at the London Olympics. In Crookwell, Emily's love for hockey started at the age of five. Emily made her senior national team debut at the age of 19 at the 2011 Oceania Cup against New Zealand. She scored her first international goal in the second game of the competition and came home from the tournament with the silver medal. The following year she was named in the squad to compete at the 2012 London Olympic Games. She was the youngest member of the team. Emily played a total of 255 games for Australia and scored 88 goals along the way. She was part of the gold-medal winning team at the 2014 Commonwealth Games, and she was appointed captain of the Hockeyroos in 2017. They are all incredible achievements. Emily recently retired. I wish her all the best in her retirement and congratulate her on an absolutely wonderful career.

IMREET SINGH HSC AWARD WINNER

Mrs HELEN DALTON (Murray) (16:40): I recognise and congratulate Imreet Singh for his academic achievements in the 2021 HSC. Imreet completed his HSC studies at Marian Catholic College, achieving a 98.20 Australian Tertiary Admission Rank, five Band 6s and the highest award for academic excellence: dux of the school. Despite the many disruptions presented by the pandemic, Imreet dedicated himself to his studies, demonstrating that hard work and determination really do pay off. On top of his HSC studies, Imreet also studied for and completed the University Clinical Aptitude Test as part of his application for medicine, volunteered at the Griffith Sikh Temple, served as school captain and worked part time at a local pharmacy. Aiming to one day become a cardiothoracic surgeon, Imreet is a role model to his school community. I commend him on his exceptional HSC results.

ORAN PARK FIRE STATION

Mr PETER SIDGREAVES (Camden) (16:41): Last month I was joined by Fire and Rescue NSW deputy commissioner, Megan Stiffler; Axis Construction project manager Justin Tabone; and Metropolitan South 3 zone commander, Superintendent Wayne Schweikle, to inspect the work on the new Oran Park fire station. I am pleased to report that excavation work and soil removal is underway at the site. The two-storey Oran Park fire station will have a new fire truck, a hazmat appliance and other associated equipment, and is expected to be completed later in the year. The new station provides assurance of the safety of Oran Park and surrounding communities, and provides firefighters with the equipment and amenities they require to perform their duties. I thank the New South Wales Coalition Government, the emergency services Minister, and Fire and Rescue NSW for committing to this project. It will immensely benefit this community in the Camden electorate.

TRIBUTE TO STUART CHALMERS

Ms YASMIN CATLEY (Swansea) (16:42): The name Stuart Chalmers is synonymous with the Swansea community. Sadly I acknowledge that Caves Beach Surf Life Saving Club [SLSC] life member Stuart Chalmers, OAM, passed away last month. Stuart joined Caves Beach SLSC in 1961 and held a number of roles, including president. He was also a surfboat rowing and march past competitor who achieved medals at both the State and national levels. In fact, Stuart was involved in the infamous 1962-63 Caves Beach SLSC junior boat crew that won the Hunter branch Surf Life Saving NSW State award and Surf Life Saving Australia junior surfboat titles. Stuart made a great contribution to surf lifesaving. In addition to achieving life membership with Caves Beach SLSC, he was also awarded life membership of Hunter Surf Life Saving and was recognised by Surf Life Saving Australia for completing 25 years, 50 years and 60 years of service. Stuart was a highly respected member of Caves Beach Surf Life Saving Club and the Swansea community. I know that his legacy will live on in our community forever. Vale, Stuart Chalmers, OAM.

DURI SPORTSGROUND

Mr KEVIN ANDERSON (Tamworth—Minister for Lands and Water, and Minister for Hospitality and Racing) (16:43): It gives me great pleasure to congratulate the Duri Progress Association and the Duri War Memorial Tennis Club committee on the work they do to keep the facilities at the Duri Sportsground in great shape for the benefit of the local community. It was great to be joined by three-year-old Hudson Hillier on Saturday to cut the ribbon on a \$23,733 upgrade to the tennis clubhouse funded by the New South Wales

Government. The community grounds are so important for kids like Hudson. They are a place to play, a place to make new friends and a place to burn off all the extra energy a young bloke has. The grounds connect our smaller communities, young and old, keeping them active and in the company of friends and neighbours. I know that the Duri community thanks the Duri Progress Association and the Duri War Memorial Tennis Club committee for keeping these facilities in good condition so that young blokes like Hudson and his mates can enjoy them for many years to come.

HARRINGTON MEN'S SHED

Mrs LESLIE WILLIAMS (Port Macquarie) (16:44): I congratulate the Harrington Men's Shed, which recently celebrated ten years of mateship, activity and service since its inception in April 2012. The Harrington Men's Shed should be proud of its many achievements, including the many impressive projects that have supported the community since its establishment at the marina complex under the charter president Bob Downing. Today the association has 84 financial members and is located off Nicholson Street in a purpose-built shed championed by the late David Pollard. I remember working alongside members to support them in securing a grant of \$55,000 towards a build that would cost \$167,000 to construct and was pleased that it was officially opened on 9 June 2015. In 2019 an additional \$30,000 was secured to extend the premises to establish a quiet room with soundproofing and air conditioning, allowing the men to interact in a comfortable and private setting, encouraging engagement and further fostering relationships away from the busy and often noisy shed environment. I congratulate all past and current committee members, including president Bill Burges, and thank them for their focus on men's mental health and wellbeing.

YOUTH PARLIAMENT LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION JAYDEN DELBRIDGE

Mr DAVID HARRIS (Wyang) (16:45): I congratulate Jayden Delbridge from Wyong, who was recently elected the Leader of the Opposition in the upper House for the 2022 Y NSW Youth Parliament and sits on the education committee. Y NSW Youth Parliament training is a program for young people in years 10, 11 and 12 to have a political experience by being trained as members of the Legislative Council. The program has been running for 20 years. Jayden participated in the program last year as well and was the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change. Well done Jayden on this accomplishment. I wish him all the best on his journey with the program.

MANLY SAILABILITY

Mr JAMES GRIFFIN (Manly—Minister for Environment and Heritage) (16:46): I acknowledge and wish a happy twenty-sixth anniversary to Manly Sailability. Sailability is an organisation that provides an incredibly valuable service allowing people with disabilities to not only participate in the joys of sailing but also to gain confidence and important life skills. The motto of Sailability is "Freedom on the water, regardless of ability", and what better place to do that than on the magnificent Sydney Harbour sailing out of Manly. Sailability is a fantastic organisation that makes me very proud to represent Manly. I acknowledge and thank the many volunteers that make Sailability the success story that it is. I wish them the best of luck continuing their vital work into the future in helping people to get out and have "freedom on the water, regardless of ability".

WRITER KEVIN SHORT

Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland) (16:47): I congratulate Kevin Short on the publication of his recent book, *Elections from the inside looking out*. This work is an incredibly informative and interesting insider's view of our electoral process. I first met Kevin Short when I ran for local government in 2008. His 33-year career with the Australian Electoral Commission was one of integrity. Electoral integrity is critical to our democracy, and I know that under Kevin's management we saw that writ large. As a contributor to the clubs and associations of Maitland such as Maitland Hockey, Maitland Freemasons, the Maitland & District Historical Society and many others, Kevin has always acted with integrity and a deep commitment to our community. He has also been an incredibly hard worker. I thank Kevin on behalf of all of our community for sharing his insights in his book and for his incredible contribution over more than three decades to our community, ensuring that we are able to exercise our democratic rights at our elections.

NSW WOMEN OF THE YEAR AWARD WINNER EMILY BARTROP

Mr ALISTER HENSKENS (Ku-ring-gai—Minister for Skills and Training, and Minister for Science, Innovation and Technology) (16:48): I acknowledge Pymble resident Emily Bartrop, who was selected as a finalist in the 2022 One to Watch Award, a category of the NSW Women of the Year Awards. The award recognises girls and young women who demonstrate acts of courage, strength, determination and kindness to support those around them. When Emily was just five, her sister was born with a congenital heart disease. Emily wanted to raise money to help others like her younger sister, and asked her mother if she could create artwork and run an art exhibition to raise funds for the not-for-profit HeartKids. HeartKids supports and advocates for people

impacted by childhood heart disease—one of the largest causes of infant death in Australia. It is no surprise her first art exhibition was a success. Since then Emily has continued the yearly exhibition and has raised over \$10,000 for HeartKids. I attended the award ceremony in March at the Sydney Opera House and had the privilege to meet Emily and her family. At just 12 years of age, Emily is an inspiring young woman.

TRIBUTE TO NECTARIOS PAPANICOLAOU

Ms JO HAYLEN (Summer Hill) (16:49): I acknowledge the tragic loss of Nectarios "Necta" Papanicolaou. Anyone who visited Dulwich Hill Gourmet Meats on Marrickville Road could tell you just how much Nectarios loved his job, his family and his community. In her tribute, Athena Sirmanoglou described Necta as "the true definition of a people person" and a "man with the world's biggest smile, the playful joker with a great sense of humour, the beautiful soul who lit up the room with his positive energy and infectious laugh". Nectarios will be sorely missed by the Dulwich Hill community. Thousands have poured their condolences and sympathy across Facebook posts and community forums. A GoFundMe page has raised \$65,000 for his family. My thoughts during this tremendously difficult time are with his wife, Krissy; his daughter, Paris; son, George; his parents, George and Yiota; and his siblings, Michael, Dion and Michelle. The whole of the inner west is keeping them in our thoughts. Our community will miss Necta greatly, but his memory will live on when anyone is greeted with a smile at our beloved butcher in Dulwich Hill.

STARLIGHT CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION VOLUNTEER ISAAC KURUVILLA

Mr MARK TAYLOR (Seven Hills) (16:50): I acknowledge Starlight Children's Foundation volunteer Isaac Kuruvilla for his long service at Westmead Hospital. I congratulate and thank Isaac Kuruvilla on 25 years of service at the Starlight Express Room at Westmead children's hospital. This is such a remarkable achievement of ongoing service to our local community, in particular to those children within our community. Isaac's colleagues have noted him as a committed and enthusiastic volunteer who helps their team with setting up activities, welcoming families and engaging with kids in fun things to do like art, craft, games and dancing. In addition to his work within the Starlight Express Room, Isaac also supports Starlight with media opportunities, including podcasts and radio, and by being featured in the local newspaper. I take this opportunity to thank all the Starlight volunteers, who do a fantastic job in supporting the children within our community. Our community is particularly grateful for Isaac's work and the passion he has brought to enlivening the lives of sick children and teenagers for the past 25 years.

CHRISTOPHER CASSANITI MEMORIAL GALA DINNER

Mr GUY ZANGARI (Fairfield) (16:51): On Saturday 26 March 2022 the Touched by Christopher Foundation held the Christopher's Memorial Gala Dinner to honour the life of Christopher Cassaniti. The event was well attended by 500 guests at Doltone House Marconi. On 1 April 2019 18-year-old Christopher Cassaniti tragically died in a workplace accident. The death of Christopher has left his mother, Patrizia; father, Robert; and two brothers grieving and has impacted on the construction industry as a whole. The Cassaniti family have since been advocating for making the construction industry a safer place for workers. I was delighted to be in the company of my parliamentary colleagues the shadow Minister for Industrial Relations, Sophie Cotsis, MP, the Hon. Adam Searle, the Hon. Mark Buttigieg and the Hon. Anthony D'Adam. The fundraising evening would not have been possible without the help from the Touched by Christopher organising committee, volunteers and donors. I commend the Touched by Christopher Foundation for a successful event and wish it well in future efforts for this great cause.

CRANEBROOK HIGH SCHOOL AGRICULTURE SHOW TEAM

Mr STUART AYRES (Penrith—Minister for Enterprise, Investment and Trade, Minister for Tourism and Sport, and Minister for Western Sydney) (16:52): I congratulate and recognise the Cranebrook High School Agriculture Show Team on its success at the recent Sydney Royal Easter Show. The team was placed third in the schools alpaca handling competition. Cranebrook High is a fantastic school in the northern part of Penrith—not necessarily an area that you would automatically think of for a strong agricultural school—but the agricultural department at this school is nothing but exceptional. I do not think that it would be out of the realms for me to say that the agricultural team is really the heart and soul of the whole school. It has been such an important part of what it does. For anyone who has not had an opportunity to try and handle an alpaca, I can tell you that they are not the easiest things to move around and give instructions to. So, for the school to be able to get the somewhat uncooperative alpaca to do everything that it needed to do and finish third at the Sydney Royal Easter Show is an outstanding effort.

RUN DIPG FUNDRAISER ALAN METCALF

Mr TIM CRAKANTHROP (Newcastle) (16:53): Alan Metcalf is not one to back away from a challenge. At 62 years old, Alan set a paddle world record by travelling 137 kilometres from the Opera House to Newcastle's

Queens Wharf in seven days in support of cystic fibrosis. At 73 years old, he has just done it again. However, this time Alan undertook the Bondi-to-Newcastle Beach journey in support of the 20 children who this year will be diagnosed with diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma [DIPG], the deadliest form of childhood cancer. Radiation therapy is the only treatment for DIPG, but only 50 per cent of patients respond to it. DIPG accounts for one in five childhood deaths to cancer. Alan's amazing effort has raised over \$10,000 for Run DIPG, which works to improve outcomes for people affected by this cancer. I thank Alan. He has done well.

MOTHER'S DAY

Mr NATHANIEL SMITH (Wollondilly) (16:54): On Mother's Day, we have the opportunity to thank the women in our lives for the life-giving role they play in our families and in the wider community. The role of mothers is one that is indispensable and invaluable to our society. To state the obvious, not a single person exists today without a mother. Importantly, without their lifelong support, nurturing love and care, we would live in a sad and sorry world. I know that mums today can feel an incredible amount of pressure to be perfect, but there are many ways of being a mum. Here is to all the stay-at-home mums, the working mums, the soft mums, the tough love mums, the mums running both businesses and families, the mums who adopt, and the mums who expand their love far beyond their own children. I especially wish all the mothers in Wollondilly and the Southern Highlands a very happy Mother's Day for Sunday just past and thank them for all they do to keep the community running. I especially thank my mother, my mother-in-law and, of course, my wife.

PARAMATILDAS PLAYER LAINEE HARRISON

Ms JODIE HARRISON (Charlestown) (16:55): ParaMatildas head coach Kelly Stirton has announced a 10-player squad for the 2022 International Federation of Cerebral Palsy Football Women's World Cup, the first side to represent the ParaMatildas on the international stage. I am so proud to report that my cousin Laine, a year 12 Hunter Sports High School student, has been named to the side at number 5. Laine is an extraordinary young woman who has overcome some great challenges. Now she is on her way to Spain to run onto the field for her team and her country. I could not be more delighted for her. She has trained so hard. This is not the first time that Laine has been part of history. She was one of the first athletes with a disability to attend the 2019 Little Athletics camp at the Australian Institute of Sport in Canberra. I wish her and her teammates all the best for the World Cup. Their first game, against the Netherlands, is tomorrow night. I congratulate Laine and wish her good luck.

RIVERWOOD COMMUNITY CENTRE

Mr MARK COURE (Oatley—Minister for Multiculturalism, and Minister for Seniors) (16:56): Riverwood Community Centre has a long, proud history in my community, spanning over 40 years. While providing a range of valuable and high-quality programs for individuals, families and community groups in a caring, inclusive environment, it encourages, empowers and supports the local community with respect and celebrates our rich cultural diversity, embraces our volunteers, and encourages participation, connection and inclusion within our local community. It has a passionate board and an equally passionate team of skilled staff members and more than 100 valued volunteers. I acknowledge on record the CEO, David Elkins; along with board members, led by Karl Saleh; Pauline Gallagher, who is a long-term CEO of Riverwood Community Centre; and Robert Furolo, who is a former member of this place. Many people in our local community know that I will be fighting for upgrades to Riverwood Community Centre in the not-too-distant future.

VIETNAMESE COMMUNITY IN WOLLONGONG

Mr PAUL SCULLY (Wollongong) (16:58): Community groups and organisations throughout the country have been digging deep to help other communities who have lost lives, property and livelihoods as a result of the recent floods in New South Wales. One such group is the Vietnamese community in Wollongong, led by President Teresa Tran, who recently held a fundraising event in Fairy Meadow, which I attended with the Labor candidate for Cunningham, Alison Byrnes; the Lord Mayor of Wollongong; and Angela Ljubic, from the board of the Multicultural Communities Council of Illawarra. Like other events the Vietnamese community hosts, the flood fundraiser was well attended and a fun night. Through donations, raffles and auction items, the group raised more than \$16,000 on the night, providing the proceeds to the Red Cross to help with its flood recovery efforts. I thank the organisers and everyone who contributed to making the night a success. It was a particularly good effort to bring the event together, given that, on the same weekend, the Vietnamese community was also involved in ANZAC Day commemorations, including hosting its own commemoration ceremony, at the Vietnam War comradeship monument in MacCabe Park.

Business interrupted.

*Public Interest Debate***COST OF LIVING INITIATIVES**

Mr JUSTIN CLANCY (Albury) (16:59): I move:

That this House acknowledges the investment made by the Government in communities to support a brighter future for New South Wales families.

All of us here appreciate that families cover a diverse range of composition and that, at their heart, our families are a source of nurturing and caring for one another. At the end of the day, the family unit plays such a fundamental role in the cohesion of our broader community. This Government has a strong focus on investing in our communities to support a brighter future for New South Wales families. When the Premier was elected party leader and Premier late last year, he put it succinctly, saying, "I will also be a family Premier, focusing on how we can make life better for working families, living the Liberal values of opportunity, aspiration and hard work."

I know for many families across our State that cost of living is at the front of their minds. The New South Wales Government is deeply conscious of the impact that cost of living has on families. We are deeply conscious of inflationary demands that are impacting not only this State but also the nation. Supply chain blockages, higher fuel costs, global instability and conflict in places across the globe are causing increased prices for consumers. Appreciating and being deeply conscious of this, the Government is constantly monitoring cost-of-living pressures for individuals and families and is aware of the impact of the pandemic on labour supply, supply chains and the cost of living.

The Government is committed to assisting and supporting families. We see that in a range of provisions made by this Government, such as the Dine & Discover NSW vouchers, the Stay NSW vouchers, the Parents NSW vouchers and, in particular, the before- and after-school care vouchers, which provides \$500 per child for families with children aged between four and 13 years attending primary school. That is reducing out-of-pocket costs of before- and after-school care. Other vouchers include First Lap, the \$100 learn-to-swim vouchers for preschoolers and kindergarteners; Active Kids; Creative Kids; as well as family energy rebates, and seniors energy and gas rebates, which are significant investments made to support our families with the higher costs they currently face.

I will focus on infrastructure that supports families across our communities, which is important, and all of us here can speak about it. I will focus on Jerilderie, which is a beautiful township located in the western Riverina, on Newell Highway. What I love about its fantastic community is that the people are the salt of the earth. When you drive down Jerilderie Street, you first come to the Jerilderie skate park, which was opened only a couple of months ago. It was fantastic to be there with Mayor Ruth McRae and to see young kids in a bush town being able to use a facility that we would not see in some larger regional areas. But there it is, in a country town. Next to the skate park will be the Jerilderie Early Learning Centre, a new purpose-built early education facility offering 48 places for children up to five years of age. It will be instrumental in filling the void in childcare services in this area. That is funded through the New South Wales Government.

What is pleasing for me is seeing the local people, who are champions of those developments, working with the New South Wales Government to deliver that infrastructure. In particular, I give a shout-out Stephanie Girdwood, who has been doing a fantastic job on the ground. If you continue down the main street, you will see the investment that the New South Wales Government has made at the Jerilderie Sports Stadium and Jerilderie Community Gym—\$225,000 going towards helping families in the beautiful town of Jerilderie. There is the \$2 million Luke Park upgrade and the Jerilderie Swimming Pool upgrade. That is just one township, one country town in the western Riverina—a close, tight-knit, family-focused town. The development there speaks to the families of that community and speaks of the investment that the New South Wales Government has made for those families.

Yet each of us could say that it is not just a town like Jerilderie. It is everywhere. I could go on and speak, for example, of just under \$200,000 announced the other week for Henty Library. Wonderful people such as Susan Kane work at the library. Sue was telling me that libraries in our country towns are not just a place for books but also a safe place for families and young people to gather. Recently I was at the Holbrook Football and Netball Club, which has that sense of being a place for nurture, as Kristie Preston from there put it so well. But that investment in families and communities to make a brighter future cannot happen without strong economic management. For the New South Wales government, a strong economy means better and more jobs for families and households. It is thanks to the Coalition Government's strong economic management that the New South Wales economy has remained resilient through the challenges of the pandemic and global instability. We have a strong New South Wales economy with a plan for the future for our families in New South Wales.

Mr DAVID HARRIS (Wyong) (17:06): For those on the other side of the Chamber, it is time for an important reality check. The Opposition was criticised today during question time because it supports public sector workers in seeking higher wages. Let's have a look at some of the facts, including the cost of living in Sydney, the most expensive city in Australia. The consumer price in Sydney is 6 per cent higher than the Australian average. Grocery prices in Sydney are 2.2 per cent higher than the Australian average. Rent prices in Sydney are 55.51 per cent higher than the Australian average and members on the Government side do not want to give public sector workers a pay rise. They do not understand that the average people out there are really doing it tough; they are really struggling. The Government is a one-trick pony. Those opposite talk until the cows come home about infrastructure but they do not understand that the economy has two sides.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member for South Coast will come to order.

Mr DAVID HARRIS: It has infrastructure and it has services, and services are about people. If you do not support the people providing the services, then they go broke, they become homeless and they get kicked out of their houses, and the Government does not understand that. Today the Premier was having a go at Victoria. So let's compare Sydney to Melbourne.

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

Mr DAVID HARRIS: Consumer prices in Melbourne are 6.59 per cent lower than in Sydney. Rent prices in Melbourne—this is an interesting figure—are 51.75 per cent lower than in Sydney. Grocery prices in Melbourne are 1.5 per cent lower than in Sydney. This Government does not understand that strong Labor governments around Australia are supporting communities, keeping prices down and doing a good job, which is why governments in Queensland and Western Australia were just returned with massive majority. The people of Australia are finding out that that bluff about the Liberal-Nationals Coalition being good with economics is not true, and they are turning to Labor governments that actually care about people. They support people and they support public sector workers.

From this Government, we get a myth all the time about it trying to help people, but it is a double-edged sword. It is a sting in the tail; it is a mixed blessing. They talk about one thing but, at the other end, they beat people over the head. The Premier recently said that he was asking the Treasury to negotiate with toll operators to make distance-based tolling a reality. Guess what? Guess where people are doing it the toughest—on the edges of Sydney, in places like the Central Coast and the Illawarra. Which people will distance-based tolling hurt the most? It will be those new people. The constituents of government MPs representing electorates in north-western and south-western Sydney are going to end up paying more under the Premier's policy.

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

Mr DAVID HARRIS: We understand that. The people on the Central Coast, the MPs up there and the people in the Illawarra, who all live outside Sydney, understand that tolls are killing people.

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

Mr DAVID HARRIS: They are killing businesses and they are killing people trying to get to work because they are paying higher and higher amounts. This Government is totally out of touch. An article by Matt Wade in *The Sydney Morning Herald* says that price pressures and cost-of-living worries in Sydney are at an 11-year high. Guess who was in government 11 years ago? It was Labor. Since then it has gone up and up. People have never done it tougher. We have a Premier who talks about an unemployment rate, but he does not talk about the underemployment rate. In New South Wales, and in Australia, you only have to work one hour a week to be classed as employed. The real unemployment rate is between 8 and 11 per cent. Let's start talking about reality, about how people are doing it tough, about how many hours they are doing and about how their bills are rising every single day. This Government is out of touch. It deserves to be kicked out next year, and the people of New South Wales are ready to do it.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I call the member for Upper Hunter, who will be heard in silence.

Mr DAVID LAYZELL (Upper Hunter) (17:11): I assure the people of New South Wales that this Government will always do everything it can to support families, which are the nucleus of our society and no more than in regional New South Wales, where I come from, and in the Upper Hunter. Families are important to us. It is families that have probably the most pressure on them. They have high expenditure, baby goods to buy and teenagers to look after. Often only one parent is working and supporting that family. Mortgage stress is at its highest when the family comes along. I can remember my own experience. I remember trying to pay those bills and that mortgage when the family was there, and it is a tough time. Life is at its busiest.

The best way we can support families is if we have a good economy, which means a good economic performance. It means strong jobs, making sure people can get a good job with good pay, making sure there is

good flexibility and that businesses are looking after their employees because, let's face it, they have to look after their employees. There is a huge demand for workers out there, particularly in the Upper Hunter at the moment. The best way we can look after families is giving them the greatest opportunity, and this Government supports opportunity at all levels. The conditions for strong businesses to operate are absolutely critical. The market is returning. Do not forget that small businesses are often family businesses, so having a good, strong family business is another way that we can support those families. Profits are not huge in small businesses. But they put fuel in the car, they put food on the table and they pay those mortgages, which every family is trying to pay off. Good community infrastructure is important for families. This is what this Government has been focused on and has been delivering. Good roads mean that people can get home from work and back to their families and that they can put their kids back into school and pick them up every day.

Sporting infrastructure is going in. In the Upper Hunter there is a huge investment in the Olympic Park precinct at Muswellbrook—what a great asset for the people of the Upper Hunter. There are spaces for kids to play in and for people to enjoy their recreational time. We have seen development of Muswellbrook Hospital and there are commitments in place to make further improvements. This Government has made huge investment in hospitals in the Upper Hunter and I am proud of the improvements made. Good community services are being provided all the time in the Upper Hunter, including in areas in the far reaches of the electorate, such as Merriwa, which are hard to get to. But community services are getting out there and that is important for families.

This Government recognises that there are some real challenges facing families and the economy. We are constantly monitoring cost-of-living pressures. The Coalition is aware of the impact of the pandemic on labour supply, on the supply chain and on cost-of-living pressures. This Government is committed to assisting and supporting families with the cost of living. That is why it is focusing on incentives and programs to support families who need them most. There are things like assistance with the cost of utilities—energy and water bills—through programs such as the Family Energy Rebate, the Seniors Energy Rebate, Gas Rebate, Low Income Household Rebate, the pensioner water rebate, Energy Accounts Payment Assistance vouchers and discounted energy efficient lighting programs. The programs are numerous and they are out there. It is all because of a strong economy that the Government can help those families who most need our support.

Ms LYNDA VOLTZ (Auburn) (17:16): Madam Speaker—

Mrs Shelley Hancock: Come on, Lynda, be positive.

Ms LYNDA VOLTZ: I will be positive. I would positively love—

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member for Auburn will direct her comments through the Chair.

Ms LYNDA VOLTZ: —it if the New South Wales Government did the one thing that it said it would do at Wentworth Point. The Government had one job to do in Wentworth Point when it sold off all the RMS land and put in, first off, 13,000 and then 15,000 and then 20,000 and then 25,000 people: It was to build a park. The Government had to build a 3.9 hectare park and open it in 2016. What did the people get? They got nothing—a hole in the ground with a big fence around it. The Government had one job: to build one piece of infrastructure for those lovely families who might want to take their kids down to the park. The Government had to build that park by 2016 and it could not do it. The Government was going to build stage two of the light rail to take all the kids to school. What is happening with stage two of the light rail from Parramatta? Does anyone have any idea? How is the Government helping families out there?

What about the Carter Street primary school that was meant to be built when the Government put 6,200 apartments on just one block of land where there were no schools with any capacity? Is there any provision in the budget for a Carter Street primary school? It is non-existent. The Government does not care about those families. Those families are irrelevant. This Government does not help out families. This Government makes as many superlative promises as possible, but what does it do in our electorates? It puts tolls on roads, the people pay the road off and the next Liberal Government puts more tolls on it. This Government put the tolls back on the M4. What do the people who use the M4 have to do? If someone wants to travel on the M4 from Fairfield—an area with an unemployment rate of 19 per cent, by the way, not 4 per cent that those opposite talk about—they have to pay \$30.66 to get to the city and back again. This Government found out during COVID that our crucial workers come from western Sydney. But when it comes to paying tolls, it is western Sydney that wears all of it.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member for South Coast will come to order.

Ms LYNDA VOLTZ: The Premier says that if someone does not want to pay the toll they should use the other roads. How does someone get to the city from Fairfield? From Fairfield they need to travel down Merrylands Road, go through Granville South, go through Auburn and get up to King Georges Road—so every road from Fairfield to Merrylands to Guildford to Auburn is now a parking lot. The people in Granville South should get a fair deal, because Granville South has the highest number of single mothers living in poverty in the Sydney area.

