



New South Wales

Legislative Assembly

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES (HANSARD)

**Fifty-Seventh Parliament
First Session**

Thursday 9 June 2022

Authorised by the Parliament of New South Wales

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Announcements	8951
Legislative Assembly Photographs.....	8951
Visitors.....	8951
Visitors.....	8951
Bills	8951
Parliamentary Budget Officer Amendment Bill 2022	8951
Second Reading Debate.....	8951
Consideration in Detail	8971
Third Reading	8977
Budget Estimates and Related Papers 2021-2022	8977
Announcements	8980
Member for Hawkesbury.....	8980
Member for Prospect	8980
Visitors.....	8980
Visitors.....	8980
Question Time	8980
Cost of Living.....	8980
Palliative Care.....	8981
State Debt.....	8981
NSW Police Force and Community Safety	8982
State Debt.....	8983
Manufacturing Industry	8984
Drummoyne Electorate Ferry Services.....	8985
Northern New South Wales Rate Relief.....	8986
Eraring Power Station.....	8986
Upper Hunter Water Management.....	8987
Eraring Power Station.....	8988
Renewable Farm Forestry Sector.....	8989
Koala and Environment Protection.....	8989
Law Reform	8990
Bushfire Readiness	8991
Western Sydney Transport Projects.....	8991
Ministerial Statements	8992
Respectful Workplace Policy.....	8992
Business of the House.....	8995
Suspension of Standing and Sessional Orders: Order of Business	8995
Committees	8995
Committee on the Independent Commission Against Corruption.....	8995
Inquiry.....	8995
Community Recognition Statements	8995

TABLE OF CONTENTS—*continuing*

Guildford West Public School Paddock to Plate	8995
Westmead Hospital Palliative Care	8996
Tribute to Troy Beavis	8996
Emerald Hill Country Women's Association	8996
Volunteer of the Year Award Winner Tony Ward	8996
Crookwell Day Country Women's Association	8996
Graduate Registered Nurse of the Year Award Winner Stacey Denny	8997
Queenscliff Surf Life Saving Club	8997
Eurobodalla Local Hero Dr Jenny Munro, AM	8997
Honour Your Heart Walk	8997
New South Wales Bar Association President Gabrielle Bashir	8997
Ku-ring-gai Little Athletics Centre	8998
St Anthony's Catholic Primary School Glee Club	8998
Hockey Coffs Coast	8998
Big 3 Trek Fundraiser Ellie Pastourmoglou	8998
SES Liverpool Unit Commander James Heffernan Retirement	8998
Western NSW Local Health District Nurse of the Year Genie McMullen	8999
Bankstown Police Area Command Awards Ceremony	8999
Joe Woodburn and Edward Bell-Smith	8999
Megaswim Mega Mates	8999
Rural Watch	8999
Parliamentary Friends of Greyhound Racing	9000
Author Sulari Gentill	9000
Senior Citizen of the Year Carolyn Osmond	9000
Surf Life Saving Sydney Excellence Awards	9000
Community Morning Tea	9001
The Lakes Surf Life Saving Club	9001
Flash me Photobooths	9001
West Maitland Centennial Lions Club	9001
Forever Johnno Fundraiser	9001
Autism Advisory Support Service	9002
Private Members' Statements	9002
Organised Crime and Gun Violence	9002
Project Youth	9003
Kempsey Circle Sentencing	9004
Organ Donation Register and Robert Manning	9005
Rotary Club of Richmond	9005
Dungog Shire Roads	9006
Wyong Hospital Staffing	9007
National Volunteer Week	9007
Maitland Fire Station	9008
Castle Hill High School Asbestos	9009

TABLE OF CONTENTS—*continuing*

Bega Electorate Emergency Medical Services	9010
Cost of Living.....	9011
Association for Human Rights In Bolivia	9011
Tribute to Alan Westwood.....	9012
Design and Place State Environmental Planning Policy	9013
Monaro Electorate Schools	9014
Sydney Electorate Infrastructure Funding	9015
Tuffins Lane Sports Fields.....	9016
Drummoyne Electorate Ferry Services.....	9016
Young Street Plaza Project	9017
State Budget and Bankstown Electorate	9018
Bowral and District Hospital Renal Unit.....	9019
Nurse-To-Patient Ratios	9019
Eastern Suburbs Cycling Infrastructure	9020
Bills.....	9021
Statute Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2022.....	9021
Returned.....	9021
Community Recognition Notices	9021
Bankstown Sports Cricket Club 70th Anniversary.....	9021
Nicole Christodoulou & Paramatildas	9021
Toni Barsby & National Reconciliation Week.....	9022
Tamara Campbell and Dave Evans 'bike the Comedy Kiama'	9022
Kiama Red Cross Fun Run	9022
On Thanking Our Dedicated Local SES Volunteers	9022
Brad and Will Millar.....	9022
Elizabeth Macarthur High School.....	9023
National Reconciliation Week 2022	9023
Gambuni A Paesana Night.....	9023
Western Sydney Cycling Network Inc.	9023
Norma Boutoubia – Fairfield Community Service Award 2022	9023
Ian Lowe	9023
Liverpool Annual Sorry Day Event	9024
Southern NSW Local Health District Midwifery Team	9024
Peter Counsell.....	9024
Jeremy Lardner & South Coast Yarns Podcast.....	9024
Cassilis War Memorial Improvements	9024
Giant Parramatta Grass Community Roundtable.....	9025
Geoffrey Alderdice	9025
Mal Ingram and Zac Gay.....	9025
Zac Williams.....	9025
Wallsend District Cricket Club Awards	9025
Wallsend District Cricket Club Awards	9026

TABLE OF CONTENTS—*continuing*

Newcastle Herald Short Story Competition	9026
Albury's Drew Brndusic Aims for Rugby World Cup 2027.....	9026
Nat's Nailed it with Painting	9026
Albury's Rebecca Bryant Receives People's Choice Award.....	9026
South West Sydney Academy of Sport	9027
NSW SES Shellharbour & Dapto Units	9027
Illawarra Women's Trauma Recovery Centre.....	9027
Byron Bay Public School.....	9027
Dahlsford Grove Lifestyle Village	9027
Dr Gurpal Singh – 45 Years of Rural GP Services.....	9028
Bowls NSW State Champions	9028
Bayside Student Excellence Awards	9028
Canowindra Soldiers Memorial Hospital Centenary	9028
Mona Vale Surf Life Saving Club	9029
Frances Refalo	9029
Black Lily Images	9029
Steve Anyon-Smith.....	9029
Sutherland Shire Netball Association	9029
Taralga Aph Association Annual Show	9030
Goulburn Show	9030
Kyogle Rotary Club Mothers Day Hamper Flood Fundraiser.....	9030
Momentum Collective Reconciliation Week Event	9030
Taylah Mitten Back to Tenterfield Hospital	9030
St Vinnies - Hay.....	9031
Justin Griffiths - Balranald	9031
Mr & Mrs Sarti's 50th Wedding Anniversary.....	9031
Mr & Mrs Williams' 60th Wedding Anniversary	9031
Michael Davis	9031
Monaro Panthers FC	9031
Terry O'callaghan.....	9032
Roselands Football Club 50th Anniversary	9032
Magistrate Michael Holmes OAM – Retirement.....	9032
James Warren – Australian Poetry Hall of Fame	9032
Guyra Men's Shed.....	9033
Prakash Chhetri.....	9033
Brendan McNally.....	9033
Adrian Prakash.....	9033
Tyra Towney.....	9033
We Care Mudgee	9034
Justice of the Peace Southern Highlands Branch.....	9034
Colin Herbert	9034
Anna Schindler- Queen's Guide Award.....	9034

TABLE OF CONTENTS—*continuing*

Ian Miller	9034
Neutral Bay Chamber of Commerce	9035
Willoughby Fire Station	9035
Mike Walsh AM OBE	9035
Barry Reeves.....	9035
Jeff Jackson (NSW Rfs).....	9036
David Jerrett (NSW Rfs)	9036
Ian Powell (NSW Rfs)	9036
Friends of the Young Regional Conservatorium and Temora Town Band	9036
Sergeant, Scott Dominish	9036
Lambing Flats Fellowship of Australian Writers	9037
Rebecca (Bec) Healy – Boxhead Plastics	9037
Gallipoli Turkish Cultural Foundation Annual Ramadan Iftar.....	9037
Step Up Profession Ramadan Iftar.....	9037
Najeeba Wazefadost	9037

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Thursday 9 June 2022

The Speaker (The Hon. Jonathan Richard O'Dea) took the chair at 09:30.

The Speaker read the prayer and acknowledgement of country.

Announcements

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY PHOTOGRAPHS

The SPEAKER: I inform the House that a professional photographer has been engaged by the Department of the Legislative Assembly to take some still photographs throughout the sitting today. The purpose of those photographs is for historical records and for use in the Legislative Assembly's publications, in particular our upcoming annual report.

[Notices of motions given.]

Visitors

VISITORS

The SPEAKER: I acknowledge in the public gallery Professor Rosalind Dixon from the University of New South Wales and her colleague.

Bills

PARLIAMENTARY BUDGET OFFICER AMENDMENT BILL 2022

Second Reading Debate

Debate resumed from 8 June 2022.

Mr TIM JAMES (Willoughby) (09:47): I speak in opposition to the Parliamentary Budget Officer Amendment Bill 2022, surely one of the worst examples of a lazy, complacent, hollow Opposition with no plans, no principles and no positive vision for New South Wales. They have had 11 years, and the bill proposes to change but one date. There are, in fact, barely 11 words in the bill. So, after 11 years, they have basically generated one word of policy for each year in which they have been in opposition. Labor's great plan for the New South Wales budget amounts to moving an appointment of one individual by three months. It is extraordinary and, frankly, it is embarrassing. It may be the member for Heffron's best effort, but he knows it is inadequate and incidental. It is surely one of the worst examples of no homework, no substance and no vision from those opposite.