Mosman has a new creative and performing arts high school. Can we get one in Granville South, where the poorest kids in metropolitan Sydney live? The answer is no, because when the Government says that it cares about families, it means that it cares about some families but not others. People in my electorate would love to have a skate park, like the one in Jerilderie. That would be wonderful. We would like it. The Government did provide a grant for a skate park at Lidcombe—that was really nice of it, to provide for something outside of the city. But it is not a free skate park; it is a commercial skate park that kids in my electorate have to pay \$20 to use.

Mr Mark Coure: Have you moved into your electorate, Lynda?

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

Ms LYNDA VOLTZ: These are kids in the lowest socio-economic—

Mr Mark Coure: Are you living in your electorate?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I call the member for Oatley to order for the third time.

Ms LYNDA VOLTZ: I live at 42 The Avenue, Granville. Would you like to go down and have a look?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Auburn—

Ms LYNDA VOLTZ: Well, I actually think that it is a bit offensive to ask where someone lives, during a speech.

Mr Mark Coure: You weren't living in your electorate last time I checked.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The member for Oatley will be removed from the Chamber if he continues to interject. The member for Auburn has the call.

Ms LYNDA VOLTZ: Have you got a problem? Is there some problem?

Mr Mark Coure: No, I have got no problem.

Ms LYNDA VOLTZ: Well, I am not sure what you are asking about.

Mrs Shelley Hancock: Do you live in your electorate? That is what he asked you.

Ms LYNDA VOLTZ: I have just given him my address. You can go and have a look if you like. I am not sure why he is asking. Where do you live, Mark?

Mr Mark Coure: I was just asking if you live in your electorate.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I remind the member for Oatley that he is on three calls to order. I suggest that he stop interjecting now.

Ms LYNDA VOLTZ: Have you got your answer? Are you happy? Can I go on?

Mr Mark Coure: Touchy, touchy.

Ms LYNDA VOLTZ: Touchy? It is very difficult to give a speech when those opposite are yelling across the Chamber and I am trying to talk about families.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is why the member for Oatley is on three calls to order.

Ms LYNDA VOLTZ: I know you are not interested in the unemployment rate being 19.8 per cent in Granville South, and 20 per cent in Bidwill. [*Time expired.*]

Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore) (17:21): I must congratulate those opposite for their rhetorical flourish this afternoon. It is not surprising with members of the Labor Party because they really are all rhetoric—they are talk, talk, talk. If people want something done, they come to us. What did Labor do when it was last in government? Let's have a look at Labor's record. Labor promised 12 rail lines and delivered half of one, closed 90 schools, closed 2,000 hospital beds, and introduced new toll roads with some of the highest road tolls in the entire world. Labor contracted in for 49 years of the Cross City Tunnel at a minimum 4 per cent annual rise in the toll. The hypocrisy and irony of those opposite talking to us about cost of living!

All Labor has ever done is put up costs. When it comes to looking at the impacts of the cost of living on families across New South Wales, it is only this side of the House that actually does anything. Those opposite talk a good game, but they are abject failures when it comes to delivering for the people of New South Wales. What has this Government done so far and what will it continue to do? This Government has delivered a record infrastructure delivery program. Those opposite scoff at it. The member for Wyong said that Government members talk about infrastructure all the time. Well, maybe that is because infrastructure changes lives. Building schools changes lives. Building roads changes lives. Building railways changes lives.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member for Wyong will come to order.

Ms FELICITY WILSON: It means that people can get to and from work, to and from school, home to spend time with their families or doing the things that they enjoy. Those opposite promise and promise, and fail time and again. This Government has invested \$7.9 billion over the next four years in 215 new and upgraded schools, compared with the 90 that Labor closed. There is record health funding in the State under the Government, compared with the 2,000 hospital beds that were closed under Labor. This Government is delivering infrastructure in spades across New South Wales. But it is also looking at the huge pressures that the entire world is seeing with increasing inflation. We are looking at the geopolitical challenges coming out of Europe and the war in Ukraine, the increasing cost of oil and the increasing flow-on effects to petrol prices, transport prices and the delivery of goods. Those are the kinds of things that we are responding to and working on. As the member for Oxley said, nobody in this House started Putin's war but we are responding to its impact here in New South Wales. And what have we done? The member for Wyong might scoff at the Government seeking solutions to the tolling crisis that Labor imposed on us when in government, but this Government is trying to resolve the tolling and cost-of-living crises in New South Wales. The Premier is the only one with new solutions. He is the only person trying to ease the cost of living for our families.

We have also introduced a range of different initiatives to target family cost-of-living pressures—things like programs to significantly reduce the cost of before- and after-school care and changes to the regulatory environment to ensure availability of supply for families. We have introduced \$500 vouchers—about 63 extra sessions for people across New South Wales. We have introduced our Parents NSW, Dine & Discover and Stay NSW vouchers to assist with costs and challenges for families—as those opposite know, because they rabbit on all the time to their communities about how great they are—but local communities, small businesses and tourism also benefit from their flow-on effects. We are supporting not only households but the businesses that the money is being invested in. Good economic management targets economic returns across the entire community; those opposite never understand that.

The last thing I will talk about is the announcement earlier this week that this Government has delivered more than 300,000 Baby Bundles to new parents. I know, having had two babies in the period that we have been giving Baby Bundles out, that there are huge costs imposed when one starts a family. The Premier and Brad Hazzard were very excited to celebrate that milestone. It shows us that from birth, early learning, preschool, primary school, high school, before- and after-school care, all the way through to tertiary education and TAFE, we are investing in young people and families. That is something those opposite have never done, and will never do. You can trust only the Liberal-Nationals to deliver.

Mr RON HOENIG (Heffron) (17:27): The member for Albury must live in fantasy land. He must have taken the parliamentary break to go to Disneyland or, alternatively, he lives so close to the Victorian border that he is infused with the views of the people across the border in Victoria.

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

Mr RON HOENIG: He has no affinity or any understanding about the pain felt by families in New South Wales. Is there any wonder with a Federal election in two weeks' time, the Liberal Party and The Nationals are looking down their noses at defeat as the two Independents in their heartland are starting to run them down. It does not matter whether it is Bellevue Hill or Vaucluse, they are on the nose to them. It does not matter what the member for North Shore says, they are coming for her too. The community is coming for them because they have no understanding. They refuse to accept what is happening around them in this State. The Government is coming to the end of the road. They are like the dying embers of a discarded fire.

Ms Felicity Wilson: Point of order: The member for Heffron should direct his comments through the Chair.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I uphold the point of order. Government members will also cease interjecting.

Mr RON HOENIG: They have reached their use-by date. Virtually every week thousands of people are protesting outside Parliament House about the cost of living and about this oppressive government. But they do not listen. Let me tell members about the Government's record of taxes and increases to the families of New South Wales. The Australian Bureau of Statistics, an organisation that caught you with TAHE, has found that local State services and taxes went up in New South Wales—

Ms Felicity Wilson: Point of order—

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have already ruled on the point of order. The member for North Shore will resume her seat.

Mr RON HOENIG: —by 10 per cent; vehicle registration up 42.5 per cent, from \$1.9 billion to \$2.75 billion; driver licence fees up 12 per cent, from \$189.7 million to \$213.3 million; stamp duty on vehicles up 7.2 per cent; and fines from mobile speed cameras up \$5.4 million, to \$151 million in the last 12 months alone. What is really killing the people of western Sydney, south-western Sydney and the Central Coast is the oppressive tolls that have been imposed upon them. This is what people are paying as a result of the Government's toll policy: people in Penrith or Minchinbury traveling to the CBD are paying \$17.74 for a round trip via the M4; Hassall Grove to the CBD, \$42.64 each day via the M7, M2 Lane Cove or Westlink; Edmondson Park to the CBD, \$25.10 each day—

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

Mr RON HOENIG: —via the M5 and the M5 East; and Dee Why, Mosman, Chatswood, Gordon, Turramurra to the CBD, \$4 return. Now the Government wants to create a distance-based toll, in other words punishing those on the outskirts of Sydney, punishing poor families even more with tolls. I move:

That the motion be amended by removing all words after "acknowledges" and inserting instead "that supporting a brighter future for New South Wales families does not involve families paying more tolls by way of distance-based tolling."

In that way the Government can at least make one minor step of not imposing upon families in south-west and western Sydney and the Central Coast, the people you are punishing with effectively handing over the Transurban—

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I call the member for the North Shore to order for the first time. I call the member for North Shore to order for the second time.

Mr RON HOENIG: The member for North Shore has 10 months before the Independents round her up and it will be bye-bye to her.

Mr ALEX GREENWICH (Sydney) (17:32): I speak in support of the motion moved by the member for Albury:

That this House acknowledges the investment made by the Liberal and National Government in our communities to support a brighter future for families in New South Wales.

That brighter future must continue to include LGBTIQ+ families across New South Wales. Recently, along with the Minister for Health, I launched the Government's \$12 million investment in LGBTIQ+ health outcomes through the health strategy. Recently I was also able to meet with the Premier and a group of advocates from particularly the trans community. We know, because of the narrative from some Federal candidates and politicians, including the Prime Minister, that transgender people face significant stigma, discrimination and exclusion in the community, which leads to poor mental health outcomes. The rate of suicide and self-harm among people who are transgender is alarmingly high, and the recently released health strategy recognises the need to improve their health and wellbeing. I appreciate that the Government has invested in that.

I also greatly appreciate the time the Premier took to meet with me and advocates of the trans community. It was the first time a Premier had met with advocates of the trans community since Bob Carr in 1995. Those who attended the meeting with me were Ricki Coughlan, who is a running coach and a Pride in Sport ambassador; Alex Blackwell, the former women's cricket captain and a Pride in Sport ambassador; Eloise Brook, from The Gender Centre; Jain Moralee from Twenty10; Teddy Cook from ACON; Jackie Turner from Equality Australia; and Josh Morris who is a parent of a beautiful trans daughter.

The Prime Minister would also benefit from such a meeting. I call on him to show the same leadership and strength of character as the Premier and meet with trans advocates to understand the struggles that they face. I welcome that the Government, through the Minister for Health, recently committed increased funding support for the Gender Centre to fund a family and youth worker and a parents' support worker to support families that are doing it particularly tough. Obviously, more funding is needed to support families of LGBTIQ+ people, especially those with trans and gender diverse members. I look forward to working with the Government towards that goal.

Mr JUSTIN CLANCY (Albury) (17:35): In reply: I close this debate by recapping it. I speak to the member for Wyong first. He mentioned a strong Labor government in Victoria, which is a government that will have a \$162 billion debt by mid-2025 and a net debt to gross State product [GSP] ratio of 27.9 per cent. *The Age* wrote about the GSP and said that, historically, the higher the ratio of net debt to GSP, the higher the risk of default. He is talking from a Labor perspective about a strong Labor government, and we are talking about risk of default. That is a classic aspect of Labor governments. They are prepared to put it on the never-never and it comes back to bite them. I love that the member for Wyong talked about infrastructure being the New South Wales Government's one trick. What a picture card to put on the pile. One hundred and ten billion dollars is a massive investment that is supporting families and communities in New South Wales.

Mrs Melinda Pavey: It is a pretty good trick.

Mr JUSTIN CLANCY: It is a pretty good trick, compared with the half misère hand that Labor tends to put on the table. I acknowledge the member for Upper Hunter, who talked about the cost-of-living pressures for regional New South Wales. In response to that, the member for Auburn was envious of the community at Jerilderie because they have a skate park. How spoilt are the youth in Jerilderie that they have a skate park? That is the best the member for Auburn could come up with. I reject the notion of the member for North Shore that Labor talks a good game. Those opposite take no action, but they do not even talk a good game. The member for North Shore talked about how investment changes lives and about infrastructure, services and targeted support for cost of living. The member for Heffron was akin to Dylan Thomas with his dying embers. There was nothing of substance there.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! There is too much audible conversation in the Chamber.

Mr JUSTIN CLANCY: I thank the member for Sydney for his comments and insights, which are valued in this Chamber. I come back to the member for Auburn because she talked about the Government having one job. The truth is that this one job is to provide strong economic management that enables investment in our communities to support our families.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member for Albury 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.

Ayes34
 Noes45
 Majority.....11

AYES

Aitchison, J	Harris, D	Mihailuk, T
Bali, S	Harrison, J	Minns, C
Barr, C	Haylen, J	O'Neill, M
Car, P	Hoening, R	Park, R
Catley, Y	Holland, M	Saffin, J
Chanthivong, A	Hornery, S	Scully, P
Cotsis, S	Kamper, S	Tesch, L (teller)
Crakanthorp, T	Lalich, N	Voltz, L
Dalton, H	Lynch, P	Warren, G
Dib, J	McDermott, H	Washington, K
Doyle, T	Mehan, D (teller)	Zangari, G
Finn, J		

NOES

Anderson, K	Hazzard, B	Preston, R
Ayres, S	Henskens, A	Provest, G
Butler, R	James, T	Roberts, A
Clancy, J	Kean, M	Saunders, D
Conolly, K	Layzell, D	Sidgreaves, P
Cooke, S	Lee, G	Sidoti, J
Coure, M	Lindsay, W	Singh, G (teller)
Davies, T	Marshall, A	Smith, N (teller)
Dominello, V	McGirr, J	Speakman, M
Elliott, D	O'Dea, J	Stokes, R
Evans, L	Overall, N	Taylor, M
Greenwich, A	Pavey, M	Toole, P
Griffin, J	Perrottet, D	Tuckerman, W
Gulaptis, C	Petinos, E	Williams, R
Hancock, S	Piper, G	Wilson, F

PAIRS

Atalla, E

Upton, G

PAIRS

Daley, M
Li, J
Watson, A

Gibbons, M
Crouch, A
Bromhead, S

Amendment negatived.

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

The House divided.

Ayes44
Noes36
Majority.....8

AYES

Anderson, K
Ayres, S
Butler, R
Clancy, J
Conolly, K
Cooke, S
Coure, M
Davies, T
Dominello, V
Elliott, D
Evans, L
Greenwich, A
Griffin, J
Gulaptis, C
Hancock, S

Hazzard, B
Henskens, A
James, T
Kean, M
Layzell, D
Lee, G
Lindsay, W
Marshall, A
McGirr, J
O'Dea, J
Overall, N
Pavey, M
Petinos, E
Piper, G
Preston, R

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

NOES

Aitchison, J
Bali, S
Barr, C
Car, P
Catley, Y
Chanthivong, A
Cotsis, S
Crakanthorp, T
Dalton, H
Dib, J
Doyle, T
Finn, J

Harris, D
Harrison, J
Haylen, J
Hoenig, R
Holland, M
Hornery, S
Kamper, S
Lalich, N
Leong, J
Lynch, P
McDermott, H
Mehan, D (teller)

Mihailuk, T
O'Neill, M
Park, R
Parker, J
Saffin, J
Scully, P
Smith, T
Tesch, L (teller)
Voltz, L
Warren, G
Washington, K
Zangari, G

PAIRS

Bromhead, S
Crouch, A
Gibbons, M
Perrottet, D
Upton, G

Watson, A
Li, J
Daley, M
Minns, C
Atalla, E

Motion agreed to.

Community Recognition Statements

MOSMAN CRICKET CLUB

Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore) (17:57): I recognise what was an outstanding achievement by the Mosman Cricket Club first grade team who, for the first time in 83 years, won the Belvidere Cup in April after an extensive three-day match in Bankstown against Northern District Cricket Club. Northern District were 9/279, chasing 300, with just six overs left in the first grade final when Jake Turner, bowling his forty-second over for the game, claimed the final wicket to hand Mosman the Belvidere Cup. I congratulate captain Nathan Hinton, Liam O'Farrell, Lachlan Hearne, Harry Dalton, Peter Forrest, Matthew Moran, Matthew Calder, Elijah Eales, Dean Crawford, Jayden Park and obviously Jake Turner. Both the first and second grade teams at Mosman Cricket Club made history this year, becoming the tenth club to win premierships in the same season, with the second grade team winning the Albert Cup. I congratulate second grade team captain Aadil Khalil, Max Papworth, Stirling McAvoy, Tom Colgan, Joe Colgan, Ash Doolan, Shehan Sinnnetamby, Hugo Farquharson, John Venianakis, Matt Junk, Guy Hammond, Harjit Singh and Hayden Brown. I congratulate both teams and Mosman Cricket Club on those historic wins.

NSW SENIORS LOCAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD WINNER SONDRA "SONNIE" HOPKINS

Ms LIESL TESCH (Gosford) (17:58): Sondra "Sonnie" Hopkins is an absolute powerhouse. Her vision and dedication to our local students and community through the Central Coast Campus Friends organisation have seen her honoured with the 2022 NSW Seniors Local Achievement Award. The organisation has provided competitive academic scholarships to over 30 local students at the University of Newcastle, TAFE and our community college. After being on the advisory board of the University of Newcastle's Ourimbah campus for a number of years, Sonnie decided to launch the not-for-profit organisation in 2008 with the aim of promoting post-secondary education and training on the coast. Sonnie has promoted the Central Coast campus to local representatives and the wider community through our community newspapers and media. Sonnie has published a book, *Making it on the Central Coast*, which is based on her interviews with 25 locals about their academic journeys through to employed work. Sonnie has also served as the honorary president of the Central Coast Watercolour Society. I thank Sonnie Hopkins for her unwavering efforts in promoting the value of post-secondary school education on the Central Coast.

PAINTER ANDREA GLEDHILL

Mr ADAM MARSHALL (Northern Tablelands) (17:59): I recognise Ms Andrea Gledhill of Armidale for winning first prize in figurative painting at the 2022 Sydney Royal Easter Show for her painting *Showgirl, 1961*. After a 22-year hiatus, Ms Gledhill joined Anne Clarke's still life class at the New England Regional Art Museum and rediscovered her passion for painting. She found that she wanted to depict the stories told by photos of children from the 1950s and 1960s. Her winning painting is a charming illustration of a young girl showing her treasures after a day at the Royal Easter Show—her show bags, a Hawaiian lei around her neck and a cowgirl hat. The painting gives a nostalgic sense of the Australia of past years. I congratulate Andrea on winning the prize and on the recognition she has earned for her artworks. I commend her for maintaining her passion for art and sharing the lovely depictions of a past Australia.

HAIRDRESSER DANIELLE SPITERI

Mrs TANYA DAVIES (Mulgoa) (18:00): This evening I welcome Danielle Spiteri as the new owner of Hair Envy in Wallacia. Danielle's first day of trading was at the end of January this year, and she is excited that she gets to bring her hairdressing experience to the village. Danielle originally had a hairdressing salon in Penrith for a number of years but sold the business after having a child. Now she has come back with a desire to get back into business and be a part of a bustling and growing community. Danielle has been a hairdresser since 2005 and worked after school and on weekends before she became an apprentice. She worked her way up, managing a shop and then owning her own shop for the past several years. Danielle is looking forward to getting to know the community better as she continues to receive support from many locals. I wish Danielle and her business every success as she takes on this new and exciting chapter in her life.

BOUDDI HOME MARKETS

Ms LIESL TESCH (Gosford) (18:00): It brings a smile to my heart to be able to share yet another wonderful community initiative that was conceived in lockdown on the beautiful Central Coast. Killcare resident Lisa Mount started a community initiative called the Bouddi Home Markets. The idea behind the markets is to have a series of home-based shopfronts advertised on a local Facebook group where people can shop and support local businesses. The initiative grew so well that it blossomed into dozens of market stalls across the Central Coast. It was delightful to call into one of the home markets on the weekend, run by Trena Lowe at her Bateau Bay home, and stock up some lovely homemade greeting cards. I congratulate Ms Mount for receiving a Community Recognition Award from the Wagstaffe to Killcare Community Association for this inspiring project. It is people like her who help inspire others and bring the community together in times of hardship. It is such an important

initiative, supporting so many talented artists and artisans across the coast who have been hit hard by COVID. I thank Ms Mount so much for her contribution to our community.

GIDGET FOUNDATION NORTH SYDNEY

Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore) (18:01): I recognise the amazing work of the Gidget Foundation in North Sydney, which provides essential and free support to parents dealing with perinatal depression and anxiety. Last week I joined the Gidget Foundation and Treasurer Matt Kean for the official reopening of the North Sydney location following its refurbishment. It was a lovely ceremony and I thank some of the many amazing people from the foundation for the event. I thank Arabella Gibson for hosting and emceeding the day. Her warmth, dedication and fiery determination in leading the foundation is truly inspiring.

I also recognise and thank Simone Short, who was also our 2021 North Shore Volunteer of the Year and a founding member of the organisation. A sister of Gidget herself, she spoke on the day and helped bring the wonderful organisation to fruition. I thank Melissa and Jami, who also delivered a beautiful welcome to country and shared touching personal stories about how the foundation helped them. Breaking the stigma on this issue is incredibly brave, and crucial for all of us. I extend my thanks to the entire team at the Gidget Foundation for everything they do, and I will always work to support the foundation.

Private Members' Statements

PARRAMATTA DISTRICT MEN'S SHED

Dr GEOFF LEE (Parramatta—Minister for Corrections) (18:03): It gives me great pleasure to bring to House's attention the great work that the Parramatta District Men's Shed does in the community. The Parramatta District Men's Shed is a registered not-for-profit organisation established as part of the Australian Men's Shed movement—a movement to gain awareness of men's health issues and to provide a place for men to meet with other men. The Parramatta District Men's Shed was formed in 2012 by a group of five initial members. Those members identified a disused old school building known as the industrial school in the Kambala precinct, in what is now a heritage precinct in North Parramatta. I was in attendance when the shed was officially opened in 2014 by the then lord mayor. The shed has been actively supported by Senator Marise Payne, through Federal Government grants, and by other members.

The Parramatta District Men's Shed has many pieces of modern metalworking and woodworking equipment and is the envy of many other sheds. Whether you are interested in metalwork, woodwork or gardening, the Parramatta District Men's Shed is the place for you. The shed's landlord, Property NSW, has been very supportive in providing services to maintain the building and the surrounding grounds and infrastructure, helping its rapid growth. The costs to run and maintain this fantastic men's shed are covered through product sales and its own fundraising activities. The Parramatta District Men's Shed provides a place for men aged 18 years and above to meet and a place for men without a shed to tinker, with access to equipment in a safe and supervised environment. A broad mix of ages attend the shed, the youngest being 28 and the oldest being 88. The majority are between 45 and 75 years old, some retired and some still employed. There are professional tradesmen and men who have never used a piece of equipment.

The men's shed is an important place to socialise; learn new skills, including digital upskilling; use great tools; try new hobbies; work on personal projects and shed projects; contribute to the community; and, most importantly, have fun and enjoy yourself. With community involvement over the years, the shed has completed many valuable projects, like making puzzles and various items for disability workshop providers such as Flintwood Disability; making above-ground garden beds for Boronia Multicultural Services; tutoring kids from Karabi, a school for fatherless and problem kids, in making a series of possum boxes funded by WIRES; teaming up with Parramatta High School to provide mentoring and skills enhancement for some of its teenage problem students, again making possum boxes funded by WIRES; developing and making a wine bottle labelling machine for Beehive Industries; and, in collaboration with the City of Parramatta Council, delivering garden seats and play kitchens made from recycled materials collected from the streets of Parramatta during clean-up cycles.

Further projects include making honour boards for the local Lions Club and Scouts organisations; making street libraries for Dundas high school and Carabella Early Learning Centre; raising \$4,000 in members' donations for the recent flood relief; donating a repaired generator to the Central Coast following the floods; and delivering laser-engraved bowls and platters to Toongabbie Legal Centre, to aid its fundraising activities. In the Parramatta District Men's Shed you will see men making new things, fixing old things, or sharing their skills and knowledge with other members. But, most importantly, there is an atmosphere of old-fashioned mateship among the members. The shed is a very relaxed environment. It is a place for men to relax, chat with others, share a cuppa and some bad jokes, and unload some of their problems. Parramatta District Men's Shed has become an integral and very necessary part of the Parramatta community.

I congratulate Ian Robinson, the volunteer president; Don Cunningham, the volunteer vice-president; Rob Colless, the volunteer secretary and public officer; Ray Dowsett, the volunteer treasurer; Gary Davis, the safety coordinator; Robert McKenzie, a member representative; and Ric Ralston, a member representative. These men are volunteers who dedicate their time to the men's shed. I congratulate all of the previous members who have held appointments and volunteered. I also thank all the men involved in the Parramatta District Men's Shed who have helped improve the health and wellbeing of men in the Parramatta community.

SPORTS ACHIEVEMENT AWARD RECIPIENT MAISE ALQUDAH

Mr JIHAD DIB (Lakemba) (18:07): I give a private member's statement which serves a few purposes. The first is to celebrate a remarkable young woman. The second is to celebrate grassroots efforts to change the face that Australia presents to itself and to the world. The third is to change society's perspective on capabilities of the youth. It gives me great pleasure to acknowledge Maise Alqudah, a recipient of a sports achievement award by the Australian-Jordanian community. Maise is a passionate sportswoman and an aspiring Olympian. She is a true example of a leader not only in sport but also in the community. She has already achieved much at the age of 16. Maise was selected to compete in the NSW Senior State Age Championships for swimming in 2020, 2021 and 2022.

In 2020 she was nominated to compete in the New South Wales swimming championships, representing Campbelltown and Liverpool councils as well as all New South Wales independent and private schools and colleges. However, unfortunately the championships were cancelled due to COVID-19. She was then nominated again to represent the same areas in the 2021 and 2022 swimming championships. This time, she was able to beat her record and place in the top 10 in New South Wales. Maise was the only Muslim female wearing a hijab to compete in those competitions. After noticing that, she was motivated to encourage young and passionate students to follow their dreams, to present a more inclusive image of our multicultural society. That realisation encouraged her to reach out to community groups and organisations to connect with and motivate young Muslim men and women to compete in swimming activities.

With ambition to make change, Maise reached out to Mr Osman Karolia, a senior staff member at Unity Grammar College, and discussed her concerns about Muslim representation in sport. She connected with my local charity, Human Appeal Australia. Maise and Human Appeal identified obstacles and barriers to achieving success in Australia that young Muslim students face. After meeting with Human Appeal, she was appointed as the organiser of its youth volunteering program for Unity Grammar College. That gave her the platform to discuss what young Muslim students face within the broader community. It enabled her to platform other young Muslim students' concerns and experiences. Platforming these obstacles is key to finding a solution that enables all students to feel a sense of belonging and unity as a community.

Maise's vision for the community is to give students, including young Muslim men and women, the opportunity to be involved in many events, such as fundraisers, feeding the poor and homeless, young achievers campaigns and many more. She wants to see young Muslim kids out in the community, visibly working toward a greater Australian society. The Australian Olympic Change-Maker group is designed to connect young aspiring athletes with the Olympic movement, sharing ideas and thoughts on sport, and driving change in this ever-changing world. Through Maise's amazing work in the community supporting and encouraging many young students to achieve the best they can, the Australian Olympic Committee reached out and invited Maise to participate in its change-maker program. The program gives more than 3,000 students the opportunity to create change and achieve their dreams in the sporting industry. As a change-maker, Maise was able to voice her opinions on sport. It empowered her to act as an Olympic ambassador in her school and community.

Maise's story continues. This year, with another 25 peers from around Australia, she was appointed to the Australian Olympic Committee to represent Australia on the global stage. Later on this year, Maise will be attending an Australian Olympic national summit and dinner that will appoint Australia's nominees to the Olympics, an opportunity she never thought she would experience. She is excited to be in the same room with many of her Olympic idols and cannot wait to have the opportunity to meet them all. If Maise has taught us anything, it is this: If you put your mind to it, you can achieve anything. You heard it here first; I know Maise will join Dawn Fraser, Ian Thorpe and Emma McKeon in Australia's swimming hall of fame. As much as I would like to say that I know she will, I really hope she makes it. Indeed, whether or not she makes it does not really matter. The important thing is that she is genuinely having a go and serving as a role model in a place that is probably really difficult for her. I conclude by quoting Maise herself. She said:

Life is full of experiences, if we do not look out for such opportunities when we are young it will portray a lack of confidence in our future. To encourage and motivate young individuals, to let them feel included and confident in a society where they may not fit into is my goal and allowing them to achieve their best in an area of their interest. It would be a great honour and pleasure to work alongside you and many other inspirational leaders in this society.

I thank Maise for being inspiring and being a change-maker. I wish her all the best with her swimming.

RURAL AND REGIONAL HEALTH CARE

Mr ADAM MARSHALL (Northern Tablelands) (18:13): "Change" is such a simple word, but one which strikes fear into the hearts of many policymakers and public servants, particularly those in NSW Health. But it is the reason why most of us, as parliamentarians, were elected to this place. The parliamentary inquiry into health outcomes and access to health and hospital services in rural, regional and remote New South Wales tabled its report in the other place last Thursday. It demands the single biggest change to rural and regional health care in a generation, and I could not welcome it nor agree with it with any more gusto. With its 22 findings and 44 recommendations, the report is a sad indictment on the state of regional health care and our systems in their current form.

I would go so far as to say that it shows the contempt that has been shown by some policymakers and some people within our health public service for the people who live outside of Newcastle, Sydney and Wollongong—and, particularly in my part of the world, for those who live outside the Newcastle-based Hunter New England Local Health District. The report vindicates everything that I have said in this place and that the community and I have been saying about the dire lack of effort being put into properly funding and resourcing our hospitals and training and recruiting regional general practitioners, and the general lack of access to specialist treatment, which is putting the lives of rural patients at risk.

The State Parliament and this Government now have a document that unequivocally shines a light on the policy and structural issues that are plaguing our rural and regional healthcare system and services and—constructively—provides a step-by-step road map to address them. The sad part though is that none of these recommendations or findings would be of any surprise to people who live the other side of the Great Dividing Range. They are not rocket science. They are about reviewing funding models, increasing staffing and overhauling the incentives and training structures to encourage more doctors, general practitioners and nursing staff to work in the bush and our bush hospitals.

From start of life to end of life, the comprehensive nature of this inquiry has left no stone unturned in its efforts to rectify the failings that have left so many without ease of access to basic primary and acute health care in the regions. I am particularly pleased with the recommendations for reforms targeting our health district structures. I have said that in this place many times. I have been one of the most adamant and loudest critics of the senior management, particularly Michael DiRienzo, the CEO of Hunter New England Health. He has to go, as far as my communities and I are concerned. The level of transparency and accountability that the local health districts [LHDs] have to their communities—which fund them and which they are supposed to serve—and even, in some cases, to their own Minister is completely non-existent. It is shameful and it has to end.

Recommendation 40 of the report regarding the improvement of complaints systems and processes to address workplace culture and protect whistleblowers as a priority is important as well. Many people who work within the healthcare system are clearly terrified to speak out and be honest about what is going on. That has to end. The recommendation for an independent health administration ombudsman to review concerns around the administration of LHDs is critical as well. I also welcome any steps that will see greater community involvement and input in the running of health districts, in particular the revival of the local health advisory committees and health advisory committees that have teeth and that have local people from local communities holding the health service managers and health district CEOs to account—because at the moment they are not accountable to anyone, it would seem.

If Hunter New England Health is to remain in its current form, with decisions being made for communities in my electorate from the far-flung area of Newcastle, then we need to have local bodies in place at grassroots levels for the health district executives to report to, to be accountable to and to take direction from. The State Government now has all the mechanisms at its disposal for total reform: the evidence, a road map, a Minister for Regional Health who is committed to fixing this, and a Regional Health Division. There are no excuses. I renew my call for the Government to implement all the recommendations and to make a start on it right now. There is no better opportunity than the upcoming State budget to start on that process. We must scrap the failed visiting medical officer system in regional areas. We must employ doctors directly in our district hospitals for the first time. We must re-empower local communities. If we keep doing what we have always done, we will keep getting what we have always got. In terms of health care in the bush, it is a bloody raw deal. It has to change. We have the road map and we should not delay implementing it.

THOMAS AND MARIA DIEP

Mr ANTHONY ROBERTS (Lane Cove—Minister for Planning, and Minister for Homes) (18:18): I take this opportunity to acknowledge two constituents, Thomas and Maria Diep, and the enormous contribution they have made to the State of New South Wales. The story of the Diep family is one of adversity, adaptation and strength and, to me, their story represents one of the great many immigrant success stories. Hailing from Vietnam,

both Thomas and Maria were born in 1950—Thomas in Saigon and Maria in a small village in the north. Adversity was present from the very beginning for both Maria and Thomas. As members may appreciate, growing up in the 1950s and 1960s in Vietnam was not the most ideal of circumstances. When Maria was just two, her family abandoned their life in the north, fleeing south from the communists.

However, even whilst growing up amid such a bloody conflict, the Dieps continued to persevere. Thomas would go on to qualify as a physician in 1975 and shortly after would meet his beloved wife, Maria, with the couple marrying in 1977. The situation of the Dieps in South Vietnam continued to deteriorate gradually under the control of the communist regime and shortly after their marriage the Dieps decided to flee their homeland. Few of us can truly understand the heartbreak they must have felt in fleeing Vietnam. The couple left behind their family, their language and their culture; they left behind everything to come to Australia. Arriving in 1979, they began to rebuild their lives.

Unfortunately, when Thomas arrived he discovered that his medical qualifications from Vietnam were not recognised in Australia. Never one to shy away from a challenge, Thomas managed to gain entry to the school of medicine at the University of Queensland. I cannot fathom how difficult it must have been to study medicine while simultaneously trying to learn the language in which you were being taught. While Thomas studied, Maria worked as an advocate in the Brisbane migrant welfare office to help support the family. Maria often jokes about how lucky she was to be able to land that job, saying she was much too short to work in the pineapple processing factories like so many Vietnamese immigrants did at the time. Thomas went on to graduate from medical school in 1983 and, after qualifying as a general practitioner in 1985, moved to New South Wales to set up his longstanding John Street practice in Cabramatta.

Nearly 40 years on from establishing the practice, both Thomas and Maria can still be found working seven days a week. It is this dedication to their patients and their community that saw the couple quickly become some of the most trusted leaders in both the Cabramatta and wider Vietnamese communities. There was no greater demonstration of this leadership than during the recent vaccine rollout when they worked nonstop after the vaccine first arrived, administering it to the people of their communities. The outreach efforts they made in some of Sydney's most marginalised communities was invaluable and it is due to their efforts, and the efforts of so many other healthcare professionals, that our vaccination rates are now so high.

I am proud of the fact that such an outstanding pair call Lane Cove home, having moved to Putney in 1999 whilst their children, Rosemary and Steven, were still in school. Not long after becoming the member for Lane Cove, I had the privilege of meeting the Dieps and, having now known them for 20 years, I can say that you would be hard pressed to find anyone as proud and grateful to be Australians. Their story is like so many of those who have sought refuge in Australia over the years. It is the selfless contributions that so many of them have made that continue to shape who we are as a nation. I look forward to seeing what is in store for them into the future, and I hope to see them spend some additional valuable time with their growing brood of grandchildren. On behalf of the Lane Cove community and the broader community of New South Wales, I thank Thomas and Maria for their service and wish them all the very best for a long life, with good health and happiness.

BLUE MOUNTAINS ELECTORATE RAIL SERVICES

Ms TRISH DOYLE (Blue Mountains) (18:22): My electorate of Blue Mountains sits within the commuter belt of Sydney. Many locals have opted for the lifestyle that our beautiful part of the world offers, but they still need to move around and make the journey to Penrith, Parramatta or the city to earn a living. Our community is often labelled with the Greater Sydney tag, despite the preference of many Blue Mountains residents to differentiate the uniqueness of our region's amenity and our world heritage environment from the urban landscape that exists once you cross the Nepean River. Regardless of local preference, however, the Greater Sydney tag remains. Yet it is curious that our assumed metropolitan status is serviced by what can increasingly be described as a substandard rail service. My office has been inundated these past months with emails and phone calls from unhappy commuters, frustrated and angry at times, who are significantly disadvantaged by drastically reduced rail services to the Blue Mountains.

We all acknowledge the challenges for any government in navigating adverse weather conditions that result in detrimental impacts on infrastructure. But if we are going to be brutally honest, the issues we have seen on our rail network this year so far shine a glaring spotlight on a severe lack of planned, decent infrastructure support and maintenance by the New South Wales Government. Railway networks do not just miraculously keep themselves functioning and primed to deal with unforeseen challenges; they need to be managed by a government that understands the necessity of long-term planning and maintenance. But therein lies the problem: The Government has a shocking track record with transport infrastructure projects. I am reminded of this regularly when considering the new "fat trains" intercity fleet that is still not ready for service millions of dollars and more than two years after they were promised to be rolled out. The Government cannot seem to finish infrastructure

projects on time or on budget so I guess it is to be expected that it will perform equally as appallingly when it comes to the ongoing maintenance of that infrastructure and related services.

Repeatedly I have made representations to the New South Wales Government for improved trains and services to the Blue Mountains. I advocated tirelessly on the many issues associated with the new intercity fleet, beginning many years ago, when we were forced to endure the reign of the previous incompetent Minister for Transport. I now continue with the equally as blundering current Minister. On 2 February this year, I wrote to Minister Elliott on behalf of my constituents to express their frustrations regarding the reduction of train services. I emphasised that the decrease in services is having profoundly detrimental impacts on commuters, in some cases adding hours to an already long day. Disappointingly, over three months later, I am yet to receive a response.

My community wants efficient and reliable rail services that meet our needs. It is not a big ask. We have a railway line that is considered part of the Sydney network, and yet our services do not measure up. The Government will, of course, regurgitate the usual spin about unprecedented weather events and COVID-19 et cetera. But, if we are to examine this issue truthfully, we must come back to the years of neglect. This Government seems to prefer the idea of privatising. That is what we are worried about.

Let me share a few words from Blue Mountains commuters. Josh says, "I missed the 6.33 p.m. from Central, only to find that the 7.18 p.m. also no longer exists, so the next one to Blaxland wasn't until 8.18 p.m. That's nearly a two-hour wait for a train after missing one at the back end of the evening peak. It's madness. I worry that, if we do not get them reinstated ASAP, we might lose them for good." Edward says, "Now that services are seemingly back to normal, the regular 4.32 and 5.32 trains from Central have disappeared from the schedule." Clive sums up succinctly: "The current service represents the poorest I have experienced in many years." Victor says, "Too hot, too cold, too wet or too dry. Seems the rail line just can't handle anything." Jen says, "I have been commuting a lot of years. It takes longer to get to Central now than it did in the nineties." Damian says, "There has been no communication from the Government about how long this reduced service timetable will be in place. It's having an impact on people's commute time in a really negative way." And Ben says, "The train system is a complete shambles and must be fixed."

It is clear that the New South Wales Government has lost control of the Transport portfolio. My community is sick and tired of the myriad of excuses we are being fed. We want our rail services returned to the pre-COVID timetable, which better served our commuters' needs, and we want the New South Wales Government to invest in adequate maintenance and long-term planning so that we do not see these mammoth disruptions into the future. I take this opportunity to thank all the transport workers and the Rail, Tram, and Bus Union who represents them. We are grateful for all that they do. We know that they are up against it, dealing with this disconnected, uncaring and incompetent Government.

WRITER CARROLLINE RHODES

Mrs MELINDA PAVEY (Oxley) (18:27): Tonight I give credit to an incredible woman from the Nambucca Valley. Her name is Carrolline Rhodes. She was commissioned by the mayor of the Nambucca Valley to write a book, paid for by some of the bushfire recovery funding. The book is entitled *Eighth November: the Kian Road Fire 2019*. I acknowledge that in the Chamber today is the member for Lismore, who is going through her own traumas for her community. I am referring to a trauma that was three traumas before. We have had two floods, the COVID-19 pandemic and a fire in the Nambucca Valley.

There is a very strong message in this book. I thank Carrolline for her heartfelt interviews and the way in which she has conducted herself. She has interviewed all types of people through the valley. There are many different opinions. But, on the whole, community members agree with each other when they say that they want to be listened to and to be part of an emergency service operation while it is happening. At the outset I acknowledge also our incredibly hardworking mayor, Rhonda Hoban, for her determination to have a full and frank conversation with the people of the valley and an account of the fires. She has done that through supporting, with Nambucca Valley Council, the writing and publication of this book, which will be there for us all forever. I think this sums it up. I will read directly from the book:

When that cloudless day dawned, Nambucca Valley Council's Local Emergency Management Officer (LEMO), Paul Gallagher, was attending a Public Works' conference in the Hunter Valley.

I attest that Paul Gallagher is one of the finest public servants you will find. He does a great job with the council. I have a very good relationship with him. The book continues:

Paul: 'By statute we have an Emergency Services Management Committee. It is made up of all the services and we meet four times a year.

We had a plan that included a medical emergency in it. Paul went on:

'When I first heard the words *Kian Road* I thought, we don't have that road in our shire. I know every one of them, and that isn't part of our road network.

'At 12.00 o'clock on 8 November, I received a phone call from Inspector Matt Webb, asking me to open up the Emergency Operation Centre and two evacuation centres. I replied "Sorry, can you repeat that?" I was disorientated and confused. What was he talking about?

That is the theme of consternation that goes through our incredible valley. It is important to acknowledge that the fires that joined at that time had been going on for two or three weeks. Mr Glen Olsen, who lives at a property I attended, is adamant that the Forestry Corporation of NSW wanted to put in a back-burn when we had an easterly wind, which would have had a very good impact on slowing down that fire before it came into the Nambucca Valley. There were bulldozers on the ground. Everybody was ready to go. He contests that RFS said no. RFS has denied that that was the process, but other people were there as well. That again gave a sense of locals' frustration that they were not listened to at that time. The message from the community is that there has been ineffective communication and a general lack of regular hazard reduction, and that the managers of the RFS and the National Parks and Wildlife Service were resistant to using local knowledge, which is a very big thing. The author writes:

A landholder said, 'You can talk to a thousand farmers and you might find one who doesn't agree with controlled burning to prevent bushfires, but I doubt if you'd find that one.' When this statement was repeated to other farmers, they replied 'Absolutely'.

I understand that in our time in government we have doubled the amount of hazard reduction. That was part of our policy we took to the election, when I was shadow Minister for emergency services. But there is anger in our community because they are not listened to. It is only fair that we put those comments and those circumstances and their stories on the record. It goes for all sides of politics.

I will finish tonight by talking about Trevor Ballangarry, who is an Elder in the Ballangarry clan, part of the Gumbaynggirr people. He is now a councillor on Nambucca Valley Council. I am proud to call him a friend. He is a very impressive man. The author sat down with him and his neighbour Ray Sellings to talk about what should be happening. Using Indigenous burning practices is at the heart of what a lot of people talk about. We need to address that. We need to listen to our communities. We need to have them respond to us, and we need to act in a way that they need to keep them safe. I will be reading out further extracts of this incredible book, which I am very grateful to have as a record of what happened in my valley.

WARATAH SUPER BATTERY

Ms YASMIN CATLEY (Swansea) (18:32): I discuss the future of the Munmorah Power Station site and its role in shoring up our State's energy future. Munmorah Power Station played a key part in New South Wales' energy history. Residents across the Central Coast and Lake Macquarie worked at the site for decades. Generations of families worked at the site, as it became ingrained in their identity. Delta Electricity retired the station in 2012. The plant's demolition, in 2017, is the largest power station demolition to take place in our nation's history. Since the demolition, the site has remained unused.

In February, as we all know, Origin Energy announced that the country's largest coal-fired power station, Eraring Power Station, could close in 2025. Following this announcement, the Government committed to building a 700-megawatt super battery, to ensure that the State continues to have access to a sufficient energy supply. The super battery would be the Southern Hemisphere's largest stand-by network battery and, along with other transmission upgrades, would enable Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong residents to have greater access to energy from existing electricity generation. Given that the super battery project is centric to the Central Coast and Lake Macquarie communities, it would be logical for the Government to locate it at the Munmorah Power Station site. As I previously shared, this site has been remediated since it was demolished.

Much of the infrastructure needed to support the battery is already in place. If the Government were to make use of existing infrastructure, it would not only repurpose the Lake Munmorah site but also save a significant amount of money and resources. The battery would also take advantage of the Hunter-Central Coast Renewable Energy Zone, known as the REZ. That will play an integral part in ensuring that electricity remains reliable and affordable in the future with the closure of coal-fired power stations. The REZ has received over \$100 billion in investor interest and will be the beating heart of the region's new clean energy economy. The Hunter-Central Coast REZ is also the only renewable energy zone that has both energy producing and consuming proposals.

I know that the proposed projects will hit the ground running with the location of the super battery at the Lake Munmorah site. Future projects like offshore wind, which is predicted to take place in a decade, also have exciting potential and will benefit from the battery. The Hunter-Central Coast REZ is a Labor success story that followed amendments made to the Electricity Infrastructure Investment Bill 2020. I thank the Treasurer, and Minister for Energy for his involvement in that process and for recognising that our State's energy future will be driven by the Hunter and the Central Coast.

Placing the battery at Lake Munmorah will also boost the local job market. Several jobs will be generated during the construction of the battery, and up to 14 ongoing jobs will be created. As the people of the Central Coast and Lake Macquarie have long been employed in the energy industry, the jobs will provide employment and financial security as we begin the journey of revolutionising our energy grid. Not only will there be 14 ongoing jobs but also there will be jobs generated in the manufacturing of the battery that will help unlock the manufacturing potential of this site to deliver secure, good-paying jobs on the coast. Everyone in this House knows that I am a supporter of the manufacturing industry and am very excited about the potential this battery has to deliver jobs in my community. In fact, I would like to see this location become a jobs hub for renewable energy.

In line with the Government's expressions of interest period, I wrote to the Treasurer urging him and the Government to install the battery at the Lake Munmorah site and noting that he will see the benefits of locating the battery there as existing infrastructure will be utilised, it will take advantage of the region's REZ and provide jobs to the people of the Central Coast and Lake Macquarie. I encourage the Government to seriously consider this request and install the Waratah Super Battery at Lake Munmorah station. This is a very exciting opportunity to see the past energy supply become the future energy supply for the residents of New South Wales.

SEVEN HILLS ELECTORATE EDUCATION ASSISTANCE

Mr MARK TAYLOR (Seven Hills) (18:37): I take this opportunity to update the House on the fantastic things that the New South Wales Government is doing in the area of education. Many constituents have given me positive feedback on the cashback schemes, free traineeships and government initiatives within our local schools. I take great pride in being the local member for such a hardworking community, so it is always terrific to hear our schools are being supported in these ways.

I start by referring to the work done in the hospitality sector, with the New South Wales Government funding 5,000 free Responsible Service of Alcohol courses to support new workers to enter the hospitality industry. As all members of this House are aware, our hospitality industry has been placed under great pressure in recent times. The 5,000 free Responsible Service of Alcohol courses will help ease the staffing pressure on our licensed hospitality venues and help them grow their businesses into the future. I know that local businesses in the Seven Hills electorate like the Toongabbie Sports and Bowling Club, the Winston Hotel, the Seven Hills-Toongabbie RSL and the NBC Sports Club will all benefit from these free courses.

I also acknowledge the new free TAFE courses that are being offered to retrain and refresh numerous skilled workers across many industries. TAFE NSW does a fantastic job providing individuals with practical skills in many different areas of work. It is great to see that courses like Work Health and Safety Risk Management for Supervisors, and IT programming have also become fee-free courses. These courses are valued at over \$1,000 each. I know that many Seven Hills constituents have taken up, and will continue to take up, the opportunity to expand their credentials and their workplace opportunities. I also note that the JobTrainer program has prioritised skills within aged care, child care and the digital space. All of these areas are crucial to our society's development.

I recognise the terrific before- and after-school care \$500 cashback scheme. As members of the House know, this scheme comes as a relief to many families with young children. The assistance will help reduce stress for working parents when dropping off and picking up their children from school. I know that many working families in the Seven Hills electorate will be happy with these vouchers, which will help them greatly. Further, I acknowledge the Creative Kids vouchers, which are helping children get creative and participate in a range of activities. Many families will find a great use for these vouchers in the upcoming school holidays. It is important for children to stay active and participate in activities such as dance, drama, digital design and music lessons. The Active Kids vouchers will help many families keep their children active in the upcoming school holidays. It is fantastic to see children being encouraged to participate in sporting and recreational activities. These are important initiatives for the mental health of children, and help them form relationships with others—many of them being long-lasting friendships.

I also update the House on the mini Woolworths program, which was launched at the William Rose School in Seven Hills. The mini Woolworths program is aimed at helping young people improve their customer service skills and their ability to handle money. Both of those skills are vital for the future employment of young people. I look forward to hearing all the fantastic results of this program and cannot wait for more schools to get involved in this partnership with Woolworths. Finally, I also recognise the many schools within the Seven Hills electorate that are participating in the Educational Pathways Program. Local schools like Seven Hills High School, The Hills Sports High School, Pendle Hill High School, and Northmead Creative and Performing Arts High School are doing a fantastic job to improve the career outcomes of their students. Through partnerships with TAFE NSW, vocational education and training programs, and other traineeships, students have the opportunity to graduate high school with multiple credentials and other forms of certification across many industries. I take the opportunity to thank those schools for implementing these programs and continue to look forward to hearing of great success throughout the electorate.

NEW MAITLAND HOSPITAL STAFFING

Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland) (18:41): I speak today about the lack of staffing at the New Maitland Hospital. Doctors, nurses, midwives and all other medical professionals and ancillary staff are being worked to the bone. I have been on a journey with the health sector workers in my electorate since nearly 2011, when the New Maitland Hospital was first proposed. I listened to union members, the New South Wales Nurses and Midwives' Association, the Health Services Union and Australian Salaried Medical Officers Federation and their concerns about the proposed privatisation. We worked side-by-side for seven or eight years. Together, we worked on informing and educating the entire community about the importance of public health and ensuring that our hospital remained in public hands.

In the process we doorknocked, we rallied, we called people, I spoke in Parliament and we met with the health Minister. We collected tens of thousands of signatures to generate debate that ultimately led to that better outcome of a public hospital for both patients and health workers. We managed to squeeze an additional \$70 million out of the State Government for the New Maitland Hospital over and above the initial promise. This is despite the rhetoric of our political opponents, who told us that the sky would fall in if the New Maitland Hospital was fully public. What is important and has delivered results for our health workers and our community is that willingness to work together to achieve the best results for our community. That is what we have done and will continue to do because our hospital is not just about the building—most importantly, it is about people and those who are working to keep our community safe and healthy.

I remember back to the time when we had to fight privatisation and, at times, it looked as though we would not win. At a couple of stages we even thought we had lost the battle. But we were determined and, together, we eventually prevailed. In the nearly four months since the New Maitland Hospital opened on 19 January I have heard—as I did in the years before that—from so many nurses and midwives, doctors, cleaners, orderlies, security guards and tonnes of people throughout that hospital system who have been struggling with workload issues. I heard recently that the old hospital was only ever funded for 140 of the 188 beds it contained. I have not been able to get a clear figure from the Government on how many beds are operating from the new site, but I am sure it is many more than 188.

I hear from unions, health workers and patients through hundreds of emails that there are still significant stresses on everyone involved in the system. I am concerned about the health and safety of our nurses and midwives. I have spoken to many who were in tears, literally at breaking point, due to the demands and stresses of their workloads. Cleaners now have substantially bigger areas to clean, including bathrooms for every bedroom instead of one for every four. Security guards have to walk further to get around the hospital. Orderlies have to take patients longer distances. It is a much bigger space and there are many more patients coming. I do not think there is anyone who can tell me that the New Maitland Hospital has appropriate, safe workloads by any measure.

I am concerned that some staff will not make it to March 2023. They are retiring, they are leaving the sector, they are voting with their feet due to the excessive workloads, and the ongoing mental and physical strain and toll on them. It is already happening and it is a disaster for our health system. I have worked very closely with the Federal member for Paterson, Meryl Swanson. Meryl understands the critical health issues that are facing our community and she has worked incredibly hard with Federal Labor to look at these issues. She has secured a commitment from Federal Labor for improvements to free up access to GPs and after-hours GPs in Maitland and surrounding areas so that people are not forced to go to an emergency department to see a doctor for minor medical issues.

Meryl has worked to get a commitment from Federal Labor for a Medicare licence for the MRI machine at the New Maitland Hospital so that people can get bulk-billed for MRI imaging, so that the machine can operate more than two days a week—as it currently is now—and so that staff are not shuffling patients in and around private and public hospitals in the region to get them scanned. Meryl and I are united in fighting to improve all aspects of health care in our community. But what have The Nationals and Liberals done for my area? Nothing.

Even with the sitting Federal Minister for Regional Health representing the north of my electorate, we could not get a commitment for the Medicare licence for the MRI machine. And on the day I marched with tens of thousands of nurses and midwives on Macquarie Street, the Liberal candidate for Paterson was proposing a train station at the hospital as her only health policy for Maitland and Paterson. I thank everyone who has shared their story with me and I encourage patients to continue to reach out to me. State and Federal governments must do better. I am sorry to say I think that is only going to happen with a change of government.

Y NSW YOUTH PARLIAMENT PARTICIPANT ETHAN FLOYD

Mr CLAYTON BARR (Cessnock) (18:46): We are sometimes accused of not bringing any young voices to the House. Tonight I bring to the House the voice of Ethan Floyd, who represented Cessnock in the Y NSW

Youth Parliament program earlier this year. I will read directly from his speech. Ethan spoke about the importance of addressing the issue of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people being disproportionately represented in our offender population. He said:

In April of 1770 Captain James Cook landed in Kamay Bay and, armed with the Doctrine of Discovery, planted the Union Jack in sovereign Dharawal land. Over the coming years, more than 162,000 convicts were shipped to this country. Australia was founded by the British with one clear purpose—to create a prison colony.

And, believe it or not, we have continued to be one ever since. We are fewer than 3 per cent of the Australian population and yet we are 25 per cent, a quarter, of those Australians locked up in our prisons, and for juveniles it is worse, it is 50 percent. The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare acknowledges that, in Australia, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people are disproportionately represented in the New South Wales youth justice system.

A lack of cultural connection and engagement has been identified as a principal cause of youth offending and reoffending among the young Indigenous population. Our bill contains provisions for a cultural immersion and discovery framework, which aims to boost Indigenous young people's knowledge and understanding of their own heritage and history. The provisions outlined in this bill must be passed by conscience vote this afternoon in order to lift young Indigenous people out of this cycle and to change these statistics.

My younger brother is 12 years old, he is just about to commence high school, and yet statistically he is more likely to be locked up than he is to graduate. If that figure alone does not make you sick to your stomach, here is something that might. Every morning, an average of 12,000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children across Australia wake up behind the bars of juvenile prisons. Young people live out their childhood in juvenile detention centres, hundreds of kilometres away from their families. Mothers, fathers, aunts and uncles watch on as the deaths of their babies play out in courtrooms. To criminologists these are statistics. To us they are mothers, fathers, uncles, aunts, brothers and sisters, sons and daughters. These numbers have names and faces.

Make no mistake, we are prisoners on our own land. Any sign of legitimate progress for our people is punctuated by relentless and stone-walled resistance by the State. The Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody in 1991 made some progress, but every subsequent government has neglected to act on the recommendations given.

Through the comprehensive framework outlined in our bill, we hope to learn from and overcome this recurring lesson in Australian political history. Every time we are lured into the light we are mugged by the darkness of this country's history, and that makes us afraid. It is the same fear that I have seen in my mother, that she inherited from her father, and he from both of his parents. When I was younger it used to make me feel sick, physically ill in the pit of my stomach. It was a fear of what could touch us—the sense of powerlessness, of being at the mercy of the intrusion of the police or the welfare officers who enforced laws that enshrined our exclusion and condemned us to jails. It was a heavy hand that made people tremble. I still see it in my mother. I see it as she tenses up just at the sight of a police car. She has done nothing wrong. But when she is pulled over for something as routine as a random breath test her heart beats faster and she fumbles her keys.

We fear the State, and we have every reason to: the State was designed to scare us.

And so, this is what our bill is about. At its simplest and most base level, the piece of legislation which our committee has spent this past year developing will ensure that not another young Indigenous person in this State or in this country will feel that same fear that I, and hundreds of thousands of people like me, have carried with us our entire lives.

The objectives of this bill align in parallel with the targets outlined in the National Agreement on Closing the Gap, 2019, and the subsequent Closing the Gap strategy. Principal among these shared goals is the outcome of "improving mainstream institutions".

In regard to the Closing the Gap strategy, the targets which this bill aims to address most directly focus on the education of children, cultural and linguistic understanding, and overrepresentation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the criminal justice system. On a broader scale, targets which focus on jobs and cultural identity, will also be addressed in this bill. The honourable members present today will hear from members of my committee about why exactly this bill is so significant.