They have had 11 years to pull together ideas and principles and come up with some policies to show some—just some—positive vision for this State and the great people of New South Wales. The Leader of the Opposition said that he had a 100-day plan. But where is it? Has anyone seen it? What has he delivered? The answer is that he has delivered absolutely nothing for New South Wales. There are no policies and no plan. The Leader of the Opposition said he wanted to deliver a positive vision for New South Wales. He has recently marked 12 months in the job—a one-year anniversary marked by abject failure to apply any real policy, thinking or action.

The Leader of the Opposition is very busy on social media. He is busy, no doubt, meeting with his union mates and with his virtue signalling across the State. But the real policy, the real substance, the real depth, the hard work that is needed to lead and to win government simply is not getting done. It is the same old Labor. The only thing the Leader of the Opposition is offering New South Wales is negativity. Again, he is all politics and no plan. One must surely ask: What do shadow Ministers even do? How are they in any way meeting their responsibilities? Their job is to focus on their portfolios and deliver policies for the people of New South Wales. Half of them have been on strike since Jodi left.

The Parliamentary Budget Officer Act 2010 was enacted by the then Labor Government. That legislation was introduced in the dying days of that terrible, corrupt Labor Government, when it knew it was about to enter into a long period of Opposition. It was nothing but self-serving at the time. I am pleased to say that the current Act establishes the Parliamentary Budget Office [PBO] as an independent office accountable to Parliament. The office provides costings of election policies and budget impact statements for all costed policies in response to requests by parliamentary leaders.

The appointment of the Parliamentary Budget Officer commences on 1 September in the year prior to a general State election and ends three months following the election. The 1 September appointment date is more than sufficient for the fulfillment of the functions of the Parliamentary Budget Office, and no-one has credibly suggested otherwise. The current term of appointment allows sufficient time for the Parliamentary Budget Office to discharge its duties to promote transparency and accountability in elections, which the Government absolutely supports. Of course, those opposite have no track record of standing for such fundamental values as transparency and accountability.

A joint select committee inquiry recommended that the sole function of the Parliamentary Budget Officer is to prepare election policy costings to ensure that the electorate has accurate, timely and independent information on the cost of election commitments prior to voting, and rightly so. The Parliamentary Budget Office has performed its duties in past elections fully and admirably. I do not think anyone is suggesting otherwise. It has provided voters transparency over policy costings and has done what it was designed to do. There is no justification therefore to extend its remit. Indeed, the extra cost does not justify the extra time. The Parliamentary Budget Office already does its job. It is not value for money for New South Wales taxpayers to pluck out an extra period, for no apparent reason, with no apparent evidence and with no apparent justification, and to seek to change the game. It is plainly unnecessary.

We know that Labor has form when it comes to recklessly wasting taxpayers' money. That is essentially its track record over a long period. The PBO exists for more than six months before the election. It is adequate to ensure parties have a full set of costed policies for the election. The 1 September PBO start date ensures full transparency for the electorate. So what is this bill about? It is very hard to know. It simply appears to be about a lazy Labor Opposition wanting to somehow outsource its work and its job to someone else. Those opposite just do not understand numbers.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member for Port Stephens will come to order.

Mr TIM JAMES: Chris Minns should do his job and come up with some costed policies of his own. He should come up with a policy, then do some costing work, understand the dollars and cents involved, understand the costs and consequences and all of the implications of those policies—if he had any policies. That would be a positive step forward. Here I am trying to help. I am trying to help, but I am sure that no-one will listen amongst the ranks of those opposite.

Ms Kate Washington: No, no-one is going to listen to you, mate.

Mr TIM JAMES: I figured as much, and that is pretty much the track record, no listening. There you go, we have it. Thank you. Thanks for confirming what we all knew. Expanding the appointment date, as is proposed—again, no evidence, no reason, no justification—well beyond the election period undermines the parliamentary system that is already in place. Scrutiny of public accounts is rightly for the budget estimates process. In summary, this is bad policy. It undermines the present process. It is unnecessary policy. There is no need, justification, evidence or otherwise for this bill whatsoever. It is lazy policy, it is tangential and it does nothing for Labor's persistently poor approach to budgets for the State. Nor does it in any way tackle the complete absence of substantive policymaking by those opposite. It is essentially an embarrassment, and a very hollow one, for those opposite. The bill cannot be supported and will not be supported.

Mr ALEX GREENWICH (Sydney) (09:55): I support the Parliamentary Budget Officer Amendment Bill 2022, which will extend by two months the period which the Parliamentary Budget Office will operate. Costing commitments and announcements is an involved process, and we know that the Parliamentary Budget Officer comes under immense pressure to respond to requests within the statutory time frames in the lead-up to an election. Establishing the office earlier will provide more time for it to start functioning and for parliamentary leaders to submit costings.

The Parliamentary Budget Officer plays an important role in providing transparency and accountability in the electoral cycle and keeping election commitments in check. It also provides an important service for Opposition parties who do not have the benefit of access to the Treasury office or other government agencies to get their policies costed. This service is not just valuable to the Opposition; crossbenchers also could benefit from it. We are regularly told by governments and oppositions that there is not enough money to do something, even when it is clear that the cost is modest. We could benefit from the expertise of the office to quantify savings expected from policies that a government is overlooking. The Parliamentary Budget Officer should be available to all members, not just to the major parties.

I foreshadow that at a later stage I will move amendments to provide crossbench members of both Houses of Parliament limited access to the office. The amendments will give each member of the crossbench up to three voluntary policy costings that they can request between the period of commencement of the office and 31 October.

The limited period ensures that in the lead-up to a State election the focus of the office will remain on parliamentary leaders, with restrictions by allowing only three policies per member to ensure that the office will not get overwhelmed. The existing safeguards that empower the Parliamentary Budget Officer to inform parliamentary leaders if a costing cannot be provided and to issue a public statement if the officer thinks a costing has been misrepresented will apply to crossbenchers.

The Public Accounts Committee will continue to have review powers of the operations of the office, and this will include how the office responds to crossbenchers. The Public Accounts Committee report of the Parliamentary Budget Officer after the last election recommended that the office start operating 12 months before each State general election, with access to the officer's services available to all members of Parliament in the first six months. The changes in the bill and my proposed amendments are consistent with the aims of those recommendations. They are small and reasonable and enable greater transparency. I commend the bill to the House and hope to receive support for my amendments.

Mrs TANYA DAVIES (Mulgoa) (09:58): I speak in opposition to the—

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member for Mulgoa has the call.

Mrs TANYA DAVIES: I do have the call. I am just being updated on the subject matter.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Would the member for Mulgoa like me to call on another speaker in the meantime?

Mrs TANYA DAVIES: Yes, thank you.

Ms SOPHIE COTSIS (Canterbury) (09:59): I wholeheartedly support the member for Heffron and the Leader of the Opposition with respect to the Parliamentary Budget Officer Amendment Bill 2022. I also welcome the support of the member for Sydney for this important initiative to extend the time for the Parliamentary Budget Office. I do note the numb drivel from the member for Willoughby again, whose contribution was pointless. What a shame that he did not use his Masters in giving us a rendition of how he would fix the pork-barrelling of his Government—of his predecessor, in fact. The commissioner of ICAC was in Parliament House last week holding a forum. He ripped into this Government's quarter-of-a-billion-dollar pork-barrel to 95 per cent of Coalition electorates, which was conducted in the Premier and the Deputy Premier's offices on the back of coasters. That was how they were working out their figures.

We on this side of the House want to put forward responsible, open, transparent and accountable costings to the people of New South Wales, after nearly 12 years of this Government ripping off the New South Wales taxpayer. Where do we start? Let us start with the hundreds of millions of dollars to consultants, contractors and people closeted in the New South Wales public service who are mates of mates of the Coalition. Let us talk about icare. It was filled with all the buddies of the current Premier. It was not set up to hold a place as an accountable institution; it was set up to hold a whole lot of Liberal Party hacks. The former CEO—

Mr Kevin Conolly: Point of order: The member for Canterbury is not being relevant to the bill we are debating.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will hear further from the member for Canterbury. At this stage she is being broadly relevant. Order! The member for Port Stephens will be silent while I am speaking. I am ruling on the point of order. The member for Canterbury has the call.

Ms SOPHIE COTSIS: The truth hurts, doesn't it? After close to 12 years, those members of the Government that sit on the Treasury bench should be ashamed of themselves with respect to the way that they have spent public money. The very hardworking mum-and-dad business owners' workers compensation premiums are going to go up because this Government has been bad at managing their money and their premiums. It is a bad economic manager. It is fiscally irresponsible. The Government in New South Wales squandered the opportunity to be productive and to make sure that its communities across the State are productive. It squandered a quarter of a billion dollars in pork-barrelling. The member for Hornsby's electorate received \$90 million for some quarry. Meanwhile people and multi-generational families living in those 12½ local government areas that were locked down—which included areas in my electorate—are tightening their belts because this Government squandered taxpayer dollars when the rivers of gold, stamp duty and a whole lot of receipts were coming in.

This Government has privatised the guts out of income-generating assets. And it is not saying that it is not going to privatise or sell more. This is why we need the Parliamentary Budget Office to open on 1 July—it is imperative. I note the Auditor-General's report and ICAC report after ICAC report and their recommendations about integrity, responsibility, transparency and accountability. None of these principles have been met by this Government. And the longer it is in government, the worse it gets. In my community councils were forced to merge because the current Deputy Premier of this State does not know how to read a balance sheet. We were

asking him at the time to show us the business case and how it was going to be advantageous to build these mega, monolithic councils and how they were going to save the State money and produce better public services. Well, he could not. In the dead of night, the Government sacked the councils and said, "We are going to give you a bit of funding here and there." What did it do? It squandered the opportunity to invest in important productive local infrastructure that would help our community.