You will hear the Hon. Claire Oberdorfer, the Hon. Hunter Blunden, the Hon. Josie Sims, and the Hon. Charlotte Hooper advocate fiercely for this bill, and explain not only the significant reach and effect this legislation will have, but the powerful and impactful message it will send to other States within Australia, and countries around the world; that this story needs to be told, and that it's time to put our State's and our nation's juvenile justice system on trial.

Summarily, the objectives of this bill are concerned with: the mandation of cultural education in juvenile detention centres, thus encouraging an increase in cultural connection and understanding; the correction of inherent intergenerational disadvantages; the reversal of the disengagement with culture experienced by Indigenous young peoples in detention; and meeting the specific targets contained within the National Agreement on Closing the Gap and the subsequent Closing the Gap strategy.

Congratulations, Ethan Floyd.

WESTERN NEW SOUTH WALES

Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS (Dubbo—Minister for Agriculture, and Minister for Western New South Wales) (18:51): One hundred and forty days ago I was given the honour and privilege of being sworn in as the Minister for Agriculture, and Minister for Western New South Wales, both of which are portfolios close to my heart. I grew up on a family farm near Mendooran, and later in life spent 10 years covering the issues of western New South Wales through my role as a broadcaster with ABC Western Plains, which has helped me to settle into these two very important portfolios. To say that the past 140 days have been a whirlwind would be an understatement. I speak today about some of the work that the New South Wales Government is doing across the Western New South Wales region to make it a better place to live, work and play.

Since becoming Minister for Western New South Wales, I have been lucky enough to visit places like Gilgandra, Nyngan, Condobolin, Lake Cargelligo, Broken Hill, Wilcannia, Cobar, Walgett, Lightning Ridge and

Bourke on a couple of occasions. The west of the State is truly an amazing place, and I feel blessed to be that region's representative in government. I was lucky enough to attend the Western Division Councils of NSW Mid Term Conference in Cobar recently, the theme of that event being "The Road To Recovery Is Easier Together". I thought it was poignant, given the issues that we have confronted over the past couple of years, to reflect on that. But one thing I am intent on doing is ensuring that the west not just recovers from drought, COVID, floods and mouse plagues, but in fact thrives as a region full of opportunity.

While I was in Cobar it was great to announce with the Minister for Water and the Federal member for Parkes a joint \$46 million project to upgrade three pump stations, shoring up the town's water supply. The pump stations will be larger to help cater for expected future growth in demand and will use new technology to regulate water flow and pressure as the water travels from the Bogan weir pools at Nyngan through to Cobar. Then up the road at Bourke I had the chance to visit the new goat and sheep abattoir, which is being reopened shortly by Thomas Foods International, after the previous owners unfortunately had to shut the complex in 2019. The plan is for 120 ongoing jobs to be created as a result of the reopening, commencing with about 50—which is an amazing outcome not just for Bourke but for the wider western region. Often we hear stories about things that are going badly in western areas of the State, but this is another case of a really good opportunity and delivery for the region.

I am proud to say that the State Government has already worked with Western New South Wales to deliver some of the infrastructure and amenities that communities have told us make a real difference to local livability. Since 2020 we have injected over \$300 million into transformational Regional Growth Fund projects that have improved the lives of people living and working in the region, including a \$1 million investment to upgrade lighting at Geoff New Oval in Brewarrina, which will allow local footy teams to train at night and community events to be staged in the evening during the summer period; \$110,000 to fix the lining of the Nyngan pool, which will make it safer for people who use the facility; \$765,000 to install pump tracks, so kids in Ivanhoe, White Cliffs and Menindee have somewhere to ride their bikes; \$300,000 for women's change rooms at McGrane Oval in Gilgandra, so the Pink Panthers and their opponents do not have to share sheds with the blokes any more; and \$60,000 for the Cobar Auto Club to fix its canteen. I could go on, but members get the picture. It has been a commitment by the Liberal-Nationals in government to keep doing what we need to do for the people of western New South Wales.

Improving liveability involves more than just infrastructure. We have also invested in the air services that operate between Dubbo and the Far West. We have contributed \$8 million to facilitate and lock in this service, which I utilised recently with the Deputy Premier and the Minister for Regional Health when we visited Bourke. That vital service has ensured that medical specialists can visit Bourke, Walgett and Lightning Ridge. It has also opened up easier links between the region and other parts of the country, most notably Sydney. Last week while I was in Walgett, I spoke to a farmer who uses the flights so he can visit his children in Sydney on a regular basis. As we have all become aware as a result of COVID, being able to connect face to face is important now more than it ever has been.

Last weekend at Walgett I announced \$15,000 had been allocated to the town's show society. I opened the show with show society president David Berrell and his hardworking committee, who were all very appreciative of the support from the Country Shows Support Package. I also joined with Walgett Shire Council Mayor Jane Keir, Deputy Mayor Greg Rummery and General Manager Mike Urquhart to open the upgraded grandstand at the showground, which was fantastic. Recently I have announced funding for a number of shows in the west, including Cobar, Coonamble and Gilgandra—which was also held last weekend—Baradine, Nyngan, Gulargambone and Binnaway, and Bourke is getting funding for this weekend as well. The events of the past few years have certainly shown us that investing in regional communities is central to ensuring the strength of the New South Wales economy. By prioritising the recovery of western New South Wales this government is planning for the long-term economic success of our entire State.

MEMBER FOR FOWLER, CHRIS HAYES

Mr GUY ZANGARI (Fairfield) (18:56): It is with much pleasure and a hint of sadness that I deliver this private member's statement about a local Federal representative who has served south-western Sydney with distinction. Chris Hayes, MP, has been the member for Werriwa and the member for Fowler collectively for 17 years. During that time my family and I have come to know Chris, his wife, Bernadette, and the wider Hayes family as local residents and also in my capacity as a local State MP. Recently Chris announced that he would not be re-contesting in the 2022 Federal election. The news of his retirement came as a shock to the community. Understandably the community felt his retirement announcement as a loss, because Chris was well and truly embedded and active in the community.

I have worked alongside Chris and his electorate office staff for the past 11 years. I have seen the workings of a committed and loyal servant to the people of Fowler, and previously Werriwa. Chris is highly regarded and respected by the community he has served—the number of tribute presentations and dinners held in his honour is

evidence of that. No community has ever been left behind by Chris. He has always taken it upon himself to get to know the issues and concerns faced by all communities. As a local Federal MP, Chris has championed the cause for those being persecuted. He is a distinguished human rights activist. His work has been recognised and he is a renowned speaker in highlighting the violations people have suffered. He is a member of Amnesty International and co-chair of Australian Parliamentarians Against the Death Penalty.

Chris' sense of social justice also featured heavily in his early life and career before entering politics. He was born in Camperdown, New South Wales, and grew up in Padstow. Chris attended De La Salle College, TAFE and the University of Sydney, where he gained a graduate diploma in industrial relations and law. That served him well in his career representing the rights of workers in his positions as industrial officer for the Public Service Professional Officers' Association (NSW) from 1978 to 1986; industrial officer for the Australian Workers' Union from 1986 to 1995; Assistant National Secretary of the Australian Workers' Union from 1995 to 1997; and senior adviser for the Police Federation of Australia and New Zealand from 1997 to 1999.

Chris has also always been a staunch advocate for western Sydney, championing the cause for the creation of jobs, the provision of necessary infrastructure, and ensuring that the local community does not miss out on any of the benefits from having Badgerys Creek airport located in western Sydney. Chris has been an active member in parliamentary duties, holding the position of Chief Opposition Whip. He was also a member of the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade and a member of its subcommittee on human rights. That particular area of social justice shows how in tune Chris is with the needs of his multicultural electorate and with championing causes that directly impact on them. He has been a voice for his community on matters of human rights violations on many occasions, conscientiously championing this cause which is so important to many members of his community, and for that his community thanks him and appreciates his efforts. His devotion and genuine care for his community is why Chris is so highly respected amongst his constituents and the community groups in his electorate.

Chris is a fortunate man to have had the support of his devoted wife, Bernadette, whom he married in 1976. I cannot express enough how important it is for a member of Parliament to have the support of a partner, if they have one, in such a highly charged atmosphere. Chris's career, both in the unions and in Parliament, has involved long hours, lots of travel and a lot of time spent representing a multicultural community with so many different needs. The support he received from Bernadette throughout the years has enabled Chris to do what he does so well, and I acknowledge and thank her on behalf of the community. I wish Chris Hayes the very best of luck in his future endeavours and once again I thank him for the many years of devoted service to the Werriwa and Fowler electorates. Good luck, Chris! We will miss you dearly.

REMOTE AND REGIONAL HEALTH SERVICES

Mr ROY BUTLER (Barwon) (19:01): On 5 May the committee that conducted the inquiry into health outcomes and access to health and hospital services in rural, regional and remote New South Wales handed down its findings. The report confirmed what we already knew—namely, health services in remote, rural and regional areas have been allowed to deteriorate for decades—and validated the lived experience of people in the country. It showed that people in the country have suffered unnecessarily, while little has been done to turn around their declining health outcomes. Over 20 years ago life expectancy for people in western New South Wales was 80.2 years, compared with 78.2 years for people in Sydney. In 2016 life expectancy for people in Sydney had risen to 85.3 years, but in western New South Wales it had dropped to 78.8 years. Health is central to everyone's life. If you do not have good health it affects your quality of life, and the quality of life of a significant portion of people in New South Wales life has been allowed to decline over the past 20 years. Despite the availability of statistics showing that decline, very little has been done about it. Poor health can also affect productivity, and it hardly needs to be said that cities depend on the productivity of country areas for food, minerals and other important resources. If the health of people in regional areas is not good, then it can threaten the quality of life in our cities.

Since being elected, I have said that one of the major concerns of my constituents has been health. A significant proportion of the calls, emails and letters my office receives are about people's dealings with the health system—whether it be a woman with a gravely ill husband who lives in fear that she will be unable to call for an ambulance because of power outages that cause the phone signal to drop out in her town; a community losing its only nurse because her contract has ended; patients having to drive 300 kilometres for X-rays because their town does not have the equipment; a person who postpones life-changing surgery because they are unable to fathom the complicated forms for subsidising a trip or they are unable to pay up front to take that trip; a pregnant woman only being able to access antenatal care via telehealth appointments, rather than having actual face-to-face appointments with a doctor; practices and surgeries in regional and remote areas being closed because they are running out of money or are considered not viable; or patients who have died because of a lack of expertise in a local hospital or a lack of continuity in care due to reliance on visiting medical officers.

I am constantly hearing the stories which talk about gaps, shortfalls, unnecessary complexities, oversights, mismanagement, and about the lack of communication, transparency or accountability relating to the health system outside of big cities and large towns. Those are the sorts of things that many country-based members, including myself, have been bringing to the attention of Parliament for years. Now a report has confirmed what many people knew: The system is broken. Now it is time to move to the next step and actually do something to fix it. The report makes 44 recommendations. As far as I can see, none of them are unreasonable. What is unreasonable is that these stories, problems and deficiencies have been around for years with little change. We have now seen the results, the consequences of this prolonged inattention and a lack of acknowledgement of that disregard. Ordinarily, if a person knows they have done wrong over a long period of time and they are confronted with evidence of having done wrong, the right thing to do is confess and try to move on and redress those wrongs. The time has come for the wrongs to be redressed and for the system that was allowed to deteriorate to be brought up to a decent standard.

We need to see an end to the piecemeal approach, bandaid solutions and only tinkering at the edge of the problem. This requires a major structural change and a shift in thinking about how we deal with health policy. It needs to be central to the Government's thinking rather than an afterthought. As a priority, the Government needs to implement recommendation 44, a "health in all policies" framework, to recognise that health is central to all aspects of life and society. When the inquiry reconvenes in two years' time to review the implementation of its recommendations, we hope there are no more horror stories to be heard and that the necessary fundamental change will have happened. In the words of journalist Liz Hayes, who lost her father as a result of the problems with the health system, "In two years' time, if nothing's happened, then they don't care. They just don't care."

LAKE MACQUARIE ELECTORATE GENERAL PRACTITIONER SERVICES

Mr GREG PIPER (Lake Macquarie) (19:06): Last week I received an email from a constituent who lives at Cooranbong with her husband and two young boys. Amy's email was among a dozen I received in the past week alone from people fed up with trying to find a GP appointment in the local area or access basic health services. Amy's husband works in Western Australia, so she generally cares for the boys full-time. She puts them into day care occasionally so that she can work a part-time job. On Monday April 28, her 17-month-old son developed a condition in his foot while at day care. By the next day, he was struggling to walk, so she began the search for a GP. Amy called every GP in the local area and could not get an appointment for four weeks. She went on the cancellation list of every GP in the hope that she might get in somewhere to have her toddler's ailment looked at.

As his condition worsened throughout the day, Amy decided to take him to John Hunter Hospital, which is 40 kilometres away. She waited in the emergency waiting room with a screaming toddler for three hours before being ushered into another room to wait another hour for a nurse to see them. Yet another hour passed before a doctor finally came in, told Amy the problem could be one of three different things and encouraged her to see a GP the following morning. The same scenario was repeated the next day. Finally, Amy found a GP willing to see her at Bateau Bay on the Central Coast, which is more than an hour away, with more than 20 GP surgeries in between. Fortunately, the toddler's ailment was diagnosed and the appropriate treatment was provided. This is what Amy left me with:

Greg, the system is broken. When a child who has been unable to walk for three days can't be given the time of day, and when I have to call more than a dozen surgeries for three days pleading for an appointment, the system sucks.

I agree with Amy. Another constituent, Frank, moved to the local area in 2018 with his wife to retire. He is still trying to get on the books of a local GP and often travels back to Sydney to see his old GP. He said, "We do not want to place pressure on the public hospitals and health system every time we get sick. We need more GPs." For the record, not a single GP surgery in the Southlake area of Lake Macquarie bulk-bills. That went out the window a long time ago, when many local surgeries had to make the decision to stop bulk-billing or go to the wall. Like my colleagues in this House, I am aware of the issues related to Medicare and the Federal jurisdiction that this issue largely falls under, but these are issues we have been reporting for years without improvement.

One of the larger GP health centres in my electorate is Waratah Medical Services. We had to fight tooth and nail to get Lake Macquarie declared a distribution priority area [DPA] so that the likes of Waratah could try to fill the gaps with overseas-trained GPs. We are talking about a surgery that once employed more than 20 GPs when it was established. It is now down to seven, but it is celebrating this week because it appears they may have secured two more GPs from England under the DPA system. That is how far the net has to be cast to fix the GP shortage in Lake Macquarie. Unfortunately, the DPA status provided to Lake Macquarie is due to expire in July, so we now have to wait and see if that status will be extended before we face the steady slide back to where we started.

I acknowledge and thank the Minister for Health, Brad Hazzard, who is aware of these issues and has always afforded me a great deal of assistance, even though the greater problem exists with his Federal counterparts. Just last week, the parliamentary committee in the other place released some damning findings on health outcomes and access to hospital services in rural and regional New South Wales. It found extensive problems beyond those that I outlined earlier and made 44 recommendations not just around hospital care and health access but around GP services. It is my great hope that not only does Lake Macquarie get an extension to its DPA status but the State and Federal governments act on that report immediately because, as Amy said in her email, the current system is broken. It does not meet the demands of a modern society, particularly where GPs in rural and regional areas are concerned, and it must change.

CESSNOCK ELECTORATE TEACHERS

Mr CLAYTON BARR (Cessnock) (19:10): Earlier tonight I spoke about Indigenous affairs issues on behalf of a young person who lives in the electorate that I have the great privilege of representing. I now give voice to another young person in my electorate, who wants to talk about the state of education in our local area. He sent me an email early last week, a couple of days before the teacher's strike. I read his words directly:

Hi Clayton,

I'm a Year 11 student at Cessnock High School, and I'd like to voice my growing concern about the serious staff shortages that are occurring at my school, and the impact it's having on us as students. Since the start of the 2022 school year, when our teachers are away, whether that be due to COVID or other reasons, the school simply does not have casual teachers to look after us. Often we are directed to go to the library, where we are told to do self-directed learning on our computers, almost always with minimal, to no supervision. Today for example (Monday 2/5/22), we did not have a teacher organised to teach us in THREE out of six classes. How can it be that in my senior and most important years of schooling, I am left without not only quality teaching, but without any teaching at all for 50% of my scheduled lessons?

It has now gotten to a point where teachers are volunteering to supervise classes, even when they are already supervising another class, with NO financial benefits. Being a former high school teacher, I'm sure you understand the lengths teachers go to make sure students can reach their full potential, and yet the government doesn't seem to value them accordingly.

Progressing through Year 11, soon to be in Year 12 where I will start my HSC, I want certainty that I can achieve my best through the public education system. Yet I feel like am being severely disadvantaged, along with my peers. It frustrates me that the NSW government is still refusing to pay teachers appropriate to their experience, dedication and degree level, leading to the statewide school strikes occurring in December 2021 and this forthcoming Wednesday (4/5/22).

It baffles me that the state government is offering no more than a 2.5% annual wage cap, when Australia's annual inflation rate was just announced to be 5.1% as of the first quarter of 2022, meaning the government's pay "increase" is really causing teachers to LOSE money. It's even more infuriating to know that teachers aren't paid sufficiently when it's just been announced that 61 of the 62 Coalition MPs have received parliamentary promotions to boost their pay.

I implore you and your fellow MPs to take action on this matter urgently, as the future success of young Australians depends on it. It is unjust and unfair that this is happening to students and teachers in 2022. Please prioritise lobbying for fair pay so we can get back to the quality education we all deserve that you were committed to in my parents' generation as a teacher and very gratefully still committed to as an MP.

That is an email from one of the students at one of the local schools in my electorate. I emphasise that on the particular day that he sent that to me, obviously in some frustration, he had six classes scheduled. Three of those six classes had no teacher. Quite apart from the question as to whether those classes had a suitably qualified teacher, the fact is those students had no teacher to take them. That is not a new problem. It has come about as a result of many factors in our society, not least of which is the ill-informed, uneducated—with regard to what teaching actually means—highly opinionated and ideologically driven commentary from a number of MPs at State and Federal levels who really talk through their backsides about what it means to stand in front of a school, and about what schools and teachers should and should not be doing. Those MPs have absolutely no idea what it is like to stand up in front of a class and teach.

No-one takes into account the fact that we keep loading up teachers and the education system with all the perils and problems of society. We say, "Let's get the teachers to do that," and at the same time we put a wage freeze on them, but we do not put a wage freeze on many other sectors. For example, a person working on a road with a stop-go sign could be on \$110,000 or \$130,000 a year, while a highly qualified teacher is on less than \$100,000. We pay for those roads. We allow unrestricted wage growth in those industries, but we impose a 2.5 per cent wage cap on our teachers—the most important people who form our future through the education of our young people. It is not good enough. I congratulate my young people for speaking up.

SNOWY VALLEYS SCULPTURE TRAIL

Mr JUSTIN CLANCY (Albury) (19:16): The Snowy Valleys Sculpture Trail is a new, permanent, public collection of over 25 sculptures by artists from Australia and across the world that are installed in seven locations across the Snowy Valleys: the towns of Adelong, Batlow, Tumbarumba and Tooma, and the Tumbarumba wine region cellar doors at Courabyra Wines, Johansen Wines and Obsession Wines. The Snowy Valleys community, so heavily impacted by the Black Summer bushfires of 2019 to 2020, received a boost to its recovery from the

construction of this world-class sculpture trail, delivered with \$4 million of New South Wales Government funding through stage two of the Bushfire Local Economic Recovery fund. The concept is new and fresh, and promises to create the kind of quality drawcard that is the hallmark of Sculpture by the Sea projects. It is positive and visionary for a cultural, connected Tumbarumba and region.

This unique, creative journey began for me in November 2020 when David Handley, founder of Sculpture by the Sea, raised the bold idea of creating Australia's first major public sculpture park in the Snowy Valleys. It was to be a new cultural tourism project for the region that would introduce a powerful creative and artistic element into the bushfire recovery program and become "a major driver of tourism, economic development and a source of local pride offering international reputation benefits for the region". Important themes would be the use of leading artists, a demonstration of community resilience, and local inspiration and pride in a community hit hard by the fires. The idea for the Snowy Valleys Sculpture Trail evolved from that initial concept following several months of discussion between Sculpture by the Sea and locals across the Snowy Valleys in response to the idea. The objective was to create nothing less than a new community asset of national importance.

The Denmark-based Friendship Society of Denmark, Australia and New Zealand gifted funds to purchase an initial three sculptures for the project—one each by a Danish artist, an Australian artist and a New Zealand artist—to be displayed permanently in the park at Tumbarumba. That element was opened in July last year. I was pleased to speak on that occasion, and to welcome the involvement and support of Her Excellency Ms Pernille Kardel, the Danish Ambassador to Australia. There are many limbs to the project, one of which aspires to educate young people about sculpture and art in the community. In February 2021 the school outreach program visited seven schools in the Snowy Valleys to conduct artist-led sculpture-making workshops for students attending from All Saints Primary School, Tumbarumba; Tumbarumba High School; St Mary's Primary School, Batlow; Batlow Technology School; Adelong Public School; Brungle Public School; and Tumut High School. They have been a great success and will help ensure a legacy of understanding of the creative undertaking being developed in their towns.

Across the Albury electorate, sculpture has been taking off. First came a statue of the late Tim Fischer, former Deputy Prime Minister, known train enthusiast and leader. In May last year the statue of Tim, cleverly entwining aspects of his interests, was unveiled at Boree Creek. More recently, in March of this year the community gathered at Jingellic to support the family of the late Sam McPaul, who lost his life fighting the Black Summer fires as an RFS volunteer. A statue of a firefighter now stands as a permanent memorial. I believe those sculptures will become well-loved and well-visited sites in their communities. Sculpture is an important art form that speaks to a deep part of our soul. It is pleasing that the artists visited the Snowy Valleys as part of the creative process, making connections and observations of the landscape's colours and sounds.

Most relevantly for me, on Sunday Japanese artist Keizo Ushio visited Tooma for the unveiling of his sculpture—a magnificent feature against the backdrop of the majestic hills of the New South Wales and Victorian alps. I encourage people to take the time to visit the Snowy Valleys Sculpture Trail. It is a project about art and culture, but it is also very much about connection. It is a trail that connects visitors to nature, wineries, hospitality businesses, school programs and more. I am already seeing and hearing stories firsthand of tourists visiting the sculpture trail, of people staying in a motel in Tumut, moving on to morning coffee at Adelong followed by lunch at Batlow Cafe and then on to Tumbarumba overnight. I thank the Snowy Valleys Council; members of the local Community Advisory Committee, including Laura Fraumeni for Tumbarumba and Jeff Sheather for Tooma; local businesses who got behind the project; David Handley; and the Sculpture by the Sea team. The famous sculptor Henry Moore said:

Sculpture is an art of the open air. Daylight, sunlight is necessary to it, and for me its best setting and complement is nature.

That is what we are seeing in the Snowy Valleys Council area.

ILLAWARRA RENEWABLE ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE

Mr PAUL SCULLY (Wollongong) (19:21): During the lead-up to the Federal election there has been a lot of talk about jobs and boosting renewable energy. While the New South Wales Treasurer, who is presiding over the highest per capita taxation of any State or Territory in the country, is busy warning about higher taxes under the teal Independents, he is ignoring the delivery of his own commitments. More than 530 days have passed since the passage of the Electricity Infrastructure Investment Bill 2020 and its establishment of the goal of maximising local content for renewable energy infrastructure in New South Wales. The bill was developed on the back of a local steel mandate promised by the former Deputy Premier. When the bill passed, the Illawarra industry stood poised, ready to be involved. Its members saw the opportunity to be part of the evolution of energy generation, and to support and create more jobs. Yet they wait and they wait and they wait.

They realise now what many have well understood about this tired, decade-old Government: Things are often announced with great fanfare and blaring headlines, and are almost always delayed or ignored. I note recent

reports that in the Central West Renewable Energy Zone a shortlist of tenderers has been announced. At the same time, the report from the Renewable Energy Sector Board—established after lobbying by Labor, including me, in an effort to do everything possible from Opposition to make sure our region had a genuine shot at local jobs in the building of renewable energy infrastructure—has been sitting with the Treasurer, and Minister for Energy since 17 February. That is nearly 100 days. Similarly, \$70 million for hydrogen projects in the Illawarra and the Hunter continues to sit in a bank account.

The Illawarra has a proud history of contributing to major projects. We built the Bass Strait oil rigs, we built sections of the Sydney Harbour Tunnel and we stand ready to contribute again. There are companies building strong and hopefully long-term businesses in the region: organisations like Coregas and Hyzon Motors, which will have a heavy vehicle hydrogen refuelling station in Port Kembla soon; EcoJoule Energy, which is developing new types of community batteries; Hysata, which is developing a hydrogen production technology that many believe will crack the \$2 per kilogram goal price; and Energy Australia, which is soon to receive the gas turbine for its Tallawarra B project, which will be the first net-zero emissions hydrogen- and gas-capable power plant.

Yet the New South Wales Government delays and dithers in delivering its hydrogen commitments, and the Morrison Government has not bothered to declare Port Kembla a hydrogen hub. All the while the Illawarra Shoalhaven Regional Plan 2041 contains grand but largely hollow statements about new industries and jobs, connections with Sydney and the world, and the like. Big statements, big announcements and no delivery is the story of the Perrottet Government. So when it comes to the Illawarra's future and the commitments of various political parties to secure jobs for our region, we have the New South Wales Liberals, who are all talk and no action; the NSW Nationals, who are taking some action but are not really interested; and The Greens, who always talk a big game on so-called "transition" but inexplicably leave the Illawarra out of their local transition authority list. In their Federal policy, The Greens made that promise to every coal community in the country except the Illawarra.

On the other hand, Labor is working at a Federal and New South Wales level with unions and businesses in the Illawarra, through groups like Recharge Illawarra and through genuine local commitments at this Federal election, to make sure that the Illawarra is ready to contribute and is at the heart of producing the building blocks of the future economy. Why? That is because Labor members believe in the Illawarra's capacity and capability to deliver. I again appeal to the Treasurer to get on with it. He can immediately do three things to provide certainty to workers in the Illawarra who stand ready to help build a better future for their children. First, he can release the Renewable Energy Board report about maximising the use of local content in renewable energy projects. We would all benefit from having a look at what it has to say. Secondly, he could set a deadline for the adoption and implementation of the recommendations of the board. I suggest that this be no later than 30 June this year, lest other renewable energy zone projects go out the door. Thirdly, he can get the grants for hydrogen projects in the Illawarra and Hunter out the door so people can get on with the task of doing those projects. There should be no further delay, because dithering is costing the Illawarra investments and jobs.

I will continue to raise the Government's neglect when it comes to delivering on its commitments to ensure local content in renewable energy infrastructure and to help build a hydrogen industry in the Illawarra. Labor entered into negotiations with the Government in good faith on key elements of that energy infrastructure bill in late 2020. We did so believing, even trusting, that there would be a genuine attempt by the Government to include regions like the Illawarra in the future of the State's development and that the Treasurer was sincere about including workers in regions like the Illawarra in the future of the State.

I am pleased the Parliamentary Secretary is in the Chamber listing to this, because she can go back to her office tonight and get the ball rolling right now. The Treasurer can only crow about bipartisan political support for the State's zero emissions target by 2050 because Labor, in good faith, thought it had a sincere partner in those negotiations. The fact that more than 530 days later the Illawarra continues to wait suggests that there is, in fact, no sincerity in the intent of the Government to include the Illawarra in the renewable energy future of New South Wales at all.

Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore) (19:26): I once again congratulate the New South Wales Nationals and Liberal Government and the Minister for Energy, Matt Kean, for leading the way on renewable energy and the net zero future for New South Wales, including in the regions, the Hunter and the Illawarra. One of the flagship initiatives in the \$80 billion in investment that will be driven through our hydrogen strategy to 2050 is the hydrogen hubs in the Hunter and the Illawarra, and I would like to make sure the House knows that we recently sought expressions of interest for participation in those hubs. The response was overwhelming: Twenty-one applications constituting \$4 billion worth of investment achieved. The production potential is almost 268,000 tonnes of hydrogen per year and up to six gigawatts of electrolyser capacity. That is more than eight times the State's target. It shows that this Government is delivering constantly and working alongside the Illawarra and the Hunter to do so.

NORTH SHORE ELECTORATE ANZAC DAY COMMEMORATIONS

Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore) (19:27): This year marks the 107th anniversary of the Gallipoli campaign, the first major military action that Australian and New Zealand forces fought in during World War I. The Anzac forces landed in Gallipoli, as we know, on 25 April 1915 and faced fierce resistance from the Ottoman Turkish defenders. During the eight months of that campaign, the Anzac spirit was forged in the horror and carnage that they faced. The Gallipoli campaign also had a profound impact on Australians at home, and 25 April soon became the day on which Australians remember the sacrifice of all those who have died and suffered in war and subsequently.

On Anzac Day we pause our busy lives to remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice, and we reflect with pride on their courage and mateship. My community has been widely represented across the generations in times of war and peacekeeping. The call to service was always answered, and we remember and pay tribute to all those who have served or died in conflicts around the world. After two years of disruption and scaled-back events, not even the rain and chilly pre-dawn conditions could stop the many thousands of people who turned out at dawn services across the State and in my local community. Many were particularly pleased to see the Anzac Day march trundling through the streets of Sydney once more.

This year I joined hundreds of locals at the Mosman dawn service, hosted by the Mosman RSL Sub-Branch. I am always proud to see many members of our community get out of bed so early in the morning, coffee in hand and the coat on, all standing in sombre silence and remembering. I make a special mention of all those who assisted in running the service: Mosman RSL Sub-Branch president Alan Toner; HMAS *Penguin* Commander Michael Nipperess, who gave an excellent speech on the day referring to the service of historic Mosman residents who had served throughout the wars; HMAS *Penguin* chaplain Catherine Wynn Jones; Mosman Sub-Branch vice-president Peter Watson; Mosman Sub-Branch secretary Chris Dunne; David Twyford; Miles Bennet, for playing the *Last Post* and *Reveille*; the catafalque party from HMAS *Penguin*; the Mosman High School band; the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust, for hosting us on the parade grounds; and the Mosman SES, for all their support with traffic and person coordination.

It was heartening in particular to see so many local students attending the service and laying wreaths on behalf of their schools. I acknowledge the students of Beauty Point Public School, Middle Harbour Public School, Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School, Mosman High School, Blessed Sacrament Catholic Primary School and Redlands. Unfortunately, because I was at Mosman, I could not join residents at the North Sydney dawn service. But I acknowledge all of those who had a role in running it: North Sydney Sub-Branch president Alex Wilson, vice-president Geoff Watson, Commodore Tim Brown, Commander Mick Miller from HMAS *Waterhen*, member for North Sydney and North Sydney RSL Sub-Branch patron Trent Zimmerman, Tamara Dunne, Chris Greatrex, Veronica Bondarew, Mackenzie Anderson, the catafalque party from HMAS *Waterhen*, the 1st North Sydney Scout Group, the Cammeray Scout Group, the New Zealand Maori Concert Party and the Clan MacLeod Pipe Band of Sydney. A special thankyou to Simon Moore, who laid a wreath on my behalf at North Sydney.

I was also able to join members of my community at the 11.00 a.m. Neutral Bay Club service and lay a wreath. That service has been growing over the years, and it is always well attended by Neutral Bay locals. This year was no exception, particularly because of the return of the time-honoured game of two-up held on the bowling green after the service. I thank and recognise Malcolm Stradwick and Peter Lewis in particular for leading that service. I also acknowledge the Kirribilli RSL Sub-Branch. I joined them for their Sunday Anzac service the day before Anzac Day in Kirribilli. A special thankyou to sub-branch president Julian Robinson and everyone involved on the day for such a fitting tribute to our service men and women.

I finish by looking at the world that we are currently living in and the reflections that we can have in this time with the geopolitical challenges that we are facing. The services across our community noted the events that are happening in Ukraine and in Europe—the impact of the challenges to freedom, to lives and to the ability for individuals to go about enjoying their own country, their own homes, their own jobs and life with their families without the incursion of violence, abuse, assault and the loss of life and liberty. That theme was particularly poignant for all of us this year as we get to enjoy the relative freedom and safety that we experience here in Australia, but it also reminds us that we are one world. Throughout history, the loss of life that has occurred for Australians has been predominantly in overseas conflicts and overseas peacekeeping and peacemaking. We continue to be part of that world and to call for freedom, stability, liberty and life for all of those individuals. The Kemal Atatürk speech poignantly reflects Anzac Day for many of us, and I finish with those words:

Those heroes that shed their blood and lost their lives ... You are now lying in the soil of a friendly country. Therefore rest in peace.

GOSFORD ELECTORATE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Ms LIESL TESCH (Gosford) (19:32): This evening I praise our early educators across New South Wales and in my electorate, who work incredibly hard. Those workers deserve so much more than the pay they receive,

because a lot of those early educators have the same qualifications as teachers but do not receive the same remuneration. They do an incredible job that forms the building blocks for the whole of our society. Recently I was delighted to open the new Mountain Community Children's Centre, which reflects early childhood education across the coast: an absolutely gorgeous facility; bright, vibrant, alive staff; lots of family support; and just a great environment for young people to spend a whole bunch of time. I thank everyone who works there and all our early childhood educators.

Early childhood education in New South Wales is in a skills crisis. We know from the most recent reporting by the National Skills Commission that we face grave skill shortages among early educators. In March this year 6,236 early childhood education vacancies were recorded nationally, which has grown by 133 per cent since March 2020. We are not alone in New South Wales. Sixteen per cent of early learning centres were operating with staff shortages at the end of 2021, and 23 are currently closed due to COVID and other health issues. I thank the United Workers Union. It released its findings from the largest nationwide survey of early educators in Australia. The report was released under the title *Exhausted, undervalued and leaving: the crisis in early education*.

The Liberal Government needs to listen carefully and improve the future for early childhood educators if it wants to keep this industry alive and growing. There are many problems facing this sector. Almost a quarter of the respondents were from New South Wales, and the findings pointed to a sector under severe post-COVID strain. Thirty-seven per cent of educators said that they did not intend to stay in the sector long term, 74 per cent said they intended to leave within the next three years and 26 per cent said they would be leaving in the next 12 months. Even the 46 per cent of educators who do plan to stay in the sector long term still think about leaving all the time or most of the time, which is a tragic reflection on such an important workforce. Over 75 per cent of the educators strongly agreed that turnover negatively impacts how children learn and develop, as well as their emotional wellbeing more broadly.

The stress on the sector is exacerbated by what the New South Wales Government is doing in the Kariong parklands. Parklands are a fantastic resource in our community, but unfortunately two large portions of the parklands that belong to the people have been sold, and we still do not have a clear vision of what is going on there. As opposed to the Greater Sydney Parklands, which has a purpose and a clear vision, we are lacking a vision statement. At the same time, the New South Wales Government is undermining the lease contracts that it has with lots of organisations in that facility, one being a crucial facility that has brought up lots of kids in the Kariong community—that is, the Parkland Community Preschool and Children's Centre. It is a community not-for-profit. When I first came into Parliament, the Government took its peppercorn leasing away and put quite a significant commercial lease in. Now it is being threatened that its reduced-cost leasing arrangement will end in January 2023, with no option to extend being granted. That is a tragic situation for the people of Kariong. So many of the kids in the community have grown up there.

It is my understanding that it is not in the interest of the State Government to reduce child care availability in our community. The State Government should not be doing this. At the same time, the Hunter and Central Coast Development Corporation is going to take that centre away. If it does, members of Parliament will then have to find a new location for an organisation to operate and provide equal services in our community at a reasonable cost. We are still waiting for that vision statement. I would like to see the Hunter and Central Coast Development Corporation support community-based organisations with transparency and by providing information on its journey to a new lease arrangement. It is not just for the childcare facility; it is for lots of organisations. How can we possibly ignore this important sector? We need to make sure that it is a growing workforce, not a diminishing workforce. We need to make sure that it is supported. I thank the Independent Education Union, which took this sector to the Fair Work Commission. Early childhood educators will now be granted a pay rise over the next 12 months. I thank all early childhood educators.

ADULT AUTISM

Ms JANELLE SAFFIN (Lismore) (19:38): Last year a local Lismore man and friend of mine, Michael Lynch, asked me to do something about adults who are on the autism spectrum. Michael was specifically concerned with the high levels of unemployment for people who are on the autism spectrum. We met and brainstormed and decided that we would convene a small forum with significant local people from various services who could contribute to bringing about change, because that is what we need to do; albeit, it will be too slow in some cases for locals in need across the Lismore electorate. But change has to start somewhere, with small steps. Out of the forum, we decided that we would all stay engaged and take action. We have been a bit derailed by COVID and the devastating floods, but we remain committed to working for change to get a better deal and dignity for the 205,200 Australians with autism that we know of, starting with Michael and other locals across the Lismore electorate and, indeed, the Northern Rivers and all of New South Wales.

We know that autism can present many challenges for people on the spectrum, for their families, for their friends, for their employers and for services. I have many years of personal experience as my adult son has autism

or is, more correctly, autistic. Communication is one challenge, along with the school environment and the physical environment. There are so many. I secured Michael Lynch's services to assess how autism-appropriate my electorate office was, and he found some deficiencies. I am sure there would be deficiencies found across all of our electorate offices, and indeed in offices everywhere. I was working to correct those deficiencies with the support of the Department of Parliamentary Services. Now it will be part of the refit, as my electorate office was smashed by the flood. It is being rebuilt and repaired, and I will be pleased to be back in it, in the CBD.

One of the key determinants for anybody, but particularly for people with autism, is economic independence and social inclusion. They are the things that everybody looks for. That means money in your pocket, taking your place as a community member and participation in the workforce—a job—yet people on the autism spectrum generally encounter many barriers to entering the workforce. The statistics are telling and also damning. This is what I have read across many areas, but there are not a lot of good statistics. An Australian Bureau of Statistics report titled *Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia* showed that the labour force participation rate was 38 per cent among the 94,600 people of working age—15 to 64 years—with autism. That is compared with 53.4 per cent of all working-age people with disability and 84.1 per cent of people without disability. Regarding the unemployment rate, I will quote some of those figures directly from the report. It reads:

The unemployment rate for people with autism spectrum disorders was 34.1%, more than three times the rate for people with disability (10.3%) and almost eight times the rate of people without disability (4.6%).

That is quite a large, significant figure that we hope to change. It was decided by our forum, which meets on a regular basis, that we would take action and advocate across four key sector areas: employment, education, health care and the justice system. I have commenced that by writing to the respective New South Wales Government Ministers—Ministers Ayres, Mitchell, Hazzard and Speakman—asking them what is being done to improve the lives of people on the autism spectrum. This week I will be asking some questions on notice through our parliamentary procedures. I will continue to stay committed and support people with autism—and hopefully work with all members in this place, who I know would be committed to doing the same—to get a better deal and to make sure that they have dignity and can take their place in society along with everybody else.

Community Recognition Notices

BANKSTOWN CITY NETBALL ASSOCIATION 2022 SEASON OPENING

Ms TANIA MIHAILUK (Bankstown)—I take this opportunity to congratulate the Bankstown City Netball Association on their 2022 Season Opening Launch. After two years of incomplete seasons, I look forward to the Bankstown City Netball Association hopefully being able to complete a full season this year. Like many local sporting organisations in my community, Bankstown City Netball Association were impacted by COVID-19 restrictions with their last season being put to a sudden halt. The team at Bankstown City Netball Association have worked tirelessly to promote the sport, including by hosting many school holiday programs and launching their Net Set Go program. I recognise the efforts of President, Nicole Oram, Treasurer, Deanne Mawer, Registrar, Helen Lee, Competition Convenor, Sue McLeod, Umpires Convenor, Kelly Davies-Bobbin, Representative Co-ordinator, Julie Chesterton, and Administration Assistant, Kylie Myers in promoting netball in the Bankstown community. I wish all teams and players the best of luck in the 2022 Season!

MICK STEPHENSON

Ms TANIA MIHAILUK (Bankstown)—It is with a heavy heart that I inform the house of the recent passing of Mick Stephenson at age 78. Mick was a dear friend to many and a loved icon in the Bankstown community. Mick was an iconic figure of the Bankstown District Cricket Club, starting his involvement as a young kid operating the oval scoreboard. Mick's heart rested with Cricket. Mick was considered a valuable and important player of the Bulldogs team playing through 23 seasons. He contributed to the team scoring 6642 runs and taking 23 wickets. He was also responsible for the Club's 50th Anniversary Book; he was the longest-serving publicity officer of the BDCC and was recognised with Life Membership. Mick also contributed to the Canterbury-Bankstown Torch newspaper for over 25 years through his 'superlatives'. Mick's joyous voice cheering his iconic "Go the Doggies" across the Memorial Oval will forever be remembered. I extend my most sincere condolences to all of Mick's family and friends, among them his brother Haydn and his long-time companion Joy Van Dijk. He will be missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing him. Rest in Peace, Mick.

EID AL FITR

Ms TANIA MIHAILUK (Bankstown)—I congratulate our Muslim community on the celebration of Eid-al-Fitr on Monday 2 May 2022. The celebration marks the conclusion of the holy month of Ramadan – a month that our Islamic community dedicates to praying, fasting and in supporting many charitable causes. For the Islamic community in my electorate of Bankstown, Ramadan is one of the most special occasions in the year. With the easing of restrictions, I was pleased to see many schools, businesses, community organisations and

religious groups recommencing their Iftar Dinners this year. I am delighted to have had the privilege to attend some of these Iftar Dinners. I thank all the community religious groups, but in particular I pay tribute to the Australian National Imams Council Chair and Grand Mufti of Australia Dr Ibrahim Abu Mohamad for his leadership, and indeed all our Imams and Sheiks for their stewardship of our Muslim community. I am delighted to wish all my Muslim friends and constituents an Eid Mubarak.

BESSIE NORTON 100TH BIRTHDAY

Mr LEE EVANS (Heathcote)—It is with great pleasure that today I acknowledge Mrs Bessie Norton on her 100th birthday which she celebrated on the 30th March 2022. I am sure Bessie celebrated this momentous occasion accompanied by her closest friends and family. I take this opportunity to again extend my sincere congratulations to Bessie and wish her good health and happiness for the future.

AFFINITY'S IFTAR

Mr JIHAD DIB (Lakemba)—The Islamic holy month of Ramadan has just concluded. It is a time in which Muslims fast from sunrise to sunset. It is a month of spiritual reflection, empathy with the less fortunate and togetherness, as families, friends and the community gather to break their fast, known as iftar. I had the pleasure of attending several iftars that celebrated our unity as a community as well as our shared humanity. In particular I would like to acknowledge Affinity Intercultural Foundation for hosting me at their iftar on 13 April. The food was amazing, the sweets divine and the company even better. Affinity's mission is to create and sustain enduring relationships with people through intercultural and interfaith dialogue. This mission is to be lauded and I thank them for the invitation. Regardless of a person's religious background, the coming together of people, rekindling old friendships and making new ones whilst breaking bread, is something that we can all appreciate. We are better as a society when we are together and when we respect and value our differences. Eid Mubarak.

AMAR HADID

Mr JIHAD DIB (Lakemba)—It gives me great pleasure to acknowledge Amar Hadid, a Greenacre local on bestowed with the great honour of being Canterbury-Bankstown's 2022 Australia Day Ambassador. A passionate skateboarder and aspiring Olympian, Amar has shattered stereotypes being the only Muslim woman professional skateboarder in Australia. It is fantastic to see such young talent in my local area committed to making an impact on the world. We are a national story 60,000 years in the making and Amar Hadid's story is one of many millions, which highlights the Australia's rich tapestry of cultural diversity. She is a valued sportsperson who encourages people of immigrant backgrounds, in particular, to share their passion and skills to further enhance the cultural inclusion of our community. Amar is also a rapper, with a passionate belief that engagement is the answer to international hope and sustainable equality for women, sports, education and a healthier world. Amar will contribute to add to the Australia story and show who we are as a people. I congratulate Amar for her unwavering commitment to sharing her passion for skateboarding and wish her all the best in the upcoming Olympic tryouts.

ANIC IFTAR

Mr JIHAD DIB (Lakemba)—The Islamic holy month of Ramadan has just concluded. It is a time in which Muslims fast from sunrise to sunset. It is a month of spiritual reflection, empathy with the less fortunate and togetherness, as families, friends and the community gather to break their fast, known as iftar. I had the pleasure of attending several iftars that celebrated our unity as a community as well as our shared humanity. In particular I would like to acknowledge the Australian National Imams Council [ANIC] for hosting me at their iftar on 19 April. The food was amazing, the sweets divine and the company even better. ANIC is a central Islamic body that holds key representation from Australian based clerics. It was an honour to join with their community. I thank Imam Shadi Alsuleiman for the invitation. Regardless of a person's religious background, the coming together of people, rekindling old friendships and making new ones whilst breaking bread, is something that we can all appreciate. We are better as a society when we are together and when we respect and value our differences. Eid Mubarak.

ETHAN BECKTON

Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal)—I would like to congratulate Ethan Beckton a local student of Lisarow High School. Ethan was one of only 10 students from across NSW to graduate from the NSW Department of Education's Talent Development Program this year. The program which is in its 31st year is a two-year training program for aspiring musicians. Some alumni of the program include Paulini and Nathan Foley. Through spending time with like-minded people Ethan has been challenged and his musical style has evolved since the start of the program. Excitingly, 80 per cent of graduates from the program go on to forge a career in the music industry. I would like to again extend my congratulations to Ethan and the best of luck in all his future endeavours.

2022 AUSCYCLING JUNIOR TRACK NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal)—I would like to acknowledge three local students who recently competed at the 2022 Auscycling Junior Track National Championships in Brisbane last month. Nicole Duncan from Erina High School and Liliya Tatarinoff and Maya Dillon from Kincumber High School, who are all members of the Central Coast Cycling Club, represented NSW at the championships. A standout performance was the Team Sprint Final where the three girls not only won a gold medal but took out a new national record. Nicole took home 4 gold and 3 silver medals, Liliya receiving 5 gold and a silver and Maya receiving gold and bronze across 4 events. This is a mammoth effort and highlights the incredible sport talent we have from the Central Coast. I would like to wish Nicole, Liliya and Maya the best of luck in all of their future sporting endeavours.

ARCHITECT RICK LEPLASTRIER AO

Mr ROB STOKES (Pittwater—Minister for Infrastructure, Minister for Cities, and Minister for Active Transport)—I recognise a stalwart of the Pittwater community, world-renowned architect Rick Leplastrier. The spectacular natural beauty of Pittwater has long been a muse for creatives such as Dorothea Mackellar and Arthur Streeton. Indeed – for local design professionals – Rick fulfils the same role as Moses did for the Israelites. Rick cut his teeth in the Sydney office of another famous erstwhile Pittwater resident Jørn Utzon, and developed his architectural style whilst working in Kyoto. Rick's design philosophy is grounded in the gentle interplay between the natural and built environments. His home near the water's edge of beautiful Lovett Bay is a wonderful example. I am delighted that Rick partnered in the design of the new Herbarium recently opened at the Australian Botanic Garden at Mount Annan, helping to ensure the survival of 1.4 million botanical specimens. Thank you Rick, for bringing your incredible expertise to this important project.

QUIGLEY FARMS

Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS (Dubbo—Minister for Agriculture, and Minister for Western New South Wales)—Today I congratulate the Quigley family, of the Trangie district, on being named 2021 Bayer Cotton Grower of the Year at the MacIntyre Valley Cotton field days. The Quigley family has been recognised by the industry for their efforts to help drive water efficiency in the cotton operations, and fourth-generation farmer Tony Quigley has been something of a pioneer in this area. As director of the Trangie Nevertire Co-operative Ltd Irrigation Scheme, Tony helped secure Commonwealth government funding for water efficiency measures. These resulted in significant savings for all users, and 20 per cent improvement in crop WUE under the overhead irrigation at Quigley Farms. These days Quigley Farms is run by Tony's sons Tom, George and Richie, with Tony and wife Sally transitioning to retirement. Tom credited the whole family, as well as staff and long-time agronomist Chris McCormack, for their success. In Tom's words: "I know it's cliché to say, but teamwork really does make the dream work". Congratulations to all the team at Quigley Farms. I can't wait to see the innovation continue well into the future.

BRODY STEELE

Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS (Dubbo—Minister for Agriculture, and Minister for Western New South Wales)—I wish to congratulate Dubbo swimmer Brody Steele who returned home from the recent Swimming NSW Junior State Age Championships with an incredible 6 medals from his 10 events! Brody won the 13 years 100m and 200m backstroke events, as well as the 400m individual medley for his age group. He finished second in the 13 years 50m backstroke, and 200m and 400m freestyle events, and fourth in three other events as well! Brody trains seven times a week – including four morning sessions where he's required to get up at 5am – that's dedication! And it's paying off, Speaker – despite not yet being old enough to progress to the National Titles – Brody set fast enough times to qualify! The Dubbo Swimtech club member paid tribute to his legendary coach, telling the local Daily Liberal newspaper "I wouldn't be here without Dennis [Valentine], he's the main man". Congratulations Brody! To have such discipline at your age should be commended. And congratulations to your incredible family and wider support network. Keep up the great work and I'm excited to see you go even further next year!

HEADLAND PRESERVATION GROUP 25TH ANNIVERSARY

Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore)—I want to recognise the Headland Preservation Group [HPG] as it celebrates 25 years of service to our community. In 1997, the NSW Government committed to preserving Middle Head from development. This outcome was secured with strong support from the only recently formed HPG. The HPG, other community groups, and residents lobbied heavily for further Government protection. In 1998, Prime Minister John Howard formed the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust to protect ex-Defence lands including North Shore's beautiful headlands. The HPG is currently led by passionate President Jill L'Estrange, Vice President Julie Goodsir, and their dedicated board and members. I have met with Jill and Julie extensively

about work we can do to protect the important environmental, Indigenous, and military heritage of the land. I am proud to have helped champion the walking track project which is underway that will link Middle Head to the Sydney Harbour Scenic Walk. Congratulations to the HPG on turning 25, I look forward to celebrating with you. Thank you to Jill and Julie, and the entire HPG team, both past and present, for all of the amazing work you do to protect this this stunning stretch of land.

2022 NORTH SYDNEY COMMUNITY AWARDS

Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore)—I want to individually recognise the North Shore locals who have been recognised for their amazing contribution to our area at the 2022 North Sydney Community Awards: Akira Durran was awarded Young Citizen of the Year for her involvement with the First North Sydney Scout Group and Box Divvy. Akira's contribution to the food box program through the Scout group provides responsibly sourced produce to 50 households in the North Sydney area. Surplus produce is then donated to the Greenway Residents Association. As well as Akira's charitable work with the food box program, she has decided to donate her hard-earned money from her job to World Vision. David Bell was awarded Environmental Citizen of the Year for his research work in monitoring the presence of the Rakali in our local area. Thank you David for your scientific contribution to help us understand our local environment better. North Sydney RSL Sub Branch were deservedly awarded Community Group of the Year for all of their amazing proactive work with local ex-serving and current serving Defence Services men, women and their families. Congratulations to all winners.

MOSMAN ART GALLERY HONOURS NEIL BALNAVES AO

Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore)—I want to recognise Mosman Art Gallery for their upcoming honorary exhibition in light of the unexpected passing of Neil Balnaves AO earlier this year. I have previously spoken on the passing of Neil who was a much loved member of the Mosman and wider community, a generous philanthropist, and a successful businessman. I once again offer my deepest sympathies to his family and loved ones. Neil donated heavily to Mosman Art Gallery including with works by renowned artists Jasper Knight, Susan Rothwell, and John Olsen AO OBE. The collection of Neil's donated works are valued at over \$1 million, and will all be rehung in the exhibition this year to honour Neil's generosity. The exhibition this year will coincide with the 10 year anniversary of the collection being donated. Neil's generosity did not stop there though, having established the Balnaves Foundation which donates over \$3 million annually to different organisations in Australia in the arts, medicine, and education. Thank you to John Cheeseman, Director of Mosman Art Gallery, and his team for organising this special exhibition to honour and celebrate the life of Neil, I look forward to the community partaking.

COMMUNITY LANGUAGE TEACHING PROGRAM CEREMONY

Mr MARK COURE (Oatley—Minister for Multiculturalism, and Minister for Seniors)—Today I acknowledge the fantastic work of the participants who completed the 60 Hour Community Language Teaching Program. The Community Languages Teaching Program is a professional learning program for teachers working in NSW Government-funded community language schools. It is designed to help teachers understand how children learn and develop languages. It also develops strategies to engage and interest students in maintaining and extending their language and culture abilities. The program provides helpful teaching resources which enables students to participate in a number of activities to improve their ability to retain important language skills. 185 teachers have successfully completed the program which is a fantastic achievement and a great boost to the language faculties in schools right across New South Wales. I would like to congratulate everyone who participated in the Community Language Teaching Program and thank Ken Cruickshank for his excellent work to run such a worthwhile program.

2022 NSW YOUNG AUSTRALIAN OF THE YEAR

Mr MARK COURE (Oatley—Minister for Multiculturalism, and Minister for Seniors)—Today I recognise Dr Daniel Nour who is the 2022 NSW Young Australian of the Year. I have personally known Daniel and his family for over 10 years now and I have always found him to be a very community minded individual, who is extremely well deserving of this fantastic achievement. Daniel is the Founder of Street Side Medics which is a not-for-profit, GP-led mobile medical service for people experiencing homelessness. Street Side Medics has around 145 volunteers, and four clinics across New South Wales, caring for over 300 patients. Daniel's organisation attempts to treat a number of communicable illnesses which may often be neglected or unnoticed. Daniel truly is a role-model for many of our communities as his dedication and selflessness to improving the health of his patients is very admirable. I would like to congratulate Daniel on being named the 2022 NSW Young Australian of the Year and commend him for all of his hard work with Street Side Medics.

HURSTVILLE ROTARY CLUB & HURSTVILLE SALVATION ARMY

Mr MARK COURE (Oatley—Minister for Multiculturalism, and Minister for Seniors)— I acknowledge the Hurstville Rotary Club on receiving much needed funding from the NSW Government to help upgrade the kitchen facilities which they share with the Hurstville Salvation Army. This partnership between the Hurstville Rotary Club and the Hurstville Salvation Army is one of the strongest and oldest community partnerships across the region. These kitchen upgrades will help further this fantastic partnership which will subsequently mean that more elderly, vulnerable and in need individuals can receive the support that they need. The Hurstville Salvation Army was established in 1899 and The Rotary Club of Hurstville was first chartered in 1939. Together, these organisations share 204 years of outstanding community service and we cannot understate the positive impact that this has had in the lives of local residents. These upgrades will ensure that these organisations can work in unity with the facilities that they deserve well into the future.

THE ART ROOMS

Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland)—"Start as you mean to go on" is a common enough phrase, but it becomes powerful when someone with vision applies it to a new venture. One such soul now who has stepped out with focus, hope and diligence is Deborah Van Heekeren, artist and now gallery owner. Her new venture is The Art Rooms in central Maitland. The Art Rooms has a point of difference. It will provide visitors with a chance to purchase art works that are both affordable and beautiful. Deborah has also developed a connection with a framer, Deborah Atkinson of Picture This, so that works can be thoughtfully framed and made ready for hanging. Hopefully the considerations of quality and affordability will encourage many local people to support the gallery and commence their own collections of works by local artists, thereby helping more works to be created. I wish Deborah a successful journey through the first years of the Art Rooms. I hope that she, along with local artists Kimberley Swan and Helen Hopcroft have a very successful premier exhibition "Paperworks". I thank Deborah for stepping out with confidence and commitment to bring more art into our community.

TASTE FESTIVAL IN MAITLAND

Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland)—May 20th and 21st will see Maitland hosting the much anticipated Taste Festival. Maitland is a vital part of the Hunter Valley food experience and our city is a definite foodie's paradise. The event will be sponsored by the Mutual Bank of Maitland who have provided support for our community ever since 1888. The Taste Festival is a premier event showcasing the food and wines available in our city and produced in our region. The festival also provides opportunities for local performers to engage with crowds eager to experience live music once again. Organisers will deliver a program including pop-up eateries, art installations, wineries, food trucks and a cosy laneway bar. The Levee precinct will host a range of art exhibitions and the popular Slow Food Hunter Valley's Farmer's Table will return. I commend Maitland City Council Events Officer Janine Chandler and the Events Team on their work to plan, curate and deliver the Taste Festival and I wish them every success as I know the community and visitors will experience something unique, and tasty.