Here we are. We have gone through two years of COVID. Our communities, who are the essential workers of this State, who cannot drive a truck or do their jobs working from home, had to go out. And what happened to our communities? They suffered and it was highlighted that there are gaps in the system and in public services. What this Government has done is ripped out the guts and integrity of the public service. It has given those contracts to its Liberal hack mates. All you have to do is have a read of *The Australian Financial Review* every single day. Those opposite who sit on the Treasury bench should take a hard, cold look at what has happened at icare. If they think that they are fiscally responsible economic managers, they should look at what they have done to icare. They should look at the mismanagement, the return-to-work rates and the long-term casual contracts in the New South Wales public service, because they cannot get their figures right. They should look at the Transport Asset Holding Entity—TAHE—and what they have established. Because they have ripped the guts out of the New South Wales public service.

Mr Alister Henskens: What do you know about TAHE other than the name?

Ms SOPHIE COTSIS: See? They are very defensive.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The member for Ku-ring-gai will come to order.

Ms SOPHIE COTSIS: Because what have they got to hide? If this Government had nothing to hide, it would be supporting our bill for openness and transparency.

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

Ms SOPHIE COTSIS: Next year in March the people of New South Wales will make their decision. One of the factors that decision will be based on is the integrity of the services that the Government has provided. Such outrageous spending and pork-barrelling has never been seen in this State, where a quarter of a billion dollars went to Coalition electorates while electorates represented by Independents, members with very large electorates in the bush or Labor members with country electorates got zero. Why? Because this was a political fix. This is why the people are sick and tired of this type of politics—because they see this.

Young people are sick and tired of this Government pork-barrelling and not listening to their issues, whether it be about climate change, providing important jobs in the public service or providing productive and real investment in western Sydney. This Government has to get out of government. Those opposite should not be re-elected next year, on the basis of being fiscally irresponsible. They have pork-barrelled their way through the last 10 years. They should support the bill just to save face and save their embarrassment that they are choking on two months in which they will not open the Parliamentary Budget Office. Shame on them.

Mr JAMIE PARKER (Balmain) (10:09): I thank the House for the opportunity to address the Parliamentary Budget Officer Amendment Bill 2022. I will be speaking relatively briefly.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member for Riverstone will come to order. The member for Balmain will be heard in silence.

Mr JAMIE PARKER: I reiterate the comments about the importance of the Parliamentary Budget Office [PBO]. I contributed to the debate when this matter was raised several years ago, highlighting the importance of allowing The Greens and other parties to have their election commitments costed. One of the great challenges that we have is that people will often say, "Oh, you're making all these promises, and it's not costed." Every single one of our Federal policies was costed, because the Federal PBO allows all parties to have their policies costed. The Greens are supporting bringing the date forward, because a PBO is so important.

I draw the attention of the House to the review that was undertaken of parliamentary budget offices around the country. Bringing the date forward is important because the PBO in New South Wales has some important aspects, but nothing like the Victorian PBO or the Australian Federal PBO. In particular, the Victorian PBO provides the highest number of functions for members and provides advice on fiscal, economic and financial matters that are very broad in function. It tracks election commitments, which is an important thing that PBOs should consider. Importantly, it also provides post-election reports, does policy costings outside of election periods and provides advice to members outside of election periods. Bringing forward the date for the PBO is important, but members should always be considering what functions the PBO has. The Greens' view is they should be expanded to better match what the Australian PBO and the Victorian PBO can undertake.

I briefly raise one point about the type of advice that the PBO provides, because it is not the type of multidimensional advice that The Greens think is important—the triple bottom line approach. It provides a financial perspective—these are the actual numbers in terms of costs. Among the things we always want to take into account are the ecological impact and the broader social impact, and those levels of advice are important. While there is some benefit in getting the pure fiscal advice, other elements are missed when the PBO does that.

As the member for Sydney flagged, we understand that an amendment will be moved to allow other parties and crossbench members to avail themselves of the services of the PBO. That obviously will not allow all of our election commitments to be costed, but it is an important step forward. In conclusion, the reality of the bill will probably be a month or maybe six to eight weeks more that the PBO will be in place. But The Greens will be supporting amendments that will be moved to allow other parties to have a limited number of their policies costed, in a modest way. The sooner the better, so we support the bill and commend it to the House.

Mr MATT KEAN (Hornsby—Treasurer, and Minister for Energy) (10:13): I am excited to support the Parliamentary Budget Officer Amendment Bill 2022. The Government would obviously like to see some amendments to enhance transparency around this, because this Government believes in transparency.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I want to hear what the Treasurer has to say.

Mr MATT KEAN: We know that those opposite do not like transparency, and this is just a desperate attempt for them to grasp some kind of credibility when it comes to the economy. That is what this is. But if we want to have an election on policy then I say, "Bring it on." The Leader of the Opposition has been in his role for 371 days and we have not seen a single policy from him. He came into the job promising his caucus colleagues that he would have a great vision for New South Wales and great plans for the people of the State.

Mr Adam Crouch: A 100-day plan.

Mr MATT KEAN: In fact, it was a 100-day plan. Here we are on day 371, and how many plans have we seen in the 100-day plan? Zero. No plans, and guess what? One cannot cost no plans. Not even the Parliamentary Budget Office can produce costings on nothing, so let us not pretend that somehow the Labor Party will get its policies from the Parliamentary Budget Office. That will not happen. The Parliamentary Budget Office is there to cost policies, and if those opposite do not have any policies then it cannot cost them. That is the reality. Having the Parliamentary Budget Office cost policies that are not there will give you the same result as not having the Parliamentary Budget Office three months earlier. Those opposite will continue to come up with their policies via Twitter, and that is great—good luck to the Leader of the Opposition. But he promised caucus that he would have a plan, and he has come up with nothing. The poor member for Port Stephens knew it. The member for Heffron was completely duped because he wanted the mirage of a leader with a plan. Well, Chris Minns did have a plan.

Mr Adam Crouch: For Chris.

Mr MATT KEAN: There was a plan—for Chris Minns to get a \$142,000 pay rise. That is the plan for Chris Minns. It was always only ever about Chris Minns. Just ask his Labor colleagues; that is what they tell me.

Dr Geoff Lee: Step one: Stab Jodi.

Mr MATT KEAN: I acknowledge the interjection of the member for Parramatta.

Ms Sophie Cotsis: You are obsessed with our leader.

Mr MATT KEAN: I just want him to have a plan for someone beyond himself and his own pay rise. The shadow Treasurer said that the people of New South Wales want to have a clear choice at the next election, and they do. I should table this excellent document from journalist James O'Doherty, who should be a Walkley Award winner. He is a very fine-looking man; no-one wears a pocket handkerchief quite like James. In this very insightful column, he says, "Minns needs policies."

Mr Adam Crouch: Any policies.

Mr MATT KEAN: Any policies—it does not matter. He just needs a policy. At the end of the article, which I cannot read too well because I need my eyes checked—if only the member for Parramatta could print them off in a bigger font—

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Treasurer will direct his comments through the Chair.

Mr MATT KEAN: —he said, "If nothing else, it would at least rob senior Ministers of their favourite barb in question time that the only policy Chris Minns has had was plans to take the top job." Was it not a spectacular plan to take the top job? First he ran for the leadership—

Mr Ron Hoenig: Point of order—

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Treasurer will resume his seat.

Mr Ron Hoenig: I do not mind a bit of fun and delay over a pretty minor bill, but the Treasurer has now gone well beyond the leave of the bill.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will listen further. I provided a fair bit of scope for previous speakers on the Opposition side. The Treasurer will come back to the leave of the bill.

Mr MATT KEAN: I am just making the point that the role of the Parliamentary Budget Office is to cost policies, and the Leader of the Opposition came to the job with a lot of fanfare. He had a very effective plan to take out the former great corruption fighter, the champion for women and the overwhelming popular choice of the members of the Labor Party—and not just the parliamentary members of the Labor Party but also every single branch member. She won the ballot overwhelmingly, but did Chris accept democracy?

Ms Kate Washington: Point of order—

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Treasurer will resume his seat.

Ms Kate Washington: My point of order is taken under Standing Order 76. Absolutely nothing that the Treasurer is saying is relevant to the scope of the bill.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is no point of order. Considering the bill has basically one line, I allowed the member for Canterbury considerable scope in her contribution. I will hear further from the Treasurer.

Mr MATT KEAN: I acknowledge the brave face that the member for Port Stephens puts on. She is a team player. She gets up and defends the new Leader of the Opposition when we all know she was a loyal supporter of the previous leader. She is a loyal and hardworking member of the caucus who has been sidelined because of her loyalty and support for the democratically elected former Leader of the Opposition. I admire her for defending the new Leader of the Opposition. That takes courage, guts and character; and that is the member for Port Stephens. The Leader of the Opposition had a plan to get the top job. When he was rejected by the membership of the Labor Party, what did he do? Did he accept the umpire's decision? Did he accept the verdict of the members? Did he accept democracy? No. He went about undermining, destabilising and sniping at the former Leader of the Opposition. It was disgraceful. He had a clear plan to get the top job, but he has no plans now that he has the top job. You cannot cost no plans.

The role of the Parliamentary Budget Officer is to cost policies. In the 371 days since the Leader of the Opposition came into the top job, we have not seen a single plan. The only plan we have seen is the one that his friends in the union movement wrote for him, that is, the year of the strike—the year to shut down the train system, shut down schools and shut down the public service. We do not need the Parliamentary Budget Officer to cost that policy because we all know it is one that would destroy the economy. In the past week the Government has announced a 3 per cent increase to public sector wages, which is the highest in the nation. It is not about wages, it is not about conditions and it is not about workforce; it is about politics. The position of the unions, with their year of the strike, is a direct assault on the people of New South Wales, sanctioned by Chris Minns.

The Parliamentary Budget Officer could have all the resources in the world, but they will tell us the same thing: Shutting down the New South Wales economy because of Labor's selfish political agenda, and doing over families and businesses of New South Wales for political gain, is a sure-fire way to trash the economy. That is what Chris Minns wants to see in New South Wales. The Government welcomes the proposal to cost Labor's policies. In fact, the Government asks Labor to come up with a single policy that is beyond the year of the strike. We will throw a party. We will get a birthday cake, put a candle on it and call it Chris Minns' first policy after 371 days.

We will let the Parliamentary Budget Officer cost the cake, the candle and the lighter, and it will probably be more expensive than the policy ideas that the Leader of the Opposition has come up with. The Government is happy to give an extra three months to the Parliamentary Budget Officer. But we all know that Labor does not have anything it needs to cost yet. It is a waste of this State's resources for three months, but the Government welcomes it and will make amendments to make sure it is transparent and that every policy Chris Minns brings forward will be in the public domain so we can have a public debate about it. It is very exciting. The Government is looking forward to Labor welcoming transparency and having a debate on policy. [*Time expired.*]

Ms KATE WASHINGTON (Port Stephens) (10:23): I feel compelled to contribute to debate on the Parliamentary Budget Officer Amendment Bill 2022, and I commend the member for Heffron for bringing it to this place. It is an important bill. Members opposite want to take this as a joke, for some reason. It is clear that the Government is in a complete spin on this. When it comes to transparency and ensuring that the people of this State understand exactly how their money is being spent by the Government, members opposite are in a complete mess. The member for Wahroonga—

Mr Justin Clancy: Willoughby.

Ms KATE WASHINGTON: The member for Willoughby was the first Government member to respond to this bill, and he said that the Government is opposing the bill. The member for Mulgoa was then given the call. She stood up, there were whispers from behind her, there was uncertainty and then she sat back down. The Treasurer then made a joke out of the whole thing but, ultimately, it sounds like the Government is going to support the bill. It should happen. But that is not why the Government is supporting it; the Government is supporting it because it knows how bad it will look if it does not. As the member for Canterbury said, the longer this Government stays in power, the worse it gets and the more brazen the Government becomes with the spending of taxpayers' money.

Members opposite think it is funny, and they openly embrace the concept of pork-barrelling. Goodness knows they have done it over and over again with grant funding. Not only has grant funding primarily gone to Government electorates, neglecting those of us who represent areas of greatest need, but also the Government has spent taxpayers' money on social housing, services that support women escaping domestic violence, schools, hospitals and health systems, which have all been treated disproportionately by this Government. Members opposite seem to think it is fine and that it is a joke, because they keep on doing it and it is getting worse the longer they stay in government. Meanwhile, a community like the one I proudly represent has not had its hospital upgraded in the time the Coalition has been in government.

The only improvement to that hospital was an emergency department, which was funded by a bequeathal from a private citizen. Who came and opened it? The former Minister for Health cut the ribbon on the only thing that has happened to that hospital, which was an emergency department funded by a bequeathal. Other than that, nothing has happened to that hospital, and we have got people who are waiting eight hours to see a doctor. People are turning up, cannot be seen and are leaving before they are seen. The nurses who are working in that hospital know that people have left before they have been seen, and they are finishing their shift, going home and giving them a call to make sure they are not dead. That is how bad the situation is.

It is not just pork-barrelling in grants; it is the way that the Government has spent taxpayers' money on fundamental services that a government should provide to every citizen in New South Wales. That is why this bill is important. It increases the transparency of policies that will be taken to the next election. Members on this side of the House do not want to make commitments and policies that we cannot deliver. We want to make sure that the Parliamentary Budget Officer has time to ensure that what we present as policy in the lead-up to the next election is properly costed and completely transparent. The people of this State know that we will represent the interests of everyone in the State, unlike the Government, which has done well looking after its own electorates and leaving everyone else behind for the past 11 years.

One interesting commitment made by members of this place before the last election for my electorate of Port Stephens—and it is familiar to the member for Oxley, who is sitting opposite, because she was the one who made it—was a \$188 million promise to build the Fingal Bay link road. It was announced as a commitment and as a bill—there was already a plan in place—and that it would be delivered within this term of Government. How much of that road has been built since that commitment was made? Not a millimetre. Why? Because it could never be delivered. The Government was never going to deliver it and designed it purely as a political ploy to gain votes. It was a ploy to give false hope to a community about a project that this Government was never, ever going to deliver. How do we know that? Because the day after the election, the Hon. Catherine Cusack from the other place said, "Oh, no, we're not going to deliver that because the member for Port Stephens was re-elected and that's what the community wanted. She didn't support the project, so we're not going to deliver it." The very next day the former Premier backflipped again, saying, "No, we're going to deliver on all our promises we've made prior to the election."

The \$188 million Fingal Bay link road never happened. It was only ever a fake promise to give false hope to a community that is now wondering what on earth they are ever going to see from this Government. The answer is nothing. This bill is not a joke, as the Treasurer would have it. His contribution to this debate was purely about politics. This is about the people of New South Wales ensuring that they understand the exact costs of any policy put before them before the next election. The Opposition cannot wait for that to happen. The people of New South Wales know exactly what this Government has been up to for the past 11 years.

People in my community know exactly what the Government has been up to, because none of the money that they have contributed to the running of this State has been returned to them by this Government. We have a housing crisis. We have a health crisis. We have no public high school in Medowie. I urge members of this Government who contribute to this debate in support of the bill to do so on the basis that the amendment will improve transparency. But I doubt that is going to happen. Those opposite will, again, take a political position to protect the Government, because they know how it will look if they do not support the bill.

Mrs TANYA DAVIES (Mulgoa) (10:32): At this point I am relieved that I am a female because women have the right to change their mind, and I declare that I have changed my mind in relation to the Parliamentary Budget Officer Amendment Bill 2022 and now support it. Who says we cannot have fun in this place? It is important to highlight what members of the Labor Opposition have previously said in this place about suggested changes to legislation around the Parliamentary Budget Officer role. In particular I want to highlight some significant words that the member for Keira said in this place on 6 June in relation to the then Parliamentary Budget Officer Amendment Bill 2019. He said:

Fiscal management is critical to the delivery of the services and infrastructure that the people of New South Wales expect from their State Government. You cannot deliver unless you are fiscally responsible.

No truer words were ever spoken by a Labor member in this place. My community of western Sydney knows all too well that because the former Labor Government was irresponsible with its fiscal management during its 16 years in power it was unable to deliver the services and the infrastructure that my community desperately needed.

Mr Adam Crouch: The same on the Central Coast.

Mrs TANYA DAVIES: And the same on the Central Coast—I acknowledge the interjection of the member for Terrigal. The member for Port Stephens made the false claim that people cannot see there has been any change under this Government. I do not know where she has been living, but certainly in my community thousands of residents are driving on new roads and new motorways, stepping into brand-new schools, stepping onto improved sports fields, utilising new amenities blocks, accessing brand-new and redeveloped multimillion-dollar modern hospitals, crossing upgraded bridges and visiting improved and expanded parks. Access to parklands for public purposes, for recreational activity, has been expanded under this Government.

The member for Ku-ring-gai stated earlier in this debate that the Government has delivered \$150 billion worth of infrastructure and services for communities across this State. I want to reiterate the words of the member for Keira, "You cannot deliver unless you are fiscally responsible." Certainly, this Government has proved beyond any shadow of doubt that it is fiscally responsible and, therefore, it has been able to deliver significant improvements to communities throughout New South Wales.

I am pleased to stand here with the Treasurer to say that the Government will be supporting the bill, which will amend the appointment date of the Parliamentary Budget Officer to 1 July, extending the Parliamentary Budget Officer role for an additional two months. I reiterate that this is a wonderful bill. I congratulate the member for Heffron on bringing this bill to the House because it extends the opportunity for members of this place to put their policies to the Parliamentary Budget Officer for an independent and rigorous assessment of those policies and to be able to show the people of New South Wales what their plans are and what it will cost the budget. There will be an extra two months for the Parliamentary Budget Officer to complete that work.

Unfortunately, at this moment Labor has no policies to submit to the Parliamentary Budget Officer, even if there is an extra two months to have them costed. The Labor Party has had over three years in Opposition. I guess they are moving around the State talking to people and organisations for their perspectives on what our communities need. But the Opposition still has not stated what it would do if it were to win government. For the people of New South Wales, that should be incredibly worrying. They do not know what the Opposition is planning if it wins government next year. The Leader of the Opposition has had 371 days to say something about what he wants to do.

I know that in this place, particularly around this topic, when we are talking about policies of the Government and the Opposition, we have been jovial and throwing barbs across the table. But we are less than a year away from the next State election and my community want to know what they are going to get if they vote for Labor. They want to know that. Right now they do not. The people of New South Wales are smart and will not be fooled by highfalutin language to sway them to vote for Labor. They want to see what Labor is going to do to our communities, our State, if it wins the election—God forbid. The Opposition has had plenty of time, but the Government will give Labor more time to cost its election promises through the Parliamentary Budget Officer. Please, Labor, have something to give the Parliamentary Budget Officer to cost in the extra two months of operation.

The good news is that even under the current legislation, the Parliamentary Budget Officer operates from 1 September through to three months after the State election. That does not mean that outside of those times there is no oversight in this place of expenditure under the current Government. There are parliamentary oversight bodies such as the Public Accounts Committee of the Legislative Assembly, the Legislative Council's Public Accountability Committee and other general purpose standing committees as well as the budget estimates process. Last year the upper House doubled the length of time per year that it would have to quiz and question the Ministers, the Executive of this Government, over their budget expenditure, so there is actually even more oversight of the

expenditure of this Government by those opposite. There are ways, means and mechanisms through which there is an ongoing oversight of expenditure, including through the Audit Office and the amazing, exceptional work that it does.

I urge the Opposition to please get its policies ready. At least start sharing what they are going to be. The Parliamentary Budget Officer is going to kick off on 1 July if the bill passes this House. That is next month. It is less than a month away. We want to get the PBO busy doing their job, so the Opposition should have something ready to give them. We do not want them sitting there, twiddling their thumbs. The Leader of the Opposition has the top job that he was seeking. People can debate how he got it, but he is there now. He is the alternative Premier of this State with his shadow Cabinet. I ask him to tell the people what he is planning to do and to be honest, transparent and truthful about his plans so that our people are not tricked and deceived.