THE CUNNING CULINARIAN

Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland)—Coffee culture has settled easily into the broader rhythms of life in Maitland. Congratulations to The Cunning Culinarian for their role in expanding our coffee culture here in Maitland. The Cunning Culinarian was recently awarded the title of Outstanding Café in the Hunter Local Business Awards. Alina Mackee and the team at the Cunning Culinarian have rapidly gained recognition for the quality of their services, products and setting. They work to provide a comfortable and stylish place for people to gather for social occasions or for when a treat of one's own is in order. As Maitland grows its reputation as a food lovers destination, it is critical that we recognise and support the efforts of small businesses; efforts of both the proprietors and their team members. I recognise the entire Cunning Culinarian team for their efforts and for the contributions that they make daily to our community while adding something quite unique to the ever widening range of offerings within our city. I congratulate Cunning Culinarian on receiving this award and I look forward to seeing this energetic and focused team keep progressing in their pursuit of excellence.

LEN WOOD

Mr GREG PIPER (Lake Macquarie)—I would like to acknowledge the passing of Leonard James Alexander Wood from Wyee who was a highly respected and much-loved community member. Known to friends and family as Len, he and his wife Janet moved to Wyee more than 30 years ago. Len joined Wyee Rural Fire Service brigade in 1991 and he remained an active member until recently. He served as president of the brigade from 1997 to 2003. He is remembered by his colleagues in the brigade as a dearly cherished man and a gentleman who always had a smile for everyone. An engineer by trade, Len often came up with practical solutions for things needed at the station. His skills were so highly prized that his work even took him to Japan. Len was an active community member and spent many years serving on the Wyee Hall Committee and for a time was its president.

Len was also an avid train enthusiast who enjoyed travelling to Maitland to view vintage trains. I extend my deepest sympathies to Janet and the couple's four sons, Simon, Matthew, Andrew and Benjamin. Vale Len Wood.

FELIX KOZAKIEWICZ

Mr GREG PIPER (Lake Macquarie)—It is not every day that I find myself acknowledging a young man on mastering the art of age-old weaponry, but Felix Kozakiewicz is worthy of recognition for his exceptional talent in fencing. Felix is in Year 9 at St Paul's Catholic College at Booragul and has shown endless dedication to developing his swordsmanship. Felix recently achieved exceptional results in the Under-16s Northern New South Wales Region Fencing Competition, bringing home a silver medal in the foil discipline and a gold medal in the épée discipline. Foil and épée are Olympic disciplines which use different weapons and have different rules. Foil is a point weapon, where fencers target their opponent's torso to try and score a valid touch. Epee is also a point weapon, but fencers are able to attack at any time and hit any part of their opponent's body. The sport is believed to have originated in Spain, with early fencing books written between 1458 and 1471. It's a sport that requires discipline but also teaches courtesy and respect and I am pleased to hear that we have a local champion of the sport. I congratulate Felix on his efforts.

CHARLTON CHRISTIAN COLLEGE LEADERSHIP TEAM

Mr GREG PIPER (Lake Macquarie)—I would like to acknowledge 10 accomplished young students from Charlton Christian College on their appointment to the school's 2022 leadership team. Georgia Craig, Caelan Doel, Jack Drayton, Amilija Drazina, Kayah Hutchinson-Green, Laura Hyslop, Thomas Kristofferson, Lauren Potter, Jessiah Smith and Harrison Woodward were selected by their peers and the college's executive members after they each demonstrated their ability to connect with, engage, motivate and support students of both primary and high school ages. These students also boast a wide range of skills and talents. Some are accomplished public speakers, athletes, musicians and academically gifted students. I also note that several of these students are serving on the leadership team for a second consecutive year. It's always wonderful to see young people accept responsibility and become leaders, whether it's within their immediate friendship group, broader school class or indeed the entire school. Young people who take on such responsibility are very likely to go on and be leaders in other ways, whether it's within their chosen profession, in public life, business or public service. I congratulate these students on their appointment and wish them well for the future.

WILL CLARIDGE AND JUSTIN OAKENFULL - SYDNEY ROYAL SHOW

Mr ADAM MARSHALL (Northern Tablelands)—I recognise Will Claridge, national winner of the Australian Livestock and Property Agents Association [ALPA] National Young Auctioneers Competition at Sydney Royal Easter Show. Will was convinced to become a stock and station agent while doing work experience as a student. He graduated to auctioneering and loved the excitement of the fast pace and successful bidding. Will loves his work and will continue to learn as the industry changes and grows. That is why he won the state championship last year, won the national this year, and will continue winning. Mr Justin Oakenfull is another success story showing great potential as an auctioneer with a highly commended in the NSW category. Justin also has a history with ALPA in the 2021 NSW Young Auctioneers Competition. Both Justin and Will are Inverell locals and a credit to their community and their employers. I congratulate both Will and Justin for their successes at the 2022 Sydney Royal Easter Show. I commend Will and Justin for contributing excellence to the stock and station industry.

BUNDARRA CENTRAL SCHOOL-SYDNEY ROYAL EASTER SHOW

Mr ADAM MARSHALL (Northern Tablelands)—I recognise Bundarra Central School Hospitality and Kitchen Operations students and staff for their proficiency exhibited in The Rural Students Café at the 2022 Sydney Royal Easter Show. Students Chloe Hughes, Shanae Gleeson, Lilly Milton, and Brianna Groth demonstrated their range of expertise from food preparation in a commercial kitchen to customer service including teachers Carolyn Standfield and Jill Wagner as supervising chef and front of house manager. During the week's activities the group met Her Royal Highness, The Princess Royal, Princess Anne. The week was a memorable "royal" experience. I congratulate students and staff on a job well done and for representing their school, their town, and the Northern Tablelands admirably. I commend Bundarra Central School on making the effort to participate in the Sydney Royal Easter Show and offering this once in a lifetime occasion to their students.

ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF NSW PERPETUAL TROPHY

Mr ADAM MARSHALL (Northern Tablelands)—I recognise the Northern District Exhibitors for winning the Perpetual Trophy, showcasing the region's local produce. On hand was Mr Peter Barratt who was presented with a Show Champion of Champions award for his 46 years of involvement at the Royal Easter Show. Carrying on the family tradition, his wife Mrs Kathie Barratt and daughters Gabbie and Indira, spent most of last year preparing for the exhibit by sourcing produce on farm and growing their own back-yard contribution. Lyn

Cregan from Glen Innes was on hand to add her vast knowledge and experience. The Northern District Exhibitors are a creative group and Indira Barratt has created an Instagram page to encourage more rural participants. I congratulate the Northern District Exhibitors on winning the Perpetual Trophy. I commend the participants from the Northern Tablelands on their ingenuity in sourcing the prize produce to promote the region and their commitment to excellence.

BAYSIDE GARDEN CENTRE - 1,000 NEW TREES PLANTED

Mr CHRIS MINNS (Kogarah)—I would like to devote this time to acknowledging the work of the Bayside Garden Centre, who have recently announced a plan to plant 1,113 new trees in the Bayside local government area as part of the Government's '5 million trees initiative'. The council have ensured that the trees are spread evenly across the local government area in over 20 parks, some in my electorate, including; Bexley Oval, Flynn Reserve, Fry's Reserve, Gilchrist Reserve, Kingsgrove Ave Reserve and Tin-dale Reserve. They expect to begin planting soon, coinciding with this year's planting season, to be completed by the end of October. More specifically, the Garden Centre will be providing the 45-litre pots and saplings ranging from 1 to 2 metres. This will help improve the tree canopy in our community, which evidence suggests, will aid the health of our community and the air quality for future generations. I look forward to watching this project unfold and helping in any way I can. Thank you to the Bayside Garden centre for the work you have been doing to improve our community, through this over 1,000 tree effort.

2022 CAMDEN SENIORS LOCAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Mr PETER SIDGREAVES (Camden)—Last month I had the privilege to host the 2022 Camden Seniors Local Achievement Awards with the Hon. Mark Coure MP, Minister for Multiculturalism and Minister for Seniors at the Narellan Community Hall to showcase the work and achievements of seniors in the Camden community. Congratulations to Daphne Hussey, Pat Pascual, Bob Ford, Tom Anderson, Terry Gordon, Bob Roach, Iain Richard-Evan, Tab Hunter, Bill Cork, Bill Peters, Gary Clark, Trevor Firth, Barry Irwin, Lofty Richardson, Margaret Thornton, Dianne Smith, Brian Pippen, Bill Matthews, Kevin Shaw, Dennis Crouch, Kaye Hahn, Alan Brooks, June Phillips, Annette Arany, Lyn Dench, Stephen Irwin, Marcia Mckone, Christine Hogan, Jacqueline Bolster, Robyn Gregory, Stephen Gregory, Maura Larkin, Jenny Slade and Linda Ferris. A special thank you to Camden Hospital Auxiliary, Camden Meals on Wheels, Macarthur Centre for Sustainable Living, Camden R.S.L Sub-Branch, Carrington Care, Camden Sports Club and Big yellow Umbrella for nominating these seniors and for acknowledgement of their contributions to our community.

WORLD'S GREATEST SHAVE

Mr PETER SIDGREAVES (Camden)—This year, the Leukaemia Foundation celebrates 24 years of the World's Greatest Shave making it one of Australia's longest running fundraising events. People of all ages channel their inner action-hero and shave, cut or colour their hair. The participants are supported all the way by proud family, friends, colleagues and classmates. Oran Park Anglican College Captain, Shelly Feeney led by example demonstrating the College core values of courage and compassion when she shaved her hair off to raise money for the Leukaemia Foundation. Joined by year 11 student Braithen Jeffery and teacher Mr McMinn the trio have raised more than \$4,000 to give families facing blood cancer the emotional and practical support they need as well as fund vital research. I thank Shelly, Braithen and Mr McMinn for their courageous participation in the World's Greatest Shave.

ALAN BAKER ART GALLERY

Mr PETER SIDGREAVES (Camden)—The Alan Baker Art Gallery showcases the work of local Camden artist, Alan Baker, and is situated in the historic Victorian gentleman's townhouse on John Street Camden, Macaria. This collection of Alan Baker's art provides a colourful portrayal of the artist's life in 20th Centenary Australia. Through tragedy and joy, the gallery tells a story of Australian life, culture and artistic journey. Through the collection and program of public art workshops, the Alan Baker Art Gallery has established itself as a vibrant part of Camden's cultural precinct. The Alan Baker Art Gallery is a space which connects local artists in the Camden-Macarthur region, fosters emerging artists and promotes art in Camden.

YVONNE TADROS

Mr EDMOND ATALLA (Mount Druitt)—I wish to recognise Mrs Yvonne Tadros, whose contribution with translation services to the Coptic Orthodox Theological College and Coptic Diocese in Sydney has been instrumental in bridging the cultural gap between the older and younger generations. Mrs Tadros's work has also assisted in transferring the Coptic heritage to the younger generation as well as introducing the Australian culture to the older Coptic generation. Her important contribution and volunteering has been recognised and honoured by His Holiness Pope Shenouda III, Head of the Coptic Orthodox Church, during his three visits to Sydney. Mrs Tadros has assisted in translating documents from Arabic to English since 1981 and despite her recent ill

health, continues to volunteer her services to the Coptic community. It is a privilege to be able to recognise Mrs Tadros in the NSW Parliament, for her hard work for which we are all so very grateful.

AUSTRALIAN CAMBODIAN CHINESE ASSOCIATION FLOOD FUNDRAISER

Mr GUY ZANGARI (Fairfield)—The Australian Cambodian Chinese Association have recently undertaken a fundraising drive for the residents of Lismore impacted by the March 2022 floods. It was a pleasure to attend the presentation event on Monday 2nd May 2022 along with Nick Lalich MP, to present a cheque to our parliamentary colleague Janelle Saffin MP - Member for Lismore and members from the St Vincent de Paul Society Lismore and Northern NSW. A total of \$6,150.00 was raised by the association, an outstanding effort which will certainly assist with the crisis effort. I would like to thank the Australian Cambodian Chinese Association for their efforts in assisting the residents of Lismore at such a critical time.

AUSTRALIAN CHINESE BUDDHIST SOCIETY FLOOD FUNDRAISING

Mr GUY ZANGARI (Fairfield)—I commend the Australian Chinese Buddhist Society [ACBS] for their fundraising efforts for the Australian Flood Relief Campaign. The ACBS members from the Ming Yue Lay Temple, Bonnyrigg recently got together to collectively fundraise for the St Vincent de Paul Society Branch of Lismore and Northern NSW. After a variety of fundraising activities the ACBS raised \$101,288.00 for the St Vincent de Paul Society to assist families and individuals impacted by the floods. These funds will go a long way to help those that have suffered in this crisis. I was honoured to join in with my colleague the Member for Cabramatta Nick Lalich MP to witness the presentation of the formal cheque to the Janelle Saffin MP - Member for Lismore and representatives from the St Vincent de Paul Society. I am proud of our local community's efforts in gathering together to assist people in their time of need and I thank the Australian Chinese Buddhist Society for stepping up and rallying the community to contribute to this outstanding fundraising effort.

PATRICIAN BROTHERS' COLLEGE ANZAC DAY

Mr GUY ZANGARI (Fairfield)—On Wednesday 4 May 2022, Patrician Brothers' College, Fairfield commemorated ANZAC Day with a full school assembly with Australian Defence Force personnel, Cadets, RSL Sub-Branch members from Fairfield and Merrylands, local Fairfield police, Patrician Brothers, Mr Michael Krawec from the Delany Foundation, parents and former students also in attendance. The service acknowledged the sacrifices of those that landed on the shores of Gallipoli 25th April, 1915. It also acknowledged those that paid the ultimate sacrifice in all conflicts following the Gallipoli campaign. The main focus of tribute during the service was the attack on Darwin in 1942 by invading Japanese forces. To mark the 80th Anniversary the service displayed a video montage of photographs and diary entry readings from members of the Royal Australian Navy in 1942. Congratulations to Lucas Nohra of Year 11 on being awarded the prestigious Anzac medal this year. I commend Mr Michael Bilton and the student body for hosting yet another moving and memorable ANZAC Day Commemorative Service.

LAUNCH OF BONDI OCEAN LOVERS FESTIVAL

Ms GABRIELLE UPTON (Vaucluse)—On Friday 22 April, I helped launch the 2022 Volvo Ocean Lovers Festival at my local Bondi Beach along with MC Festival Ambassador Dr Vanessa Pirotta and Wentworth MP Dave Sharma. The Ocean Lovers Festival is aimed at growing the awareness of what we can do to better protect our oceans. Bondi Icebergs Club President Lynne Fitzsimons hosted the launch at the iconic Club and the pool was set up with an amazing living seawall installation by the Sydney Institute of Marine Science where visitors could take a dip and learn about live ocean revival. The Festival took place over Saturday 24 and Sunday 25 April with a busy program including the Big Bondi Beach Clean Up to remove plastic from Bondi beach, sea science panels, art and live music, surf talks, yoga and a screening of the movie 'Girls Can't Surf' - highlighting our resilient female surfers. I want to sincerely thank the Co-Founders of Ocean Lovers Anita Kolni and Carolyn Grant - two local residents who have brought their passion for protecting our oceans to our local area in the biggest way possible. Congratulations!

SINGLETON LIBRARY'S ADULT LITERACY TRAINING

Mr DAVID LAYZELL (Upper Hunter)—I commend Singleton Council and especially the Library team for ongoing efforts to improve adult literacy. Singleton Library has a free training program for community members so they can become an adult literacy tutor. Singleton is one of the few libraries in the state with a specialised adult literacy support program. The Library commenced the adult literacy program six years ago to provide training to local residents to become qualified Volunteer Adult Literacy Tutors. Tutors are matched with people who require support and provide them with one-on-one sessions. I want to acknowledge the Library team's Rob Stewart, who chairs the NSW Public Libraries Working Group on adult literacy which is coordinated by the NSW State Library, and is the liaison between the Reading Writing Hotline and public libraries. Participants in the tutor training then join Singleton Library's Adult Literacy Support Program to assist people wanting to improve

their reading, writing or spelling. Support sessions are held at the Library at a time that suits both the learner and volunteer tutor. I encourage anyone who may need the support of the program to contact Singleton Library.

MURRURUNDI RAILWAY STATION 150TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr DAVID LAYZELL (Upper Hunter)—On behalf of the community, I want to thank the MurruRail 150 Committee for the celebrations staged on 2-3 April 2022 to mark the 150th anniversary of Murrurundi Railway Station. The event recognises the contribution passenger and freight train services have made to Murrurundi and District. The new train station put Murrurundi on the map back in 1872, helping the town grow from a population of about 400 to over 2,000 which completely transformed the community forever. Establishment of Murrurundi Station kicked off a local building boom as new businesses were established and demand for housing increased. Celebrations over the anniversary weekend featured a historic steam train visit, model train exhibition, markets, fair rides, fireworks and plenty of family fun. I also thank the NSW Government for the support provided for the festivities through Transport for NSW and a one-off grant for the event. It was great to see Murrurundi celebrate this historic event in local history with the highlights now posted on the MurruRail 150 Facebook page for all to enjoy.

ARDLETHAN MUSIC MUSTER 2022

Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra—Minister for Emergency Services and Resilience, and Minister for Flood Recovery)—I would like to congratulate the organisers of the 2022 Ardlethan Music Muster on another very successful event after a difficult 2 years. A huge congratulations must go to the 9 committee members; Janet Popple, Donna Caldwell, Janice Lewis, Kevin Popple, Trish Davis, Kerry-Anne Caldwell, Chris and Julie Butcher and Janice Guy who have been working night and day for the past 12 months to bring this fantastic event back. A congratulations must also go to Chris Smith and the Mary Gilmore Festival Committee who have supported the committee. The 2022 Ardlethan Music Muster was held between Friday 8 and Sunday 10 April. There was plenty to see and do for the 200 people in attendance over the course of the 3 day event. May that be them coming to watch the 10 performers, mini-jams, open mic, mix 'n' match bands, bush dances, concerts or get hands on with the many workshops available. There was plenty to see and do for anyone of any age. Congratulations once again to all involved and I can't wait to see what's in store for next year's event.

GUNDAGAI BOWLING CLUB ANNUAL TOURNAMENT

Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra—Minister for Emergency Services and Resilience, and Minister for Flood Recovery)—I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Gundagai Bowling Club on their recent annual tournament event held on May 1st. A total of 26 teams from towns right across the region took to the greens at the Gundagai District Services Bowling Club on a beautiful sunny Sunday for the womens, mens and mixed events. The triples tournament was taken out by a Tumut Bowling Club trio with a team from the Temora Bowling Club in second place and Harden Bowling Club group in third. It is so important that we have regular events like these that provide locals with the opportunity to show off their skills in a competitive environment whilst also have a great day out catching up with friends. This tournament is a massive group effort through the many roles that individuals play in the lead up to and following on from the day including green preparation, catering, the sourcing of prizes, draw organisation, set up and pack up. Well done to Gundagai Bowling Club President Wayne Carthew, the well experienced committee and club members for their fantastic efforts in hosting such an enjoyable event.

VIOLINIST, ISABELLA PETRIE

Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra—Minister for Emergency Services and Resilience, and Minister for Flood Recovery)—I would like to congratulate Tallimba Local Violinist, Miss Isabella Petrie on being only one of four students from NSW to be selected to play as a member of the show band in NSW Education Department Pulse Alive 2022. Isabella is a Year 11 student at West Wyalong High School and has been playing the Violin since the age of 6. She is a student at the Riverina Conservatorium of Music Wagga and regularly attends the String and Wind Camp held at Borambola, Wagga. Isabella is a member of the Riverina Youth Orchestra and has performed with the Riverina Concert Band in Wagga for the past five years. Being heavily involved in the music world and an extremely talented violinist it is no wonder Isabella was selected to play at Pulse Alive 2022. Pulse Alive is a large-scale performing arts event, celebrating talented students from NSW public schools in Greater Sydney and beyond. I congratulate Isabella once again on being selected and wish her all the best in her goal in obtaining entry into the Sydney Conservatorium of Music on completion of her Year 12 studies.

LACHLAN O'GRADY - GRIFFITH

Mrs HELEN DALTON (Murray)—Today I recognise and congratulate Lachlan O'Grady of Griffith for his outstanding achievement in the 2021 Higher School Certificate. Lachlan undertook his HSC studies at

Murrumbidgee Regional High School in Griffith, achieving the incomparable - first in the state in HSC Automotive. Whilst completing his HSC, Lachlan also attended TAFE once a week for automotive classes, further adding to his mechanical knowledge. Outside of study, Lachlan also put his automotive knowledge to good use in his part time job at an automotive retailer. Despite the many challenges the pandemic presented, Lachlan remained committed to his studies both at school and TAFE, enabling him to receive the highest result in HSC Automotive. Lachlan's exceptional results are a testament to his application and dedication. I commend him on his hard work and wish him all the very best for the future.

JENI JAPP - HAY

Mrs HELEN DALTON (Murray)—Today I would to acknowledge the achievements of Jeni Japp—a well-respected Hay local and a dedicated contributor to her community. Jeni has always been involved in Hay, working as teacher at the local school, and volunteering at Bishop's Lodge – an historic building with heritage gardens. Her work at the Lodge over 30 years has been vital to its upkeep and ensuring continued support within the community. Jeni has also spent time volunteering at the Hay museum, helping to ensure that the town's history is marked and its stories shared with both locals and visitors. For her efforts, Jeni has been the recipient of an Order of Australia Medal and previously named Hay Citizen of the Year. It is my pleasure to further honour Jeni's contribution to her community, and thank her for her service to the town of Hay.

VOCAL JUSTICE AWARD

Ms JODIE HARRISON (Charlestown)—Congratulations Mitchell Howe, a detective senior constable assigned to the Lake Macquarie Police District, on receiving the inaugural Justice Award at VOCAL (Hunter)'s Care and Connection Fundraising Dinner. Detective Howe attested from the Police Academy in 2011. Starting out in Bankstown, he transferred to New England and later arrived in Lake Macquarie. Victim-survivors describe him as "dedicated", "honourable" and "a committed police officer." His nominations for the Justice Award cited his willingness to go beyond his duty of care; his compassion and respect; and called him a Police officer who "represents his badge with the highest regard". Congratulations Detective Howe. I would also like to acknowledge his fellow nominees: Natalie Bremner, an associate solicitor at Harpers Legal; Sarah Williams, founder of "What You Were Wearing"; and Yvette Parker, who has worked with NSW Health's Sexual Assault Unit at the John Hunter Hospital for many years. Detective Howe and his fellow nominees have all done so much to assist victim-survivors, to advocate for their rights and ensure that they can begin to recover and rebuild from terrible trauma. My thanks to Detective Howe, as well as Natalie, Sarah and Yvette, for their incredible support of victim-survivors.

ART & TEA AT THE PLACE

Ms JODIE HARRISON (Charlestown)—Charlestown local community centre, The Place, has been an extraordinary resource for the electorate, and I have mentioned them in this place many times. I am happy to once again recognise the extraordinary work of the Place, its staff and volunteers. Over the last two years, as COVID-19 lockdowns have led to social distancing and stay-at-home orders, many in our community have grown isolated and disconnected—and it is seniors who have borne the brunt of this. In early April, as part of celebrations for NSW Seniors Festival, I went along to the Art & Tea event at The Place, which aimed to help seniors in the Charlestown area re-engage with the community after so long. Led by Astrid Rosemergy, a wonderful local artist, the workshop was floral-inspired and full of vibrant colour and energy. My thanks to the Place and to Astrid for helping to facilitate such a great afternoon, and I'm so happy to see older members of our community reconnecting in such a positive, creative way!

STUDENTS RAISE FUNDS FOR UKRAINE HUMANITARIAN EFFORT

Ms JODIE HARRISON (Charlestown)—Students at St Pius X School in Adamstown have shown their support to the people of Ukraine by raising funds for Caritas. Caritas, a Catholic humanitarian organisation committed to working alongside the world's most vulnerable people, is on the ground in Ukraine supporting families displaced by the conflict. 1000 St Pius X students came together in Ukraine's national colours of yellow and blue to form the country's national flag on March 24. Along with raising funds, the school took the opportunity to remind its community about the importance of caring for those less fortunate. The school's commitment to supporting its neighbours across the globe during their humanitarian crisis is inspiring to the rest of the community. We can all learn how to make our world better through attention to actions like this taken by St Pius X students.

THE JESTAS

Mrs TANYA DAVIES (Mulgoa)—With life returning to normal and live music back in action, the Jestas are excited to be back. Locals, Jesse Gerhard, Rafaela Safadi, Ben Wilson and Eddie Green have already played some shows and are really excited to be back doing what they love with music. The Band formed whilst they

studied music together in high school at Glenmore Park. When COVID hit, the band did their best to adapt by transforming into an acoustic band to ensure they could remain COVID safe. Despite the challenges of COVID, they never gave up their dreams to play for live audiences and now return to the scene playing shows to great acclaim. I want to recognise the hard work, determination and spirited nature with which the Band has conducted themselves in and to say well done for their efforts.

KELLYANNE GIANATTI

Mrs TANYA DAVIES (Mulgoa)—Some of the most hardworking animals that exist on this planet are bees and Kellyanne Gianatti, owner of Mulgoa Honey has been hard at work beekeeping for seven years now. Her inspiration for beekeeping was drawn from the simple yet critical fact that bees pollinate over one third of the world's food sources. That and the powerful benefits that honey has to offer for the gut, allergies and brain function has made Kellyanne a very passionate beekeeper doing her bit to contribute to the health and wellbeing of her community. Using her experience as a former Owner and Director of a preschool, Kellyanne teaches beekeeping and educates the public about the importance of bees. On offer are hive tours and introductory beekeeping courses to adults at her home. By doing this, Kellyanne is able to share her passion for bees and continue to ensure that more and more people become involved in the protection of bees or even take up beekeeping themselves. I want to recognise the good work Kellyanne does for our local community and I wish her the very best going forward.

SARAH PEDLEY

Mrs TANYA DAVIES (Mulgoa)—Today I want to share the story of an inspiring 18-year old from Glenmore Park who is now doing her bit to support families staying in Ronald McDonald Houses. At just 12 years old Sarah Pedley was diagnosed with an extremely rare tumour in her L3 vertebrae that only half a dozen other children in the world might have been facing. Sarah underwent five major spinal surgeries to remove the tumour over the course of two years. Throughout it all however, Sarah never fell out of love with her passion for dancing. She began to dance at the age of 7 and when she found out about the great cause 'Dance for Sick Kids' in 2021 she took it as an opportunity to take part to help families going through some of the toughest situations to make sure they can be with their children as they seek out treatment. Despite not having to use the Ronald McDonald House herself, Sarah has committed to helping other families in need. You are an inspiration Sarah. Thank you for your service to others.

BOWRAL ART GALLERY

Mr NATHANIEL SMITH (Wollondilly)—The Bowral Art Gallery hosted yet another fantastic event in March with their 2022 Bowral Sculpture Prize exhibition. I congratulate Patrice Cooke who won first prize for her piece 'Cruising', which is a wonderful group of sculpted stingrays. Congratulations also to second prize winner, Julie Haseler Reilly, for her impressive work 'Shimmer Boy'. The pieces were judged by award-winning contemporary sculptor Michael Purdy, who said he was extremely impressed by the quality of work produced this year. Well done to all the winners and to the Bowral Art Gallery for helping to keep our creative spirits alive at this time.

STEVE HORTON

Mr NATHANIEL SMITH (Wollondilly)—On 23 March Steve Horton stepped down from his role as Chair of Business Southern Highlands. Steve Horton has served on the Chamber's Board since the Chamber merged with Business Illawarra, Business NSW, and Business Australia. Business Southern Highlands has been an extremely important advocate for businesses across the Southern Highlands, ensuring a wide range of industries have had their voices and needs heard. Steve will be continuing in his role representing the Southern Highlands on the Business Illawarra Regional Advisory Committee, which works to develop and advise the Chamber movement on policy and economic development in the Illawarra/Southern Highlands region. Steve has been a tireless advocate for businesses in our region, and has brought their issues before local, state, and federal governments. I saw first-hand his determination to find ways of supporting businesses who were experiencing hardship through fire, drought, floods, and COVID, and how he worked to get them back up and running again. I thank Steve for his exemplary contribution to our business community and to the chamber movement. I wish him every success in his future endeavours.