I clearly remember a time when, under the previous Coalition Government in this State, then-Opposition leader Bob Carr ran a campaign telling my community of western Sydney that if he was elected he would scrap the M4 toll. I clearly remember that, even though I was not in politics. I did not even follow politics back then.

Mrs Melinda Pavey: You were probably in school.

Mrs TANYA DAVIES: No. I wish I was in school, but I am a lot older than I appear. I clearly remember that because I thought, "Wow, how great is that?" But what happened when the people of western Sydney voted for him because of his promise and got him into the premiership? What did he do? He backtracked on that promise and left the toll on the M4 for decades. The Opposition should have its policies ready. It will have an extra two months to have them costed by the PBO if this legislation passes. The Opposition should have its policies ready and be transparent, honest and open with the people of New South Wales; they deserve nothing less than that. Treat them with respect. Treat them with the dignity they deserve so that they know exactly what they will get if they choose Labor at the next election, because they know what they are going to get under a Liberal-Nationals government: more of the amazing benefits that we have delivered across the State for the past 11 years.

Mr KEVIN CONOLLY (Riverstone) (10:42): I make a contribution to debate on the Parliamentary Budget Officer Amendment Bill 2022. I will do the member for Heffron the courtesy of taking him at his word, as if this is a serious bill with proper, serious intent, and I will look at the purposes that it addresses. At the outset, I think all members have noticed the weightiness of the bill. It has the net effect of replacing one word, "September", with another word, "July". That is what the bill does. To go back to why that might have some significance, we need to look at the Act itself, which has stood on the books for some years and creates the Parliamentary Budget Officer. I will quote from section 18 (1) of that Act, and subsequent sections, about the role of the Parliamentary Budget Officer. It states:

- (1) A parliamentary leader may, in accordance with this Part, request the Parliamentary Budget Officer to prepare costings of publicly announced or proposed policies.

That is the role: to prepare costings of policies. It continues:

- (2) An election costing request may only be made in relation to policies that are announced or proposed for implementation after the next State general election.
- (3) A parliamentary leader may only make an election costing request in relation to a policy publicly announced or proposed by that leader.

They can only ask about their own policies. They cannot ask about somebody else's. It continues:

- (4) An election costing request may relate to proposed changes in expenditure or revenue.
- (5) An election costing request must—
 - (a) be in writing, and
 - (b) outline fully each policy to be costed, giving all relevant details for the purpose of costing the policy, and
 - (c) state the purpose or intention of the policy.

That is the essence of what this role is about; therefore, it is the essence of what this debate is about today. A parliamentary leader announces policies, takes them to the Parliamentary Budget Officer and says, "Please cost that policy, which I intend to follow if I am elected to government at the next general election."

If that is the essence of what we are talking about, why did we need to suspend standing orders to allow this debate and to allow the bill to progress through all stages today, if it is successful? Surely it must imply that the parliamentary leader on that side of the House has a stack of policies lined up and waiting to be costed, and they cannot possibly hold off any longer because the Parliamentary Budget Officer would not have enough time to deal with them otherwise. There must be a truckload of policies in the queue, waiting to be processed, so we need to push on and get this Parliamentary Budget Officer appointed quick smart so that they can get started on that work. Surely that is what the bill is about.

But, as we know, no policies have been put forward by the parliamentary leader of the Labor Party for the 2023 general election—none at all. So if the bill gets up and is passed into law today through the other House, and a Parliamentary Budget Officer is appointed on 1 July, what are they going to do? What are they going to do that they would not have been able to do from 1 September? What is going to be different? If an answer to that is not forthcoming from the Labor Party, then this appears to be a teensy-weensy bit of a stunt.

Mr Geoff Provest: No, really?

Mr KEVIN CONOLLY: It seems that way. I am afraid I am drawn to the conclusion that it could just be a stunt if there is no policy waiting in the wings that needs to be costed in an urgent hurry, faster than the current Act would have allowed. I am concerned by that possibility. I would much prefer, as many speakers have said, that there is real transparency about election commitments made by parties that wish to get into government. The Act exists not for the Government's benefit or for Labor's benefit but for the benefit of the New South Wales public to know what is on offer and to be able to make an informed judgement between parties offering themselves as potential governments. That is in the public interest.

It can only be in the public interest if the parties actually play their part, put forward the policies and present them to the Parliamentary Budget Officer so that they can be thoroughly costed in accordance with the parts of the Act that I just quoted. If the parties do not carry out their part of the bargain, then the public interest is not served. Nothing is gained by making this change today, because we would still be in the same position in two months' time, with the Parliamentary Budget Officer waiting for the alternative government to present some policies to them. If the bill is carried through both Houses today and becomes law, I look forward to being able to ask the Parliamentary Budget Officer on a regular basis, "How many policies has the Labor Party submitted for costing?"

I hope we can ask that on a regular basis. We can get a weekly update about how many policies the Labor Party has put in for costing, to justify the amendment to the Act. In fact, I ask the member for Heffron to address that very issue in his speech in reply. What policies are lined up, in the queue, in the bank and ready to go that need costing immediately? That is an easy thing for him to address in his speech in reply. He can tell us what he has lined up and ready to go, because so far the Opposition leader has failed to mention them. They have not come forward at all—not one.

I am concerned on another front about Labor and policy promises. At the last State election and at the most recent Federal election, it seems that Labor told people, "We're promising to do X, Y and Z." I will use the example of road infrastructure projects in western Sydney. A Facebook post appears with a video of somebody talking about promising to build certain roads. Where are the details of the costings, the time line and the implementation? They are not in the Facebook post, nor anywhere else. They are not on the party's website or in the media release from the Minister. They are nowhere in writing on this planet. That is the way Labor has typically made announcements at the 2019 State election and this year's recent Federal election. The public should be awake to that. If Labor is not prepared to put a promise in writing and provide details of the implementation, time line and cost, then people should not believe it; it is not a real commitment.

Labor has form on this issue. There are many examples of that kind of tactic, which leads the public to think that Labor has made a promise. But is it possible to chase down the detail? Can the commitment be found anywhere in writing? Can it be proved that it was ever made? Good luck! That is how Labor operates. If Labor is not prepared to level with the people of New South Wales, it does not deserve to be elected. It does not deserve the people's vote if it will not be fair dinkum and level with the people. I welcome any amendment to the Parliamentary Budget Officer Act that will improve the level of transparency and accountability of parties that offer themselves for government to the people of New South Wales. People deserve to be able to make an informed choice—a proper, intelligent and reasoned choice. They can only do that if the parties are fair dinkum.

After having been in Government for 11 years, putting policies on the table and delivering on them every day of the week, we commit to programs in the forward estimates. People know what they are getting from the Coalition. We have had to show our cards in our budget and in our announcements every day of the week and every step along the way. The Opposition gets to say pretty much what it wants—until now, when the election cycle comes around and they have to present policies to the Parliamentary Budget Officer. Labor must not play games with the trust of the people of New South Wales. It must make its commitments clear, precise and fair dinkum and be prepared to have them costed and measured. Only in that way will Labor play its part for the people of New South Wales.

Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal) (10:52): I have been listening to members' contributions to debate on the Parliamentary Budget Officer Amendment Bill 2022. Many times in this place I have spoken about the respect I have for the member for Heffron. But some of his diatribe about pork-barrelling was, quite frankly, appalling, misleading and untrue. After 16 years of Labor government, the Central Coast had no investment in our

infrastructure, especially in roads, hospitals and schools. Since the appointment of this Government in 2011, record investment has been made in all of those areas across the Central Coast. The people of the Central Coast know—as they do in the electorates of Tweed, Oxley and Tamworth—that commitments made by the Government will be delivered.

Billions of dollars have been invested in roads from one end of the Central Coast to the other. I am always amused to hear cries of pork-barrelling by Labor members on the Central Coast because most of the investment in Central Coast roads has been made in their electorates, whether it is upgrades to the Pacific Highway, Wyong Road or the intersection at West Gosford. The list goes on. The member for Oxley and I committed \$387 million to upgrade the Central Coast Highway. That work is progressing and studies are being done. The people of the Central Coast know that that road will be delivered. It rolls through my electorate and the electorate of the member for The Entrance. This Government has a record of delivering for the Central Coast.

On day one of term one this year, Porters Creek Public School opened its doors to students. The first new public school on the Central Coast was built by this Government. I find it interesting that the member for Wyong, for whom I have a lot of respect, is a former principal of Point Clare Public School. The Government has invested \$9 million in an upgrade to that fantastic school. Not one dollar came from those opposite, even when the member for Wyong was the principal of that school. The list goes on. Our schools went to rack and ruin under the Labor Government. Our Government has dealt with the maintenance backlog in Central Coast schools. Labor members might want to call that pork-barrelling. I call it delivering for our communities, as do the member for Oxley, the member for Tweed and the member for Tamworth. Multiple times I have spoken in this Chamber about the record investment of this Government right across the Central Coast region. We can be very proud of that.

I will be supporting the bill. I look forward to the amendments that the Government will propose. I hope that every week the Parliamentary Budget Officer [PBO] gives an update on the policies it has received from the Opposition. The Opposition must have been sitting on policies for the past 12 months, following the change of leadership. There must be so many of them ready to go, because it has been a policy-free zone—literally nothing, not a word—for the past 12 months since the appointment of the current Leader of the Opposition. Labor has simply been scaring the people of New South Wales. It has provided no information, no detail and no data. Based on this bill, I think Labor has a month. From 1 July, hopefully in the first week, we will see a flurry of policies from the NSW Labor Party.

I think the well-meaning, organised Independents, like the member for Lake Macquarie and the member for Sydney, will benefit most from this bill. I am sure they have costed policies that are ready to go and they will lodge them with the PBO. I suspect the first submissions will be from the excellent member for Lake Macquarie and the member for Sydney. Earlier I had a chuckle during the member for Canterbury's diatribe about pork-barrelling. She made the mistake of saying, "Look at these poor Independent members, the member for Lake Macquarie and the member for Sydney." Those members have received so much funding for their electorates under this Government because they are hardworking local members who fight to get funding for their electorates. They have done a great job doing exactly that, especially the member for Lake Macquarie, whose electorate borders the Central Coast.