BARE BITES BOWLS AND BREWS

Mr NATHANIEL SMITH (Wollondilly)—Despite setbacks of the past few years, businesses in the Southern Highlands are continuing to expand and improve in order to reach new markets. Bare Bites Bowls and Brew has a beautiful new café space in the Bowral High Street Arcade, an extension of the Bare Body Beauty shop just across the lane. The new space offers a plant based menu that is healthy, nutritious, and is also delicious. Founder Donna Jennings started a natural body and beauty store with the philosophy that skincare and beauty products should be as natural and safe as the food we put in our mouths. Taking that same philosophy into the

kitchen, Bare Bites Bowls and Brew is perfect for anyone who wants to treat themselves to a tasty lunch or coffee break, knowing their indulgence is also good for their health. Congrats to Donna on this beautiful new space!

JASMINE GUTHRIE – AUSTRALIAN & NSW ATHLETICS REPRESENTATIVE

Mr MATT KEAN (Hornsby—Treasurer, and Minister for Energy)—Today it is my pleasure to recognise Jasmine Guthrie of Mt Kuring-gai for her extraordinary achievements as a NSW and Australian Athletics representative. Eighteen year old Jasmine is a product of the Northern Districts Little Athletics Club and together with her twin sister, Isabella, she has dominated the NSW Junior Championships as a 200 and 400 metre sprinter. Most recently, at the Australian Junior Championships, Jasmine achieved first place in the 400 metre event and first place in the 4 x 400 metre relay event. This achievement saw her crowned Australian U20 Track & Field Champion at the 400 metre event for the second year in a row. It also saw Jasmine selected in the National U20 team to compete at the Oceania Championships in Mackay in June 2022, as well as the World U20 Championships that will be held in Columbia in July/August. I am certain we will see much more of Jasmine Guthrie and her impressive results as she further develops her athletics performances.

ISABELLA GUTHRIE – AUSTRALIAN & NSW ATHLETICS REPRESENTATIVE

Mr MATT KEAN (Hornsby—Treasurer, and Minister for Energy)—Today it is my pleasure to recognise Isabella Guthrie of Mt Kuring-gai, for her extraordinary achievements as a NSW and Australian Athletics representative. Eighteen year old Isabella is a product of the Northern Districts Little Athletics Club and together with her twin sister, Jasmine, she has dominated the NSW Junior Championships as a 400 metre hurdler. Most recently, at the Australian Junior Championships, Isabella achieved first place in the 400 metre hurdles event and first place in the 4 x 400 metre relay event. This achievement saw her crowned Australian U20 Track & Field Champion at the 400 metre hurdles event for the second year in a row. It also saw Isabella selected in the National U20 team to compete at the Oceania Championships in Mackay in June 2022, as well as the World U20 Championships that will be held in Columbia in July/August 2022. I am certain we will see much more of Isabella Guthrie and her impressive results as she further develops her athletics performances.

ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S PRIMARY SCHOOL LEADERS 2022

Ms YASMIN CATLEY (Swansea)—Today I acknowledge Molly Drayton and Will Tobin on being named as the 2022 St Francis Xavier's Primary School leaders. Molly and Will always demonstrate a consistent work ethic and are proud to be members of the St Francis Xavier's Primary School community. Molly and Will have been involved in a variety of school activities and events over the years. They continuously strive to do their best in their studies and act as role models for their peers. Being named as the 2022 St Francis Xavier's Primary School leaders is a testament to both Molly and Will. I am sure they will carry out their new leadership roles with great pride and develop skills that they will find useful in the future. I congratulate Molly and Will on their special achievement. I also wish them all the best with their final year of primary school and future endeavours.

NORDS WHARF PUBLIC SCHOOL LEADERS 2022

Ms YASMIN CATLEY (Swansea)—Today I acknowledge Hayley Pashkuss, Samuel Wylie, Jake Gessell, Hannah Hague, Shyla Kelly and Lola Sauer on being named as the 2022 Nords Wharf Public School leadership team. Hayley, Samuel, Jake, Hannah, Shyla and Lola consistently demonstrate a strong work ethic and represent the Nords Wharf Public School community with pride. Each of these students have been involved in a variety of school activities and events over the years. They always strive to do their best in their studies and are excellent role models for their peers. Being named as the Nords Wharf Public School Leaders for 2022 is a testament to these students. I am sure they will carry out their new leadership roles with great pride and develop skills that they will find useful in the future. I congratulate Hayley, Samuel, Jake, Hannah, Shyla and Lola on their special achievement. I also wish them all the best with their final year of primary school and future endeavours.

LAKE MUNMORAH PUBLIC SCHOOL LEADERS 2022

Ms YASMIN CATLEY (Swansea)—Today I acknowledge Paige O'Connor, Isaac Norton, Maddie Parsons, Kupa Wilson, Phoebe Fenwick, Hunter Oliver, Tayetum Brown and Charlie Farrugia on being named as the Lake Munmorah Public School Captains, Vice-Captains and Prefects for 2022. I also congratulate Kourtney Watson, Hudson Simonas, Charlotte Hoile, Hudson Fenech, Amelia Caruana, Kobia Smith, Henry Clayton and Jack Outlaw on being announced as the School's Sports House Captains for the year. Each of these students consistently demonstrate a strong work ethic and represent the Lake Munmorah Public School community with pride. They have been involved in various school activities and events and always strive to do their best in their studies. Being named as the Lake Munmorah Public School 2022 leadership team is a testament to these students. I am sure they will carry out their new leadership roles with great pride and develop skills that they will find useful in the future. I congratulate each of these students on their special achievement. I also wish them all the best with their final year of primary school and future endeavours.

FOX'S LANE ART PROJECT

Ms JO HAYLEN (Summer Hill)—I congratulate Alessandro Berini, Selina Springett and Jayanto Damanik Tain on their success in being awarded the commission for a new artwork in Fox's Lane, Ashfield. The piece, fittingly titled 'There will always be a light on for you', was commissioned by the Inner West Council as part of their upgrade of Ashfield Town Centre, and sits between Liverpool Road and Ashfield train station. The installation piece features 27 hand crafted lanterns, which each represent a community group who make Ashfield so special, featuring everyone from the Inner West Environment Group to the Ashfield Senior's Theatre Group. They were lit last month and have completely lifted the mood of anyone who passes through the precinct. The artists' statement says "the lanterns are a physical reminder that in times of crisis, the strength and way forward is through community, and that diversity is beautiful". Coming out of the last two years, these lanterns are such an uplifting reminder of all we have to celebrate. Thank you so much to the Inner West Council, Alessandro Berini, Selina Springett and Jayanto Damanik Tain, and to all community groups involved in designing the lanterns for Fox's Lane.

ASHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOL "TRASHION" SHOW

Ms JO HAYLEN (Summer Hill)—I congratulate Ashfield Public School on their wonderful "trashion" show currently on exhibition in the foyer of Ashfield Wests. Ashfield Public School students have formed a Mottainai Committee with a focus to promote reuse, recycling and environmental sustainability. "Mottainai" is a Japanese word which means "what a waste" and the movement encourages creative thinking to reduce the waste we send to landfill. The "trashion" exhibition, which is proudly displayed in the foyer of Wests Ashfield, features clothing items made by students, entirely out of items which would normally end up in our rubbish bins. These works of fashion are both compelling and beautiful. They remind us we are in the midst of a climate emergency and that we all have a responsibility to act on climate and waste, especially with 3.5 million pieces of trash and garbage being generated every day. I warmly congratulate and thank the Mottainai Committee, parents, educators and all students from Ashfield Public School for this important initiative. Thanks also to Wests Ashfield for ensuring we all get to see and reflect on these excellent creations.

NEWTOWN BREAKAWAYS

Ms JO HAYLEN (Summer Hill)—I congratulate the Newtown Breakaways AF Club on two wonderful community events: their Indigenous Round in late April and their Frontline Workers Round in early May. To celebrate the club's Indigenous round last month, two players, Sacha Gratton and Carleah Flinders, designed a special guernsey. The design celebrates diversity and inclusion, as well as the deep and enduring connection of Indigenous people to the land on which we gather and play. In another example of the Breakaways doing great things to celebrate the community, they also held a frontline workers round this past weekend. The aim of the round was to offer thanks and recognition to not only the frontline workers who play for the club, but all of the incredible people in the Inner West who have spent the last two years keeping our community safe, whether it be healthcare workers, teachers, or retail and hospitality staff. I warmly congratulate and thank the players and everyone involved in these important Rounds, and extend my gratitude to the Newtown Breakaways for lifting up and celebrating these important Inner West communities.

UNDERSTANDING CONSENT PANEL

Dr MARJORIE O'NEILL (Coogee)—I wish to acknowledge the incredible work of Sarah Williams and What Were You Wearing, an advocacy group for survivors of sexual violence, and thank them for inviting me to speak as a part of their recent panel discussion on understanding consent. I was joined by the next generation of leaders in this space, men's respectful relationships speaker Max Radcliffe, Teach Us Consent's Tess Fuller, Consent Labs' Angelique Wan, and Veera's Mannie Kaur Verma as we discussed topics like how to manage age appropriate consent education in our schools and ways that we as a society can do better to support survivors of domestic abuse and coercive control. We as a society need to do better at calling out the behaviours that enable domestic and sexual violence, we need to do better at creating supportive spaces to help survivors heal, but after spending an evening with these inspirational young advocates, I can confidently report that we are taking big steps in the right direction toward an Australia free from domestic and sexual violence.

NSW ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH EX-SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN

Dr MARJORIE O'NEILL (Coogee)—It was an honour to attend the ANZAC Service for the NSW Association of Jewish Ex-Service Men and Women. NAJEX is one of the oldest Jewish organisations in Australia. Founded in 1920 its purpose is to perpetuate the memory and deeds of those Jews who served in Australia's armed forces from the time of the Sudan Campaign right up to Afghanistan. Their ANZAC ceremony was a fitting tribute to the many Jewish men and women who have served their country. Attendees heard fitting parallels drawn between the ANZAC tradition and the Jewish festival of Passover, whereby families and communities come

together in both instances to retell and rejoice in the stories of those who came before holding firm in the face of great adversity. It is stories like these that bring us together and give us a sense of shared meaning, which is why it is critical that we continue to retell them, time and time again, acknowledging the personal sacrifice that protected the freedoms we cherish today. Let us not forget.

CWA 100 YEARS

Ms JANELLE SAFFIN (Lismore)—The Country Women's Association has been the backbone of country communities for 100 years. I'm honoured and fortunate to be a patron of the Tabulam of the CWA which is made up of incredible local women who work hard and lead in their communities. The CWA started in Sydney in at the Royal Agricultural show when a group of women decided they needed their own voice in the bush. Ever since they have been a powerful voice for women and communities in the bush. Out the front of my Electorate Office before the flood we proudly displayed the CWA scone recipe which locals would stop, read and take a photo of to go make at home. Despite being the best cooks in NSW the CWA are much more than scones and cakes. They are fierce advocates for country communities who not only improve lives for country women and country people and with their progressive policies the whole of NSW, often driving key debates. From charitable work, social clubs to just being active in our communities the CWA are always there for us. I congratulate the CWA on 100 years and I look forward to the next 100.

FESTIVAL OF PLACE CONCERT MALLANGANEE

Ms JANELLE SAFFIN (Lismore)—Mallanganee Hall was a buzz on Saturday April 30 for the Festival of Place Concert. Brook Chivell and Natalie Pearson gave an incredible performance which locals flocked to see. I thank them for making the trip down from the Gold Coast to entertain locals and put on the concert. I thank the Festival of Place Program for providing financial support to the show and to the Mallanganee and District Progress Association for organising. I had the honour of opening the show. A special shout-out to Greg Baker and Judith Lovick-Andrews for all their hard work. I also got to check out the new kitchen in the Mallanganee Hall which the progress association and I worked together to get a \$7,000 grant for. It was wonderful to see it in action and the wonderful volunteers made treats for the attendees of the concert. The Kyogle Lions Club put on a great BBQ as they always do which was enjoyed by us all on the night. It's fantastic to see Mallanganee hive of activity and catch up with the community.

TENTERFIELD ROTARY CLUB 75 YEARS

Ms JANELLE SAFFIN (Lismore)—On Saturday 9 April Tenterfield Rotary Club celebrated their 75th anniversary. Over 65 guests celebrated 75 years of Rotary in Tenterfield at the Tenterfield Golf Club. It was a packed night full of fun and entertainment which was a lovely way to celebrate the club. Club President Kevin Rumble presented a \$3500 cheque to the Westpac Rescue Helicopter which was accepted by Dodge and Margi Landers who are the driving force behind fundraising for the helicopter in Tenterfield. Geoff Sullivan and Ralph Manser provided entertainment for the night and the club's newest member Rhonda Wallace provided music and dancing. Giana Saccon prepared an amazing scrolling slide show detailing the history of the club. The history of club was further celebrated by local historian and past District Governor Harry Bolton who brought the house down with jokes. A great way to reflect on an outstanding 75 years. Jeff and Kaileen Egan gave out boxes of chocolate to thank everyone who worked so hard, Bev decorated the room and the cake made by Border Cakes was cut by Barry Grimes and Rhonda Wallace. I congratulate Tenterfield Rotary on a wonderful 75 years.

NURSES' STRIKE

Mr JAMIE PARKER (Balmain)—Today I bring to the attention of the House the thousands of nurses who took part in the strike organised by the NSW Nurses and Midwives Association on Thursday, 31 March. I would like to particularly acknowledge all the nurses from the Balmain Electorate who participated in this strike to demand fixed nurse-to-patient ratios, sufficient maternity staff and adequate pay. Nurses have worked tirelessly to keep us safe during the pandemic and I want to extend my gratitude to all nurses working to maintain a healthcare system that provides quality care.

BALMAIN PUBLIC SCHOOL ENVIRONMENTAL WARRIORS

Mr JAMIE PARKER (Balmain)—Today I bring to the attention of the House the efforts of the Environmental Warriors of Balmain Public School who have been working hard to create a sustainable garden in memory of their late teacher Ms Pauline Jensen. Ms Pauline left an inspiring legacy as an environmental advocate and beloved teacher, establishing a composting program and a vegetable gardening program at Balmain Public. The Environmental Warriors have carried on her legacy by advocating for a green space where children students can learn to care for the environment. I want to thank all the Warriors: Eirlys, Benjamin Huang, Sophia Knight, Harry Sweeney, Helena Chiu, Jemma Hartley-Smith, Maylea Waltermann, Maxwell Sansom, Charlotte Owens, Frankie Hagan, Brodie Nicolson-Smith, Remi O'Brien, Harriet Jouana, Silas Rosalky, Adelaide Nacard, Chloe

Zhang, Cormac King, Jessica Reed, Marla, Maris Kudinov, Georgie Christmas, Leo Young, Lane Watt, Jasper Galpin, Eli Sidman, Henry Saldumbide, Roşie Anthony, Maxi Nelson-Williams and Elise Green.

2022 WESTERN NSW LHD MIDWIFE OF THE YEAR

Mr PHILIP DONATO (Orange)—I recognise the 2022 Western NSW Local Health District Midwife of the Year, Katherine Skinner. Katherine was announced as Midwife of the Year on International Day of the Midwife, 5th May 2022. The Western NSW Health District awards the annual Midwife of the Year award to an outstanding midwife based on their demonstration and commitment to the Living Well Together Values, commitment to the midwifery profession, and demonstration of leadership in the provision of midwifery quality care. Katherine was presented the prestigious award at a ceremony in Orange. For almost 30 years Katherine has worked in Orange Health Service's Women's and Children's Unit, caring for a countless number of mothers and their precious babies. Katherine was recognised for her passion for midwifery, her exemplary professional skills, going above and beyond in her patient care, being an incredible mentor and role model, while also guiding and developing students and new midwives. I congratulate Katherine on being awarded this prestigious award and for the many decades of dedication to her profession. On behalf of an appreciative community, I thank Katherine for the care she has given to many mothers and their babies. Well done.

2022 ORANGE LOCAL WOMAN OF THE YEAR

Mr PHILIP DONATO (Orange)—I wish to recognise the 2022 Orange Local Woman of the Year, Ms Janice Harris. Janice has a genuine care for her community, actively contributing almost half a century of voluntary service. Janice's community involvement, roles and accomplishments include; Founding member of Orange Theatre Company in 1975, serving as Publicity Officer for many years and member of the board for more than 20 years. Choreographed, directed and/or performed in 56 productions at Orange Civic Theatre during that time. Made a life Member in 2007. 1982-1987: Committee Member & President, Orange Children's Medical Research Foundation. 2015-Present: Foundation member of Orange Push for Palliative. Currently serving as Vice President and Publicity Officer; 2010: Inducted into NSW Association of Community Theatre Hall of Fame; 2015-Present: Volunteer Media Officer and Fundraising; Committee Member, Ronald McDonald House Charities Orange; 2016-2019: Judge, Stars of Orange Dance for Cancer, NSW Cancer Council; 2016-Present: Judge, Canberra Area Theatre Awards; 2016-Present: Committee Member & Publicity Officer, City of Orange Eisteddfod; 2019-Present: Creative Director, Pinnacle Players; 2020-Judge, Canberra Ovations theatre awards; 2021: Volunteer crisis supporter Lifeline Central West. On behalf of an appreciative community, I thank Janice for her significant and ongoing contributions.

JENNY COLEMAN OAM

Mr PHILIP DONATO (Orange)—I wish to recognise Jenny Coleman OAM. In April this year Jenny retired as a volunteer peer support officer at the O'Brien Centre in Orange, after an astonishing 23 continuous years of voluntary service to her community. Jenny received an Order of Australia Medal in 2020 for her services to community mental health and being instrumental in establishing the O'Brien Centre, which has become a sanctuary for many Orange locals living with mental illness, their carers, families and friends. Jenny's passionate support of the many regular attendees of the centre of the past 23 years has contributed to the survival, evolution and growth of this important community-led group, which has until now been located in the tranquil settings of the Bloomfield medical campus. Her commitment to the important role, the Centre and those living with mental illness who have relied upon and thrived with her steadfast yet gentle support, is a remarkable dedication to the community of Orange. I applaud Jenny's service, the significant contribution she has made to the betterment of people's lives and the success of the O'Brien Centre. I wish her well in the next phase of her life. Well done.

SOUTH COAST TOWNS

Mrs SHELLEY HANCOCK (South Coast)—I was very pleased and excited to hear that many towns on the South Coast had been shortlisted for the second ever NSW 2022 Top Tourism Town Awards. The Shoalhaven towns will be up against 30 other determined towns from across the State. The NSW Top Town Awards organised by Business NSW will showcase the value of tourism and visitor economy to towns across the state by highlighting the town's people, attractions and experiences that make NSW an exceptional place to visit. I am very proud that not one but many towns in the Shoalhaven area were shortlisted for this amazing opportunity for our community, these towns include Ulladulla, Sussex Inlet, Huskisson, Culburra Beach, Berry and Kangaroo Valley. Although voting has closed to support our local towns we cannot wait to see the results, what a pleasure it was to see so many South Coast communities shortlisted that was terrific news. What wonderful places to be and great holiday destinations such beautiful places on the South Coast. I wish all these towns the best of luck and congratulations them for this amazing opportunity.

CHATSWOOD ROSEVILLE ROTARY CLUB

Mr TIM JAMES (Willoughby)—I would like to commend the members and works of the Chatswood Roseville Rotary Club in my electorate. Like all Rotarians, its members are driven by a spirit of community service to make a positive difference in the world. The club has both a local and global focus, sponsoring a variety of projects and partnering with like-minded organisations. Recent activities of Chatswood Roseville include the 'Graffiti Removal Busters' programme to assist with the removal of graffiti from local neighbourhoods and the weekly barbeques at Bunnings Chatswood. Further afield, Chatswood Roseville have funded dental care projects in Timor-Leste and partnered with churches in Ghana to provide food and clean water for local villages. Club members have also supported the Paul Harris Music School in Poland for students with disabilities and A Safe Haven Foundation, a programme in Chicago helping people transition from homelessness to independence. I am proud to have the Chatswood Roseville Rotary Club in my electorate and am so grateful for the contribution they make to my local community and the wider world.

WILLOUGHBY DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Mr TIM JAMES (Willoughby)—I would like to draw attention to an important institution in my electorate, the Willoughby District Historical Society (WDHS) and its museum. The aim of the society is to preserve and showcase the rich history of Willoughby for both its residents and visitors. The Society exhibits the heritage of the area to the public through both the Chatswood Library and the Willoughby Museum. Housed in a beautiful Federation-style cottage, Boronia, at 58 Johnson Street, Chatswood, the Willoughby Museum was officially opened by my predecessor, Peter Collins on 30 October 1993. I was proud to spend an hour there last week and I thank the leaders who made me so welcome. As well as digital resources, the Museum houses a number of collections including pottery, ceramics and textiles, together with a replica kitchen and laundry. By visiting the museum, visitors can learn all about the history of Willoughby, from brickmaking in Artarmon to the cultural contributions of Armenian, Italian, Chinese and Japanese immigrants. I take this opportunity to commend the work of the Society, and look forward to participating in its future activities.

NORTHSIDE CHATSWOOD SALVOS

Mr TIM JAMES (Willoughby)—Today I would like to commend the great community contribution of Northside Chatswood Salvos, based in Chatswood in my electorate. Northside Chatswood Salvos are of course part of the worldwide Salvation Army founded by General William Booth in 1865. As well as being a multicultural church, Northside Salvos offers numerous services and activities to the people of our community. In addition to running playgroups, kids clubs and youth groups, Northside offers regular English classes and social table tennis. Like other Salvation Army churches around Australia, Northside runs an op-shop in Chatswood to sell donated second-hand goods in support of community and welfare services. By reaching out to their local community and caring for the needs of the less fortunate, the people of Northside typify the classic Salvos motto of 'Christianity with its sleeves rolled up'. I honour the good work of Northside Community Salvos and look forward to partnering with them in their care for the community of Willoughby.

VETERINARY SPECIALISTS OF SYDNEY

Ms ELENI PETINOS (Miranda—Minister for Small Business, and Minister for Fair Trading)—I acknowledge Veterinary Specialists of Sydney ("VSOS") in Miranda, who were named Pet Care Business of the Year at the Sutherland Shire Local Business Awards 2021. Founded by Dr Andrew Levien, VSOS is home to a compassionate team of medical and surgical specialists at the forefront of veterinary medicine. Dr Levien's vision was to create a high-quality specialist referral hospital for pets that was affordable and accessible for people in our community. As the Minister for Small Business, I am especially pleased to see local businesses in the Miranda Electorate like VSOS receiving recognition from our community. I acknowledge VSOS' incredible veterinarians including Karina Graham, Michelle Joffe, Nikola Heblinski, Rachel Basa, Laurencie Brunel, Amy Pepper, Graham Swinney, Nina Lorenz, Matteo Bordicchia, Chris Greenwell, Joanna Pilton, Emilie Mendez, Dominic Tso, Channette Kulzer, Michelle Westcott, Elizabeth Chia, Eleanor Lam, Sarah Bate, Anthony Malak, Ben McRae, Rachel Reynolds, Sophie Baron, Abigail Turner, Barbara Gallagher, Anna Markey, Chloe Cheung, Anneke Van Dyk and Professor Kenneth Johnson. I congratulate the Veterinary Specialists of Sydney on their success at the Sutherland Shire Business Awards and extend my best wishes for the future.

MIRANDA RSL SUB-BRANCH

Ms ELENI PETINOS (Miranda—Minister for Small Business, and Minister for Fair Trading)—I acknowledge the importance of Anzac Day and the commemorations held by the Miranda RSL Sub-Branch ("Miranda RSL") on 25 April 2022. Anzac Day goes beyond the anniversary of the landing on Gallipoli in 1915. The Anzac spirit continues to shape our identity as a nation, embodying the values of courage, mateship and sacrifice. Miranda RSL hosted a beautiful dawn service allowing our community to come together and remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice. I thank the Executive Committee members of the Miranda RSL Sub-Branch who helped facilitate the morning. I acknowledge Arie Havenaar, Alan Lark, Brian Senior, Barry Fletcher and

John Goodger. I also recognise the women who assisted with the Gunfire Breakfast including Kerry Molloy, Ginger Stanfield, Kerry Elliott, Val Brown, Lorraine Rowan, Anne Senior and Leslie Neal. Additionally, I commend Debbie Hansen, Fleet Lieutenant Barry Sutherland, Warren Barnes, Joan Thorpe, Jim Lowe, Janette Havenaar and Bill Lewis for their contributions as well as Karen Palmer a Miranda resident who spotted Alan setting up 200 chairs for the service whilst walking her dog and stayed to assist him. I thank the Miranda RSL Sub-Branch for facilitating an Anzac Day Dawn Service for our community.

COMO WEST PUBLIC SCHOOL

Ms ELENI PETINOS (Miranda—Minister for Small Business, and Minister for Fair Trading)—I congratulate the newly elected leadership team of Como West Public School on their appointment. Como West Public School is a wonderful school community with students committed to doing their best always. This year, the student leadership team have been busy assisting with school fundraisers including the SRC Backpack Donation Day where students donated 200 backpacks filled with stationary, lunchboxes, handballs and other goodies to help vulnerable students in Lismore. Como West students have also enjoyed celebrating their peers at the Easter Hat Parade and recent sports carnivals. Leading by example is the 2022 leadership team who truly embody the values that make Como West Public School such a caring and exciting place to learn. I congratulate Prime Minister Sophie Allen and Deputy Prime Minister Zac Holley along with Ministers Jade Miller, Freya Neilly, Eitan Faass and Elliot Francois on their successful appointment. To be elected by your peers is an incredible achievement of which these students should be proud, and I look forward to seeing them embrace opportunities throughout the year. I commend the student leaders from Como West Public School on their success and extend my best wishes for the 2022 school year.

SAILABILITY

Mr JAMES GRIFFIN (Manly—Minister for Environment and Heritage)—I would like to wish a Happy 26th Anniversary to Sailability Manly. Sailability is an organisation that provides an incredibly valuable service allowing people with disabilities to not only participate in the joys of sailing but also allows them to gain confidence and life skills. The motto of Sailability is "Freedom on the water, Regardless of ability" and what better place to do this than on the magnificent Sydney Harbour. Sailability is a fantastic organisation that makes me very proud to represent Manly, I acknowledge and thank the many volunteers that make Sailability the success story that it is and I wish them the best of luck continuing this vital work into the future.

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER BRETT MCFADDEN

Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect)—I would like to offer my personal congratulations and gratitude to Superintendent Brett McFadden APM for his appointment as Assistant Commissioner, Traffic & Highway Patrol Command on Thursday 31st March 2022. Assistant Commissioner McFadden joined the NSW Police Force in 1988 and commenced general duties at Castle Hill Police Station. Assistant Commissioner McFadden has served as Detective Inspector at the Professional Standards Command, Crime Manager at Hawkesbury Local Area Command, as well as Commander at Holroyd, Penrith, Nepean and Fairfield City Police Area Commands. Assistant Commissioner McFadden has been actively involved in the leadership of an extensive range of challenging incidents and events. Most recently, he worked in partnership with cultural and community leaders to provide critical leadership of the Fairfield community through the COVID-19 pandemic. He is an active member of the Task Force Pioneer cadre for the response to terrorist incidents and has been extensively engaged in the development of police leaders through a range of training and mentoring programs. Thank you to Assistant Commissioner McFadden for your outstanding service and dedication to our community. Congratulations again on your appointment.

GREYSTANES FC 52ND SEASON AT BATHURST STREET PARK

Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect)—I would like to offer my personal congratulations to Greystanes Football Club [FC] on the start of their 52nd season at Bathurst Street Park. Greystanes FC is one of the largest grass-roots football clubs in Cumberland City Council and offers a diverse range of opportunities for our local community to engage in sport and physical activity. The Club has continued to serve our growing Western Sydney community, with over 800 registered players ranging from under 5 to over 45 years of age. Greystanes FC will continue to thrive because of their commitment to fostering a supportive and inclusive environment for men and women of all ages to participate in community football. It is wonderful to see their dedication to meeting the sporting needs of our community. Thank you to David Apps, President, Eamonn Donohoe, Vice President, and the hard-working executive team for your continued leadership of the Club. I would also like to thank the volunteers, parents, and sponsors who continue to support the Club and our players tirelessly and enthusiastically, contributing to its success.