Recently the member for Lake Macquarie and I handed over \$1.7 million worth of brand-new fire engines to the hardworking volunteers of the RFS. That was made possible by a financially responsible Government. We have been delivering, whether it is new fire engines, fire stations or ambulance stations. The first dedicated palliative care unit on the Central Coast was delivered to Gosford Hospital by this Government. When those opposite were in government, nothing was delivered. At 12 minutes to midnight they are now saying, "Let's change this policy." I welcome that because I want transparency. I want to know how that bunch will spend our money. I want them to tell the people of New South Wales what they propose because, quite frankly, up until now it has been a big, fat zero—which is nothing new. I will be very interested to see what happens after 1 July. Hopefully, it will all be made public so that people can see who is lodging their policies, exactly what is being put on the table and what they will be voting for.

The Central Coast is a good example. The member for Oxley has joined me multiple times on the Central Coast, whether it is to provide funding to the Central Coast Council for dredging or hundreds of millions of dollars for road infrastructure projects. That has happened in her electorate as well. For more than 16 years under Labor, regional electorates were completely ignored—it was an absolute disgrace—and, quite rightfully, Labor was shown the door by the people of New South Wales. When we talk about pork-barrelling, we think of people like Eddie Obeid and Joe Tripodi, the self-serving mugs who took the people of New South Wales for a ride for over two decades. They were an absolute disgrace.

I look forward to the open transparency that this bill will bring to the PBO. I look forward to logging on each week to see what amazing policies the Labor Party might be lodging. But I suspect that after week one we will still see a big, fat zero from the members opposite. I suspect that just before the election, at 12 minutes to

midnight, they will release a whole lot of costings, which will be a complete mess as usual. I welcome the bill and the proposed amendments. Hopefully, those amendments will allow public scrutiny to be made of all these so-called policies on a regular basis. For the past 12 months we have all been waiting. Every time we come into this place, we wait with bated breath to be told one policy. We are now into June and we have seen nothing. I say to those opposite that we welcome this bill and the amendments. The Treasurer has come back into the room. He knows that the amount of money that has been delivered to the Central Coast is unheard of, unprecedented and it is—

Mr Matt Kean: There is about to be more.

Mr ADAM CROUCH: Treasurer, I look forward—

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Ms Sonia Hornery): The member for Terrigal will direct his remarks through the Chair.

Mr ADAM CROUCH: Good local members lobby the Government and the Treasury on a regular basis to secure funds for their electorates. That is what good members do. I have stood in this Chamber on a number of occasions and talked about the record investments that this Government has made not just in hospitals, roads and schools. More than 243 safe and affordable housing projects are being delivered across the Central Coast by great organisations such as Pacific Link Housing. I am glad that the member for Oxley is still in the Chamber as she spends so much time on the Central Coast with me delivering safe and affordable housing projects. The Government is investing in projects from one end of the Central Coast to the other. The member for Lake Macquarie has just come into the Chamber. Only recently he and I were delivering almost \$1.7 million worth of fire engines to our fantastic volunteers at the RFS. That is what good, financially responsible governments do, whether it be upgrading RFS stations, providing funding to local surf lifesaving clubs, providing sports grants or providing infrastructure grants. That is what good members fight for.

I remember vividly the member for Gosford complaining bitterly that she was losing her Roads and Traffic Authority [RTA]. "How dare the Government take away the RTA." Labor's vision for the future was the RTA. We have delivered a brand new, state-of-the-art, first-of-its-kind, digital Service NSW at Woy Woy, which is loved by the locals. They never want to see the RTA again. Service NSW is about customer service; focusing on the people of New South Wales and delivering for all. A plethora of Service NSW service centres along the Central Coast provide support to many people—centres that have been delivered by this Government. Those opposite opposed Service NSW until they saw how good it was. Then they did a backflip and welcomed Service NSW—another embarrassing situation for them. They constantly complain and then say, "Actually, it's a really good idea. We had better get on board." People can see through that. [*Extension of time*]

I thank the member for Tamworth, who has been to the Central Coast on a number of occasions. Recently he visited the Central Coast when this Government was delivering millions of dollars' worth of support funding to Gosford Race Club which will provide hundreds of additional jobs in the racing industry, which employs more than 1,000 people on the Central Coast. Investment through those grants provides the club with the ability to expand. We found out that every fourth stable provides a full-time job. That is what good governments do. Good governments look at how they can support their communities, their industries and their volunteers, and invest in them accordingly. We have seen record investment on the Central Coast from one end to the other, such as in our racecourses and the Central Coast Leagues Club Field, which received \$10 million worth of investment for public space, which was complained about by those opposite when it was announced. That investment provided jobs. Ninety-five per cent of the people working on that site were Central Coast locals. The Gosford ATO building has been leased by the Federal Government for a decade, which is providing jobs and opportunity for people on the Central Coast.

This Government announced that it will deliver Gosford's first university. Under that lot opposite, there was nothing, zero, for almost two decades. This Government will deliver Gosford's first dedicated university campus. It delivered the medical research institute at the Gosford Hospital site, which is providing opportunities for 700 students at that hospital. Under that lot, there was nothing. The list goes on and on. I will talk about Gosford and Wyong hospitals. Those opposite talk a big game, "We were going to do this; we were going to do that", but they did not do it. Under this Government more than half a billion dollars has been invested in upgrading Gosford and Wyong hospitals. Gosford Hospital is the now fifth largest hospital in New South Wales, thanks to this Government.

It is not just about building the infrastructure; it is also about hiring the staff. This Government has put record investment into hiring more doctors and nurses. People left the country during lockdown, which had an impact on our health system across the country, not only in New South Wales. One hundred and forty-six new graduates walked out of Newcastle University's brand new campus at Gosford Hospital—funded by this

Government, not by those opposite—into a brand new hospital on that university site. That is how we invest in the future and support people in regional New South Wales.

I was delighted to confirm that the University of Newcastle is the winner of the tender for the Gosford university. We are working closely with Newcastle University, an excellent organisation, which has provided fantastic educational services on the Central Coast at its campus at Ourimbah. In addition, the medical research unit is a state-of-the-art facility on the Gosford Hospital site. Under that lot opposite, there was nothing—no vision, no ideas and no commitment to anything—only words. Nothing was ever put on the table. They had 16 years to do it. In 2011 the people of the Central Coast never wanted to see them again. Our schools were a mess. Our hospitals were falling down. They were closing beds and closing schools. The road infrastructure was Third World, which is an understatement. Under this Government we have seen record investment in State roads and record investment in road infrastructure on the Central Coast.

Railway stations are getting transport accessibility upgrades. This bunch opposite built a set of train stations with no lifts. That was their vision. Then they complain when there are no lifts at the stations that they built. Under this Government, the Transport Access Program has provided millions and millions of dollars' worth of upgrades for lifts at train stations, including \$34 million in last year's budget for the upgrade at the Tuggerah station, which is out for public consultation. We will never be lectured by this bunch about delivery and commitment. If they want to call it pork-barrelling, so be it. We call it delivering for the people of New South Wales and the people of the Central Coast. I will put our record up against theirs any day of the week.

The Terrigal Boardwalk, which received \$4 million in investment, has now proven to be one of the most popular sites on the Central Coast. Every Labor councillor voted against that project. They are a bloody disgrace. They also ran up half a billion dollars' worth of debt under a Labor mayor. They were sacked and thrown out—the best thing that could have happened to the Central Coast. Everyone could see how appalling they were at running finances. I welcome this bill and the amendments. I look forward to transparency after 1 July so we can see what those opposite want to put on the table. I suspect that the good member for Sydney will have his projects ready to be costed. Either he or the member for Lake Macquarie will be the first cab off the rank. I look forward to the amendments being moved.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Ms Sonia Hornery): Order! Members will resume their seats. I welcome students from J J Cahill Memorial High School and their local member, the member for Heffron. The students are legal studies students and, as part of their program, they are looking at the Legislative Assembly. They will hear some exciting and thrilling debate in the New South Wales Parliament.

Mr ALISTER HENSKENS (Ku-ring-gai—Minister for Skills and Training, and Minister for Science, Innovation and Technology) (11:08): Transparency in democracy is an incredibly important characteristic of the great freedoms that we enjoy in this country, and one of those freedoms is the great gift of the parliamentary democracy, which unfortunately many countries in the world do not enjoy. The Parliamentary Budget Officer Act 2010 is one of the pieces of legislation that enrich our parliamentary democracy in this country. I propose that the Government moves an amendment to the Parliamentary Budget Officer Act to enhance transparency in respect of the operation of this piece of legislation.

The amendment to the Act that has been brought forward by Labor is a very small amendment in the sense that it changes a date from when the Parliamentary Budget Officer is established under section 6, so that the appointment of that officer is to be changed under section 6 (1) of the Act from 1 September, immediately before a general election, to 1 July. That is a change that the Government supports principally because we anticipate that amendments will be brought by the member for Sydney, which will enhance the people that can avail themselves of the services of the Parliamentary Budget Officer from just the Government and the Opposition to the crossbench. The Government agrees that this will be an enhancement of democracy, and we on this side agree to that. But, by bringing that date forward to 1 July, we also consider that there are other changes needed, and our changes will be put forward.

Our proposed amendments are contained in the document c2022-114K, which I will be moving the Parliament to accept. Those amendments propose improvements to the transparency of the way in which the Act currently operates. To facilitate the operation of the Act, the amendments allow alternative policies to Government policies to be costed by the Parliamentary Budget Officer. Importantly, the Act also facilitates the Government having its election commitments costed by the Parliamentary Budget Officer. We propose a small number of changes to the current Act to improve its operation. The first is to insert, after section 18 (3) of the Act, a new subsection (3A) that states:

- (3A) A parliamentary leader must not make an election costing request in relation to a policy that—
 - (a) has previously been costed by the Parliamentary Budget Officer, or

- (b) the Parliamentary Budget Officer considers to be substantially similar to a policy that has previously been costed by the Officer.

This amendment is not only a commonsense amendment but also it deals with what has occurred previously, which is multiple presentations of almost identical, if not identical, policy costings to the Parliamentary Budget Officer, which has clogged up the mechanism of the costing of election promises in a way that has been undesirable. The second amendment we propose is a change to current section 21 (1) of the Act so that it will read as follows:

- (1) As soon as reasonably practicable after receiving an election costing request, the Parliamentary Budget Officer must prepare a costing of the policy.

Again, this amendment will enhance the timeliness and efficiency of the process, which is highly desirable. We propose that section 22 be substituted by some enhanced transparency measures. We suggest that subsection (1) be changed so that it reads as follows:

- (1) The Parliamentary Budget Officer must, in response to an election costing request from a parliamentary leader, publish the following on a publicly available website maintained for the purposes of this section—
- (a) the election costing request and
- (b) the election policy costing.

We also propose the insertion of subsection (1A), which provides:

- (1A) The publication must occur on the earlier of the following—
- (a) within 7 days after completing the costing,
- (b) the fifth last day before the State general election is due to be held.

These transparency provisions have a number of desirable consequences. Firstly, the Government seeks to impose an obligation on itself that it also seeks to impose upon the Opposition. So it is completely politically neutral. The transparency measures in the proposed change to section 22 (1) will apply to both the Government and the Opposition. It allows the electors of this State to see what the policy proposals that have been costed under this regime are, and allows the public to see both the election costing request and the election policy costing.

These are important transparency measures that will apply to both the Government and the Opposition, on which the Government would seek Labor's support so that it will be transparent with the public about the costings that it seeks and the costings that have been prepared. It would be an extraordinary proposition if the Labor Party were not prepared to be up-front with the public about what its costings and policy proposals are that it has sought to have costed by the Parliamentary Budget Officer. One consequence of this amendment is that it will discourage frivolous costings from being presented to the Parliamentary Budget Officer, as appears to have occurred in the past, and encourage genuine policies that are sought to be pursued by the Opposition. That is a desirable matter in our polity. The fourth change is a minor change to section 22 (3), which is to change the word "provided" to "published". This amendment is consequent upon the earlier change to section 22 (1) and (1A). The Government proposes inserting into the long title of the Act the words "and the costing of election policies" after "Officer".

Those are the changes that are proposed. They will not provide a burden to the crossbench. They are directed towards an even playing field between the Government and the Opposition. There are no special rules. The Government is not seeking to impose on the Opposition what it does not seek to impose upon itself. It is completely politically neutral. It is transparent and supportive of transparency in Government, something that many members talk about in this place from time to time. I urge that the foreshadowed amendments be accepted by the House.

Mr GREG PIPER (Lake Macquarie) (11:18): I am not going to say I am happy to speak in debate on the Parliamentary Budget Officer Amendment Bill 2022 because it has become much more confusing than we hoped it would be. The member for Heffron has included some very sensible measures that would be supported by the crossbench, and certainly by me in my role as Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee. I fully support the intention of the bill introduced by the member for Heffron. I am concerned about how the debate has gone and the changes that are proposed. I have had a considerable amount of discussion with the Leader of the House, the Hon. Alister Henskens. I have been speaking to the Treasurer about the Government's concerns about the bill and why it wants to move the amendments, which the Leader of the House has moved, so I can now reference them.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Leader of the House foreshadowed the amendments; they have not been moved.

Mr GREG PIPER: I foreshadow that I will speak to his foreshadowed amendments.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member for Lake Macquarie may speak to the amendments when we move to the consideration in detail stage. They have not been moved yet.

Mr GREG PIPER: I will speak to what I consider might be the amendments. I support the principle that all members of Parliament, whether Government, Opposition or crossbench, have access to a properly constituted, expert panel who can provide advice on policies that they may develop from time to time. The member for Heathcote, who is in the Chamber, was on the Public Accounts Committee with me when we reviewed the operation of the Parliamentary Budget Office [PBO] and produced a report in November 2019. We spent a considerable amount of time talking to the Parliamentary Budget Officer, Mr Stephen Bartos, at the time and examining the issues that he experienced during that period.

They were largely the ability to recruit resources to establish the PBO and then to deal with the problem of getting timely responses from Treasury and various agencies. Those were the main considerations. I do not recall that he felt the problems were particularly manifest by an overuse of the PBO. Mr Bartos made a recommendation to the Public Accounts Committee to consider supporting a request to the Government to establish the PBO as a full-time office, not fully resourced for the period but to allow for the office to run right through the period of a Parliament and therefore to mitigate against the difficulty in establishing that office and getting up to speed prior to an election in very difficult circumstances. I think the PBO did an excellent job.

One of the major principles of the PBO has been to allow for some confidentiality around the requests and considerations that might come, particularly from the Opposition. I listened to the Leader of the House talk about the provisions that the Government wants, that they will be fair, across the board and applicable to the Government and to the Opposition. The reality is when one is in opposition nothing is quite that fair. One never gets that amount of balance because the Government always has the benefit of those additional resources from the agencies that it operates. In this case, the PBO allows the Opposition and—if the amendments are allowed—the members of the crossbench to test policies, to put something out there and have it kicked around, have expertise brought to it, have it put under a bright light and examined as to whether or not the policy stacks up.

The process at the moment is that once that is completed, the leader of the party who requested the examination by the PBO makes a decision as to whether or not those costings are then released, because at that point it would become policy. Before that, it is pre-policy; it is in the development stage. I do not believe that it is reasonable for the policy then to have a mechanism where it is published and exposed, when it is not necessarily going to be adopted as policy. The words that have been used is that it would have a chilling effect on that party or member from bringing forth a policy that may then be published and become subject to an attack from the other side. Mr Bartos advised in his report that there were complaints about the leaking of information that had been provided by the Opposition to the PBO that ended up in the hands of members of the Government. The concern was that came about through agencies, or people within agencies, who were privy to the information that was needed to make that request.

This should have been a fairly simple request. My request, and the requests of the member for Sydney and the member for Wagga Wagga, was to broaden the opportunity for members of Parliament to be able to use the resources of the Parliamentary Budget Office and for that period to be extended. We take the view that the PBO is of most significance for the information it can provide to the Government and the Opposition—the two parties that have the potential to form government. We also take the view that not every government will hold a majority in its own right and may need to work with members of the crossbench, Independents and minor parties and, therefore, those members should at least have the opportunity to seek information. We did that by saying that there would be a time limit on when crossbench members could access the PBO, so that the last few months of the operation of the PBO would be available exclusively to the Government and Opposition so that it was not weighed down by extraneous requests from the crossbench.

We also asked for it to be extended for a period of six months—half the amount of time that was recommended by the Public Accounts Committee in its November 2019 report. The PBO had asked that it be made a permanent body. The Public Accounts Committee took the position that that could not be justified but that perhaps a 12-month period might be more appropriate. The bill presented by the member for Heffron splits the difference and brings it down to six months. It also takes into account the provisions that seek to limit the number of questions that can come from the crossbench. [*Extension of time*]

I understand that the Government has some concerns that the Opposition, in particular, may be in a position where it can ask an extraneous number of questions and cause significant problems for the various agencies. Obviously, Treasury could be the agency that was most impacted but also other agencies that need to use their resources to test the policy or budget requests of the Opposition. The Government is actually thinking of making some provisions around the transparency of requests. That sounds very well and good. I often come into the Chamber and talk about transparency in government. But I also understand that there needs to be some confidentiality at some stage as well for the Opposition or other parties to be able to develop their thinking on policies. That is why they have gone to the PBO to get some of those measures in place.

The Government is proposing that those costings be published on a website without the request of the leader of the party in question. That could be a very retrograde step and hold a party back from seeking information about a policy that might never become policy anyway, because it could be made publicly available and weaponised. As I said before, it could have a chilling effect. Certainly, it could be a real blanket on innovation. The Opposition, in particular, has been trying to be innovative and courageous in policy development. As I said, I think that would be a very retrograde step. While the Leader of the House referred to an "equality" or words to that effect—that this is going to apply equally to the Government as it will to the Opposition—the reality is that that is just not how it works.

The Government is always in a better position to develop its policies in the first place, so it would be much closer to the mark, I would imagine, than the Opposition might be on understanding the actual figures and the impacts of policy. I am very concerned that we might pass those amendments. I have been very supportive of the member for Heffron. I am obviously supportive of the crossbench amendments that the member for Sydney will bring forward. But it is now getting quite complicated. I will wait and listen further to the discussion when the Leader of the House formally moves his amendments. But at this stage I am very concerned. What I am hearing from the Government will be detrimental to what we are trying to achieve with the expansion of the PBO.

Dr JOE McGIRR (Wagga Wagga) (11:32): I make a contribution to debate on the Parliamentary Budget Officer Amendment Bill 2022. I thank the member for Heffron for bringing the bill to the House. I also commend the work of my Independent colleagues, the member for Lake Macquarie and the member for Sydney. This is a small but important part of a process that we three Independents have embarked on to make more transparent and open the workings of the Parliament. I welcome the initiative by the member for Heffron, and I note the very important principle of extending this to members of the crossbench. The member for Ku-ring-gai spoke about the importance of transparency to our democratic system, which we are very lucky to operate within. Unfortunately, politics can sometimes lead to a situation where transparency disappears. The waters get muddied in the fight of politics.

We saw that in my electorate in the past few years when, unfortunately, a series of announcements around grants were not properly costed, which caused a lot of pain to our community. I speak particularly of the initiative in regard to the conservatorium of music. I am not talking about the stage one funding but about the announcement during a by-election in September 2018 that there would be a business case developed for stage two. The figure of \$20 million was pretty much announced at the time. Of course, as I have said in Parliament before, that was always subject to a business case. Nevertheless, in the heat of the political situation, the community certainly expected that this figure of \$20 million would be spent going forward. At the time, there was discussion: "Well, this needs to be subject to a business case." It was for a recital hall for the conservatorium of music.