WENTY LEAGUES STAR MARY MCTAGGART RAISES \$24,093

Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect)—I would like to offer my personal congratulations to Mary McTaggart, Commercial Manager, Wenty Leagues Club, for raising \$24,093 at the 2022 Cancer Council Stars of Western Sydney Dance Competition. Mary performed a wonderful dance routine on the night after tireless hours of practice, and also dedicated her own time reaching out to generous sponsors. She has achieved an amazing result with the support of our Western Sydney community, who donated towards her fundraising campaign. Thanks to Mary's fundraising efforts, these vital funds will go towards much-needed research for the prevention, treatment, and management of cancer. The Stars of Western Sydney Dance is a fun-filled and exciting event which brings together our local community to raise funds for Cancer Council. It is a wonderful opportunity for our Western Sydney community to support such a noble cause together. I commend and thank Mary for her initiative and for volunteering her own time to make a genuine difference in the ongoing fight against cancer. I wish her all the best in her future endeavours.

2021 NRLW GRAND FINAL - ST GEORGE ILLAWARRA DRAGONS

Mr CHRIS MINNS (Kogarah)—Congratulations to coach Jamie Soward and the St George Illawarra Dragons NRLW team for making the recent NRLW Grand Final. A come-from-behind Roosters side took out the Grand Final, but only after a brave display from the Dragons, who confirmed their standing as one of the best defensive sides in the competition. Dally M award winner Emma Tonegato and the NRLW's leading try scorer, Madison Bartlett stood out in an outstanding Dragons side. The Dragons had another outstanding season and the club, Jamie Soward, and all the staff should be rightly proud of their efforts in the 2021 competition. I look forward to following the progress of this outstanding Dragons team in the 2022 season.

SING AUSTRALIA ST GEORGE CHOIR

Mr CHRIS MINNS (Kogarah)—I would like to acknowledge the 10th birthday of the Sing Australia St George Choir. The Choir is part of a national network of community choirs, and since its inception in 2012 has played an important role in the community by singing in aged care homes, at Anzac Day ceremonies, in numerous Christmas Concerts and at countless charitable events. Everyone is welcome to join the Choir, regardless of their level of musical experience. A love of singing and helping the local community is all that's needed. The Choir has performed at some notable events over the last ten years, including ANZAC dawn and commemorative services, a performance at the Sydney Town Hall for the centenary of the end of the Boer War and a performance at NSW Government House at the invitation of the then Governor, David Hurley. Congratulations to the original choir leaders John and Toni Darcy and Margaret Corby and to the current leader, Sue Allison. The Choir is also ably led by their professional conductor, Hayden Barrington, and accompanist, Heather McKay.

LAURIETON MEN'S SHED

Mrs LESLIE WILLIAMS (Port Macquarie)—I recognise the Laurieton Men's Shed in my electorate for recently winning the Sustainability category at the 9th National Men's Shed Gathering held in Albury. The 9th National Men's Shed Gathering was held on 29th to 30th March celebrating connection, community and camaraderie over what has been a tough few years of fires, floods and pandemic restrictions. During the gala night presentation evening the Laurieton Men's Shed was honoured with the Sustainability Award for their impressive efforts in restoring literally truckloads of water damaged equipment from the 2021 March floods that devastated parts of the Camden Haven community. Accepting the accolade was President Brian Wood who thanked the membership and local businessman Andrew McCoubrie for their instrumental contribution supporting the community through the devastating flood event. The members were recognised for working five to six days non-stop every week stripping, cleaning and repairing tools and equipment damaged by flood waters while Andrew coordinated a collection and distribution centre. It was estimated that \$400,000 worth of equipment was salvaged in the floods thanks to the Laurieton Men's Shed member's valuable restoration works. I thank the Men's Shed for their service to our community.

MATT MODEL- GOLD MEDALLIST

Mrs LESLIE WILLIAMS (Port Macquarie)—Today I recognise Matthew Model who is an international champion who lives locally in my electorate and who recently took home two gold medals in indoor rowing at the Invictus Games in the Netherlands. Matthew is by no means a novice when it comes to international competition, having claimed two silver medals for indoor rowing and a gold medal in the 400m relay at Sydney Invictus Games in 2018. The sporting sensation was thrilled to achieve two golds in April despite the setbacks with COVID -19 postponing the games and disrupting training schedules. Humble in victory, Matthews's journey has always focused on paving a way to rehabilitation and recovery from existing spinal injuries incurred through his active military service. Matthew joined the army in 2004 and served in East Timor as a rifleman in peacekeeping operations before medically discharged in 2008. Winning two gold medals in The Hague signified a triumphant reward for his hard-earned efforts and an emotional one for his teammates. A highly regarded and esteemed role model in our community, I congratulate Matt for claiming Gold at the 2022 Invictus Games.

KYLE MATHEWS – APPRENTICE OF THE YEAR

Mrs LESLIE WILLIAMS (Port Macquarie)—Today I acknowledge a talented young man in my electorate, Kyle Mathews who was recently named Apprentice of the Year by the Australian Cabinet and Furniture Association [ACFA]. Formally a student of Newman Senior Technical College, Kyle was awarded the esteemed Apprentice of the Year accolade after only recently completing his apprenticeship in Cabinet Making. Kyle commenced his on-the-job training in 2017 after finishing a work placement through Newman College, Port Macquarie. During this time Kyle's gift for crafting beautiful furniture and designer kitchens grew as he began work at Highline Joinery - a respected business in the community that specialises in high-end joinery and cabinetry. Commended for an advanced understanding of different hardware and a passion for completing a job to an exceptionally high standard, Kyle admits his inspiration is formulated through the practical nature of the job and the hands-on aspect. He is drawn to the creativity feature to produce physical things that hold a purpose. At the ACFA Industry Awards in Sydney, Kyle was credited with demonstrating exceptional skills in creative cabinet making, pride in his work and inspiration. Congratulations Kyle on achieving this significant milestone in your career.

ERIKA SORBY

Ms SONIA HORNER (Wallsend)—I recently had the pleasure of attending an exhibition of emerging artist, Erika Sorby, called Women and Wine, at the Blackstone Gallery. The exhibit presented a series of original, contemporary oil paintings that encompasses female sensuality, flattering decor and of course, wine. Erika was born in Newcastle and attended Merewether High School. She completed a double degree in Secondary Teaching and Fine Art, majoring in drawing and painting, at the University of Newcastle. She is a well-known local in Wallsend having previously been a barista at Café Tempest. In 2017 Erika painted a portrait of myself and the local and 2 time NSW Greyhound Breeders, Owners and Trainers Association Champion Greyhound, Knight Sprite, also known as Ollie. She entered the portrait in the Archibalds that year. Erika currently practices art around her teaching commitments and after several years of teaching in north-western NSW, Erika is now home and teaching at Merewether High School. Congratulations on a stunning exhibition Erika. I look forward to seeing many more of your works hanging around art galleries across Australia.

NICHOLAS HARRIS

Ms SONIA HORNER (Wallsend)—Nicholas Harris was awarded the Work Integrated Learning Student of the Year by the University of Newcastle earlier this year for his development of an emotional regulation and social skills program for Year 1 and 2 primary school students. Involving therapeutic interventions, training and development for both students and parents along with group therapy for children, Nicholas' innovative program has seen incredible improvements in the wellbeing of all those involved. Wallsend local Nicholas believes "kids can benefit most from good role models", and has a passion for working with young people in order to help them get the best start in life. Through the program, he's been able to form valuable connections with a range of people involved in the process of education, working with teachers, administration, staff and parents—as well as the students, of course. Nicholas will soon be applying to become a registered psychologist, where he will continue to learn and expand his professional skills to the benefit of future clients and the wider community.

SAMANTHA HOWARD

Ms SONIA HORNER (Wallsend)—Each year the annual TexStyle exhibition showcases forty major works by HSC textiles students from across NSW—and this year's exhibition, showing works from the 2021 school year, includes one of Wallsend's own. Samantha Howard, who graduated from Callaghan College last year, was featured in the Gallery 76-based showcase with her outstanding major work. A medieval gown inspired by Tudor royalty that consists of five individually created pieces, including a cape, corset, petticoat, skirt and shirt, the piece includes fifteen metres of burgundy velvet, ten metres of bemsilk lining, and almost four metres of patterned gold velvet. Despite her extraordinary talent, Samantha is aiming to keep textiles as a hobby—and she's got some amazing career goals! She is joining the Royal Australian Navy as a Maritime Warfare Officer, and will be working towards a Bachelor of Science through the Defence Force. Talk about multi-talented! I wish Samantha all the best for her future. I am sure she will excel in whatever field of endeavour she chooses to pursue.

ALBURY CITY CELEBRATES 75TH ANNIVERSARY BECOMING A CITY

Mr JUSTIN CLANCY (Albury)—I would like to acknowledge the special milestone of the 75th anniversary of Albury becoming a city. The official declaration was made by NSW Member of Parliament for the area, Jack Hurley, on the 18th December 1946, followed by the Proclamation Day on the 10th April 1947 announced by Mayor Bunton and the Governor of NSW Lieutenant General John Norcott. Albury was one of eight large towns receiving city status. The declaration played a role both in acknowledging the growth of the urban centre and also in aid of boosting local economic confidence, stimulating further growth and encouraging

the continued development of what was already a rich and varied cultured life in regional New South Wales. As we look ahead and work together as a community for the unlimited potential of Albury's future, let's take a moment to remember the past and to look forward to an ongoing multicultural, migrant and refugee welcoming, inclusive community that will lead the region in manufacturing, tourism, health and wellbeing.

1ST ST ANDREWS SCOUT GROUP

Mr ANOULACK CHANTHIVONG (Macquarie Fields)—Empowering young people through practical skills development and learning by doing is the Scout method embraced by 1st St Andrews Scout Group. The group's 22 children, three leaders and volunteers are part of scouting's global movement of more than 52 million members. It was a pleasure to visit 1st St Andrews Scout Group, who were delighted to connect face-to-face again after meetings and activities moved online due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The 1st St Andrews Scout Group's community involvement spans over 40 years. The group participates in various camps and competitions, with awards displayed at its meeting hall in Raby. The group regularly participates in community events, such as Campbelltown citizenship ceremonies, the Fisher's Ghost parade, ANZAC Day and Clean Up Australia Day. The 1st St Andrews Scout Group gives young people an opportunity to explore the great outdoors and develop skills that foster independent, responsible and resilient adults. The world's largest provider of non-formal education, the Scouts movement is one that encourages young people to be prepared for anything. I commend 1st St Andrews Scout Group on its contributions to our community.

ALBURY PIONEER & NSW BLUE PLAQUES HERITAGE PROGRAM.

Mr JUSTIN CLANCY (Albury)—I would like to acknowledge the late Betro Abicare, whose prominent role and influence in Albury has led to his buildings being nominated by the Albury community for the NSW Blue Plaques Heritage program. Mr Abicare migrated from Lebanon, arriving in Melbourne in the 1880's. Betro ventured towards regional Albury and found it to be the commercial hub of a rich agricultural region with its location on the Murray River making it an attractive place to settle and do business. A few years after his arrival he developed the iconic building, 'Big Store' (Australian Building) located at the intersection of Dean and David Streets. He went on to build the Regent Theatre which was designed by local architect Louis Harrison on Dean Street in the 'Inter-War Free Classical' style. These buildings are still in use today. Blue Plaque recognition is a celebration of the hard work of the early Lebanese communities and their important contribution to Albury. These important public figures and their developments and businesses have become part of the history of NSW.

BANGALOW LAND AND RIVERCARE

Ms TAMARA SMITH (Ballina)—Today I recognise more than 20 years of wonderful work carried out by members of Bangalow Land and Rivercare. Formed in 1998 by a few local people who were concerned with the state of Byron Creek, the aim of the organisation is to revegetate river banks with native species to improve water quality and provide habitat for native fauna and fish. The group of environmentally conscious volunteers set out to re-establish the riparian area along 6kms of Byron Creek – the last area of the Big Scrub to be cleared by settlers for grazing land. Their efforts have seen major planting along 1km of riverbank and extensive planting by the Parklands to create a forest walk. Many trees are now established and fruiting with self-regeneration evident. The group also created a wetland to filter storm water from the town of Bangalow. The volunteers of Bangalow Land and Rivercare devote time and effort every Saturday morning to maintain four sites on a rotating schedule to try to stay on top of weeds and to protect the precious riparian areas for the future. I wish them every success in the future.

ALEXANDRA HUDSON

Ms TAMARA SMITH (Ballina)—Today I recognise the achievements of local comedian Alexandra Hudson, who beat 17 competitors in the NSW RAW Comedy open mic event in March and went on to win the 2022 RAW Comedy Grand Final in April. Alexandra was up against 11 other performers from around Australia vying for the title of Australia's funniest emerging comedian. The 34-year-old disability carer lives with cerebral palsy and uses her experiences as material for her comic routine and to challenge the wider community's conceptions about what disability is and what it means to live with a disability. Alexandra's goal is to help able-bodied audiences re-evaluate disability. She understands that the laughter she invokes is not aimed at her and can serve to dismantle the barriers that people living with disabilities face every day.

WIRRAMINNA ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTRE AWARD AND BOOK LAUNCH

Mr JUSTIN CLANCY (Albury)—I would like to acknowledge the 25th anniversary celebrations of the award-winning Wirraminna Environmental Education Centre. To mark this occasion a book was launched by author Megan Graham illustrating the deep knowledge and history of a rural community. The book was edited, designed and photographed by the local people of Jindera. I would like to make special mention of three local constituents: Judy Frankenberg, Sue Rose and Darryl Jacob who in 1993, pondered the concept of turning a

neglected dam into a bush reserve. This was the beginning of Wirraminna. I thank you all for your contributions. Wirraminna is now a well-developed centre that teaches the balance between farming, cultural needs, the community and the protection of the environment.

IRISH NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

Mr PAUL LYNCH (Liverpool)—I acknowledge the Irish National Association [known as the INA]. It was formed in Sydney on 27 July 1915 to encourage all aspects of Irish culture including language, music and dancing, literature and sports such as Gaelic football. The INA has always supported the independence of Ireland. For many years the INA has organised an Easter ceremony at the 1798 Memorial in Waverley Cemetery. After a temporary pause because of the pandemic, a ceremony was organised this year on Easter Sunday April 17. The Memorial contains the graves of Michael and Mary Dwyer. Michael, known as the Wicklow Chief, fought in the 1798 uprising and subsequently conducted a guerrilla campaign until 1803. He was sent to NSW as a State prisoner and granted land at Warwick Farm (at Liverpool) in 1806. This year's ceremony featured a number of speakers. One of them was the well-known Maurie O'Sullivan. He is currently Treasurer of the Brehon Law Society of Australia, and on the Executive of Australia Friends of Irish Unity. He delivered a message from Mary Lou McDonald, Leader of Sinn Fein, which emphasised the importance of the end of partition.

ICPA ANNUAL RAMADAN DINNER

Mr PAUL LYNCH (Liverpool)—I acknowledge the Islamic Charity Projects Association [known as the ICPA] which held its 28th Annual Ramadan Dinner on 8 April 2022 at the hall of Salameh College, Chester Hill. The event included a recitation from the Holy Qur'an by student Adam Malas, and speeches by, among others, President of the ICPA, Mohammad Mehio and the Chairman of the Darulfatwa Islamic High Council, Prof. Sheikh Salim Alwan. The event also featured the presentation of graduates of the Al Azhar Course of 2021. This presentation was performed by the Consul-General of Egypt Mr Yasser Abed and Prof. Alwan. Also present were diplomatic representatives. They included Bilal Aksoy, Vice Consul of the Republic of Turkey; and Khander Masudul Alam, Consul General of Bangladesh. There were also representatives from Morocco, Lebanon and Jordan. The Master of Ceremonies for this evening was Wissam Saad. This was a successful and enjoyable event, continuing the long tradition of such ICPA events.

MR TERRY DELAHUNTY

Mr GARETH WARD (Kiama)—I was pleased to present a Community Service Award to Mr Terry Delahunty in recognition for his outstanding contribution to the Berry community. Terry is an outstanding citizen and has given up much of his time to help others. Terry is deserving of this Community Service Award in recognition of his altruistic community service. As President of Berry Rotary, Terry initiated the Community Grants Scheme at Berry Rotary Club. During the drought and severe bushfires, Terry took a leadership role with actions like harnessing resources to help provide feed to local farmers so they could maintain their breeding stock. Terry helped to conduct a relief mission distributing clothes and food to relief centres to nearby townships along the South Coast that had suffered. Terry was also an integral part of the new Rotary Adventure Play Park in Berry. Congratulations Terry for your outstanding work.

KIAMA ROTARY CLUB'S 70TH ANNIVERSARY EVENT

Mr GARETH WARD (Kiama)—The Parliament of NSW congratulates the Kiama Rotary Club on its 70th anniversary. I was extremely pleased to attend the Club's Platinum Jubilee celebration on Saturday 7th May 2022 at The Kiama Pavilion. I would like to acknowledge and thank the 2022-2023 President Elect Carol Jagger, 2021-2022 President Trevor Phillis, Mayor of Kiama Cllr Neil Reilly, MC John Clarke, District Governor Jeremy Wright AM, Past District Governor Phil Whyte, along with Past Presidents Mal Bracken, Bill Humphreys OAM, Ian Johnstone, Secretary Marilyn Jarrett, David Chambers, David Smark, Lloyd Chatfield, Tonia Barnes and Barry Wilson, along with Rotarians Bob Young and Margie Tweedie. I also acknowledge long-serving Rotarian Brian Petschler and his wife Sue who were also attendance. It was a terrific anniversary afternoon of reflection, celebration and thanks for the seven decades of services of the Kiama Rotary Club.

38TH ANNUAL CITY OF SHOALHAVEN EISTEDDFOD

Mr GARETH WARD (Kiama)—Today the Parliament of NSW congratulates the 38th Annual City of Shoalhaven Eisteddfod. I acknowledge and thank the President Rae Harris and Secretary Susanne O'Neill and Treasurer Ken O'Neill. Along with Committee Members: Julia Armstrong, Ona Boyd-Frazier, Kerrie Corish, Michael Harris, Jennifer Hurst, Judy Potter, Peter McGrath, Tania McGrath and Leanne Windsor and Life Member George Windsor OAM. The Patrons include: Mr Max Croot OAM, David Foley and Alan Soden. I first participated in the Shoalhaven Eisteddfod at the age of 5 and I'm so pleased and proud of all the participants and volunteers who bring this competition to life. The 38th year of eisteddfod in the Shoalhaven is an exciting period

after drought, fires, floods and COVID pandemic. Congratulations to each of the performers and volunteers for their amazing dedication and resilience they have displayed.

JANE HOWARD AND RAY DEBONO

Mr STUART AYRES (Penrith—Minister for Enterprise, Investment and Trade, Minister for Tourism and Sport, and Minister for Western Sydney)—I congratulate Jane Howard of Leonay and Ray Debono of Cranebrook on their achievements at the recent 2022 Australian Dragon Boat Championships. Ray and Jane, both members of our local Penrith Pendragons Dragon Boat Club represented NSW and came home with impressive medal hauls. Ray, Senior C category received gold in the 500m mixed event, bronze in the 500m men's event and bronze in the 1Km Pursuit while Jane, Senior B Category received silver in 500m Mixed event, silver in 500m women's event and silver in 1km Pursuit. Great work Jane and Ray.

MERRYLANDS IN THE WEST JOURNAL

Ms JULIA FINN (Granville)—Today I congratulate the restaurateurs and small business operators of Merrylands Road. The West Journal recently recognised the cultural diversity, food and individuality found in Western Sydney and especially Merrylands in my electorate. They said "taking a stroll down the street you'll pass plenty of fresh fruit and veg shops, jewellery stores, bakeries and restaurants/ On any given day you'll be surrounded by locals going about their daily business. Take in the hustle and bustle of life in the heart of Merrylands." They noted how busy Kabul House Afghan restaurant is and said "Looking at the menu you'll be spoiled for choice. We ordered Aashak – a chive dumpling dish topped with yoghurt, lentils, mint and a special chutney. They also said "Check out SeaSweet Patisserie on Merrylands Road for the perfect after lunch pick-me-up serving the best Middle Easter sweets and European cakes and pastries." We are spoiled for choice with numerous cuisines in Merrylands. Small business in Merrylands, like elsewhere in Western Sydney have had a difficult two years but I am delighted Merrylands has been recognised as a special place to live and visit.

INAUGURAL CANTERBURY-BANKSTOWN BULLDOGS IFTAR

Ms JULIA FINN (Granville)—On 30 April I was delighted to attend the Inaugural Bulldogs Iftar dinner at Sydney Olympic Park and hosted by Bulldogs Ambassadors Hazem El Masri and Arwa Abousamra. League legend Hazem El Masri was MC and said "Being the first Muslim rugby league player in NRL history, I trained and played for the Bulldogs during the month of Ramadan my entire career. I broke my fast in private during half time many times. It is a wonderful step forward for the Bulldogs to be the first club in the NRL to host the Inaugural Bulldogs Ramadan Iftar 2022. It demonstrates the Bulldogs ongoing commitment to community and their focus on cultural awareness and relevance in the greater community". It was a great honour to join with Labor Leader Chris Minns, Member for Canterbury Sophie Cotsis, Member for Bankstown Tanya Mihailuk, Member for Lakemba Jihad Dib and Member for Oatley Mark Coure as well as so many friends and fans at this special occasion. My thanks go especially to the club for the kind invitation and I trust it will be the first of many Iftar dinners into the future.

AMITY COLLEGE RAMADAN IFTAR

Ms JULIA FINN (Granville)—On 28 April I was delighted to attend the Student Leaders Ramadan Iftar at Amity College in Prestons which was co-hosted by the student council and SAGA – the Amity Graduates Association. Amity College was founded with only a handful of students in Prestons and now operates in 5 different schools in 3 campuses across NSW with more than 2000 students from Kindergarten to Year 12. Ramadan is the ninth month of the Muslim calendar and the holy month of fasting. The iftar is the evening meal with which Muslims end their daily Ramadan fast at sunset. I was delighted to join the student leaders as they broke their fast at the time of the call to prayer (adhan). Many Muslims believe that feeding someone iftar as a form of charity is very rewarding and in Australia, and the rest of the world, we see it as a symbol of friendship, understanding and social harmony. It was a great honour to join with Deputy Labor Leader Prue, Member for Liverpool Paul Lynch, so many friends and attendees at this special occasion. My thanks go especially to the Student Council and Mr Adam Sayadi for the kind invitation.

CORY RINALDI - ANZAC MEMORIAL VETERAN ARTIST IN RESIDENCE

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla—Attorney General)—Cronulla RSL Sub-Branch President Cory Rinaldi is the inaugural Veteran Artist in Residence at the Anzac Memorial Hyde Park. Cory joined the Army Reserves in 1996 and the Australian Army in 1999. Cory's almost 20-year military career saw him deployed to Butterworth (Malaysia), twice to East Timor, and to Basra (Iraq) on exchange with the British Army. At the Anzac Memorial, Cory is sharing his experiences through an exhibition entitled "A Soldier's Healing". The exhibition (featuring 18 of his paintings) opened on 22 April and closes 24 July. It documents a journey of service and healing through the creative power of art. The Veteran Artist in Residence program helps ensure that contemporary military experiences are interpreted for contemporary audiences. Cory says that his residency at the Memorial has

enabled him to heal (as a PTSD sufferer), gave him purpose again and once more made him feel part of a team since leaving the military.

EDMUND (TED) SMITH - CARINGBAH RSL SUB-BRANCH

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla—Attorney General)—I congratulate Edmund (Ted) Smith of the Caringbah RSL Sub-Branch on being awarded the Meritorious Service Medal by the Returned and Services League. The medal is the highest honour that can be bestowed upon a member of the League. Meritorious Service Medal recipients have 30 years' continuous RSL membership, alongside 25 years' continuous outstanding honorary service. Ted has an impressive record of committed service to both the local community and country. He entered the Royal Australian Navy in 1956. He served in the Fleet air arm and had a rank of Leading Air Mechanic, before serving as a naval police sergeant in the 1970s. Ted joined the RSL in 1975 and has a long list of roles to his name, including President and Vice President at Woronora River sub-branch and President and Treasurer at Caringbah. Ted also had 20 years as a pension officer and advocate with Department of Veterans Affairs. I offer my thanks for what Ted has done for our nation and for his fellow service men and women.

GREG STOREY - LILLI PILLI FOOTBALL CLUB

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla—Attorney General)—I congratulate Greg Storey on recently receiving the NSW Government Community Service Award. Greg has been the president of Lilli Pilli Football Club for more than 17 years. In this time, Greg has presided over and managed the club's growth to 158 teams and 1,850 players. Lilli Pilli Football Club is the largest club in the Sutherland Shire Football Association and the largest amateur club in NSW. Greg has worked tirelessly to increase local football participation, assist volunteer coaches and ensure that every weekend the competition runs smoothly and most importantly is fun for all players. He has lead the club to become the largest supporter of the PanKind's #playinpurple campaign which raises funds for pancreatic cancer research. The club raised approximately \$20,000 this season which is a monumental effort and reflects Greg's tireless work ethic. Each weekend, Greg can be seen taking photos, chatting with spectators or helping other volunteers. Greg has admirable enthusiasm and commitment to his volunteer work. I commend Greg for the impact his work has had on the Lilli Pilli and wider Sutherland Shire community.

HELLO SNOWY VALLEYS

Dr JOE McGIRR (Wagga Wagga)—Award-winning playwright Hannie Rayson has described the Snowy Valleys as "one of the most resilient and generous places in the world". Ms Rayson worked with director Michael Cathcart - supported by Snowy Valleys Council and the government - to bring to the stage a theatrical portrait of history as told by those who call the Snowy Valleys home. The pair met locals - orchardists, cattle producers, paramedics, publicans, rodeo riders and Apple Blossom Queens - to find stories to bring to life on stage in Hello Snowy Valleys. In March this year I was lucky enough to see a fantastic performance of the show at the Batlow Literary Institute. There were tragic stories and funny stories, tales of romance and tales of courage, and they were finally brought to life after delays caused by COVID. Stories and songs touched on many experiences, including the times enjoyed by the Land Army Women during WWII; the impact of bush fire; the joys of spraying grapes by moonlight in Tumbarumba; memories of the sugar pines; yabbing with your future father-in-law; Mildred Macpherson and the cannery; drama in the supermarket at Tumut; the day Gough Whitlam came to Batlow, and more.

MILTON BREUST

Dr JOE McGIRR (Wagga Wagga)—Wagga Wagga's business and sporting communities are mourning the death of Milton Breust, who passed away recently at the age of 87. Mr Breust has been described as down-to-earth and determined and a loving husband, father and grandfather. As The Daily Advertiser newspaper reported, Mr Breust was a prominent member of the community who was not only among those who carried the Olympic torch in 1956, but also established the first drive-in real estate agency in Wagga Wagga in the 1980s alongside his brothers Wal and Baden. Mr Breust grew up on a farm near Temora before moving with his family to Collingullie, where he began playing football. He later joined Wagga Tigers, where he played more than 300 games, before finishing his career with East Wagga Hawks at the age of 43. Son Darrell told The Daily Advertiser his father was a true gentleman who was happy to share the occasional dad joke and had a love of Holden Statesman cars and his dog Max. I wish to acknowledge the special contribution Mr Breust made to the Wagga Wagga community and I extend my sympathies to Mr Breust's wife Barbara and their whole family.

HELLO SNOWY VALLEYS TEAM

Dr JOE McGIRR (Wagga Wagga)—I wish to congratulate the many people who helped to bring the production of Hello Snowy Valleys to the stage. I commend playwright Hannie Rayson and director Michael Cathcart and the talented production team including production manager and designer Jane Dowling and musical director Chris Gorrie, as well as Greg Mouat for the sets and Richard Breward, Paul Holton and Tim Oliver for

the lighting. For the slideshow, thank you to Lesa Corrine for the photography, as well as to the Tumut and Adelong Times and community members for additional pictures. Well done to John Riddell for the film and poster photographs. Thank you to Amanda and Ian McCorkindale from Cascades Nursery for providing trees and to the Batlow Hotel and Crafty Cider for the catering. For the wonderful program, I congratulate Len Connolly, Margaret Sedwick, Jane Dowling, Marie Delany, Laura Fraumeni, Fiona Cooper, Annie Hallard, Greg Mouat, Darryll Archer, Craig Palmer, Jan Kendall, Tina Billing, Debbie Burgess, Jo Erskine, Michael McSweeney, Kevin Gee, Juliet Cullen and Gage Pratt. Thanks also to Ray Billing, Sulari Gentill, Michael Blenkins, Wendy Butler, Debbie Burgess, Annie Hallard, Dave Eisenhower, Lisa Roberts and Marlene Glynn.

**The House adjourned, pursuant to standing and sessional orders, at 19:45 until
Wednesday 11 May 2022 at 9:30.**