As we know through the workings of ICAC and subsequent announcements from the Government, the business case for that funding did not stack up. I have yet to see the details of it and I am looking forward to getting more information. Last year the issue was raised that the business case was not likely to measure up and I have been seeking information on it since. I actually hope to get it this week. It will be interesting to see the detail included in it. But, of course, the problem that we had at the time and that we have had since is we do not have the costings. We were relying on work done locally. Community groups, small organisations and, indeed, local councils—I will come to them in a moment—do not have the capacity, skill or expertise of the Parliament, the Parliamentary Budget Officer and the Treasury. So necessarily any assessments they make are going to be best guesses in some circumstances. I think this probably happened to some extent with the conservatorium, although it will be interesting to see what details emerge. As I said, I am finally going to get—I hope—a briefing on it towards the end of this week and at least some sense of what was involved.

Those sorts of announcements that are not costed properly undercut the community's confidence in our parliamentary processes and in government. Confidence and trust are such important qualities. The people of our State entrust the Government with leading us and making decisions on our behalf. They entrust the Parliament with the making of legislation. They do so because they have confidence in what we do. We must do the best we can to preserve that. Transparency about what we do is fundamental to preserving that confidence. The confidence of the community should never be taken for granted. It is something we need to work at. The effect of the bill is, in the first instance, to extend the time available for the Parliamentary Budget Officer to work on costings. As the member for Lake Macquarie indicated, it is actually not as much as was recommended by the Public Accounts Committee, but nevertheless it is definitely an improvement.

The member for Sydney foreshadowed moving amendments that provide for the involvement of the crossbench. They will be important steps in improving the community's trust and confidence in the promises and policies that are outlined. Recently at the Federal level we have seen a significant vote by the people of Australia that they expect transparency and straight shooting. They want a government that they can trust. I think we saw a number of issues come together, particularly the issue of the Federal integrity commission and the dealings of the

former Federal Government in relation to, for example, sadly, the harassment of women in the Federal Parliament and so on. The public's perception was that the former Federal Government was perhaps more interested in itself than it was in the people. In that circumstance, of course, policies get thrown out there. It becomes a bit of a political game rather than a political and democratic process.

I mentioned local costings earlier. A number of councils develop policies that they would like to see advocated. One such policy in my electorate involved the Brindabella Road, which many in my community believe is an important link between Canberra and the Snowy Valleys community. But we have struggled to get costings on that policy, and at various stages it has been up to hundreds of millions of dollars. That is because it is a complicated process that requires sophisticated modelling. With its best endeavours, the Snowy Valleys Council did not have that capacity, which means that debate on that issue has been stymied. As I have said, the issue of getting costings for policies is incredibly important. Giving the extra time that the bill will allow is an important part of that process, and I am very supportive of it.

The bill is part of a suite of measures that we have been able to get some traction on in the latter period of this Parliament. I am looking forward to the Government's formalisation of transparency within the grants process. We have had changes to question time and now we have an important change to the time line for the Parliamentary Budget Officer. An important principle for me is that this should extend not just to the Opposition but also to members of the crossbench. We have a large crossbench in this Parliament that includes not just the Independents but also The Greens and the Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party, and the proposed amendment that the member for Sydney has already spoken to is very important.

I respect the view of the member for Ku-ring-gai that time should not be wasted on requests; the requests should be genuine and should not be politicised. But the member for Lake Macquarie has made the very valid point that there should be some capacity for policy development and checking of policy costings undertaken by the Opposition and by members of the crossbench without those costings necessarily having to be made public until the policies are formally adopted. Otherwise, we will end up with a process that will severely constrain policy development and policy thinking. The country needs innovation; we need people to be thinking of different ideas. *[Extension of time]*

I thank the House. Working out how much a policy is likely to cost is clearly an important part of policy development. I have already spoken about the importance of getting accurate costings and, when we do not have accurate costings, how destructive that is of the confidence our community has in our processes. When one is developing a policy, if costs will be involved then decisions to adopt the policy will clearly depend very much on weighing up cost and benefit. That seems to me to be a sensible part of the policy process, particularly if the Opposition or members of the crossbench want to actually go to an election with a policy. Let us face it: We are looking for innovative policies, but they have to be costed. Before putting that policy out there, getting it properly costed is an important process.

If it turns out that the costings make the policy untenable for some unforeseen reason—perhaps members have not taken into account some unintended consequences of policy development, and we know that happens—and those costings were then made public, my concern is that the process of policy development would be politicised and ridiculed. I have some concerns about the suggestion that all the costings need to be published. If a policy is adopted and the community is expected to vote on the policy then that clearly has to be made public. But if a costing is undertaken and a party does not adopt it as a policy then it seems to me we have to be very careful that we do not end up weaponising, as the member for Lake Macquarie said, or politicising the process. That is not what the public wants. The public does not want us to play politics; the public wants us to develop and debate policy sensibly. People obviously want money spent wisely, and they obviously want good costings. That is why this is an important part of the process and is, no doubt, why the Parliamentary Budget Officer Act 2010 was introduced in the first place. I foreshadow those concerns around changes of that nature.

I thank the House for extending my time to make a contribution to debate on this very important bill, which extends the time for the Parliamentary Budget Officer to prepare costings. Transparency is an incredibly important part of governance, and my electorate has been acutely aware of the need for transparency and accuracy around costings. We need to extend that facility to the crossbench, and I think that is a marvellous amendment that the member for Sydney will move. I highlight some concerns about the amendments requiring all costings to be made public, which have been foreshadowed by the member for Ku-ring-gai.

Ms JENNY LEONG (Newtown) (11:45): I make a few additional comments on behalf of The Greens in relation to the Parliamentary Budget Officer Amendment Bill 2022 and support the comments made by my Greens colleague the member for Balmain, who is leading for us in this debate. I put a few points on the record in light of the amendments that have been foreshadowed by the member for Sydney and by the Government. I also speak to the bill itself and the principles around it.

First and foremost, the bill introduced by the member for Heffron makes a very simple and significant change by extending the time period available for the consideration of requests through the Parliamentary Budget Office. It is important to note the principle that while any extension is good, the power of the Parliamentary Budget Office is in being able to work on policy development and costings initiatives throughout a period. I appreciate that there are practical reasons why the bill is seeking to slightly extend the time but not make it available throughout a whole term, but it is important to recognise that there are huge benefits to making this resource available to parties, to the crossbench and to members of this place throughout the whole term. But The Greens are supportive of the bill in its current form, which extends the Parliamentary Budget Officer's appointment period by three months, and that is what is before us at this stage.

The other point that is really important to make is about the risks around parliamentary budget offices if they are not established correctly and if there are not clear protocols in place. We have already heard concerns raised about how the Parliamentary Budget Office process could be weaponised and politicised in a way that goes against the intention of good policy development. Overall, parliamentary budget offices promote policy conservatism and incrementalism over innovative and bold change. We need to recognise that one of the risks in the process of making public everything that is requested through the Parliamentary Budget Office is it would cause more conservatism and less innovative and bold change to be explored by parties or members. If all of the requests that members made were made public then that would be of serious concern. It is also important to recognise that innovative policy models are very difficult to cost, and it could be risky to put forward innovative models that look at reframing the way that we look at budgets and costings if there is a guarantee that the costings will be released. It is important for us to remember that.

It is also important to recognise that there are not clear facts when it comes to costings; there are perspectives. These things are not objective, and not everyone would agree on how policies are costed. This was evident in discussions concerning the national Parliamentary Budget Office which had challenges when considering things like student loans, free university education and the radically different ways of costing similar proposals.

The current New South Wales Parliamentary Budget Office is often seen as conservative in its assumptions, which emphasise budget costs over social benefits and do not properly take into account the second order benefits of public spending; for example, the costs of privatisation. When examining the work of the Parliamentary Budget Office it is important to recognise that there are risks. But that should not be held against other parties, in particular, opposition parties when decisions are made about whether or not an innovative or bold idea will be costed, for fear that that information will be made public.

The member for Sydney foreshadowed in his amendments the importance of allowing crossbench members access to this process. While it might be difficult to prioritise three areas that are to be costed, it could favour smaller things being costed rather than bolder, more innovative ideas, which is a concern. I acknowledge the member for Heffron for bringing this to the attention of the Chamber. I also acknowledge the work of the member for Sydney in bringing us to a point where we will see changes that enable the crossbench to access this process.

I raise serious concerns about the comments made by the member for Ku-ring-gai about time wasting. I find offensive his suggestion that any of us would use this process to waste the time of the Parliamentary Budget Office rather than seeking genuine costings on better policy initiatives and outcomes for the people of New South Wales. The political landscape in this Chamber has changed, which is good. When the Government does not have full control, it is limited in its ability to act with a level of arrogance, which can only be a good thing for our democracy.

Mr GURMESH SINGH (Coffs Harbour) (11:52): On behalf of the Government I speak in debate on the Parliamentary Budget Officer Amendment Bill 2022. The bill represents an attempt by members opposite to grasp onto some sort of credibility when it comes to the economy. Their big proposal for the people of New South Wales is to give themselves an extra three months of resources by bringing forward the start date of the Parliamentary Budget Officer [PBO]. Members opposite do not realise that the PBO does not provide them with policy ideas. It is not designed to give them the credibility they lack. It also does not mean that they are going to have a set of fully costed policies, nor does it mean that they are going to show their costings to the people of New South Wales.

The shadow Treasurer said that the people of New South Wales will have a clear choice at the next election. He is right. They will have a choice between a government that has successfully managed the State's economy, has successfully seen the State through the worst pandemic in 100 years and has got unemployment to its lowest level since records began, or an opposition that opposes all of the Government's policies while having zero policies of its own. During the last election campaign, there was a slogan in our office that being a good government is more than saying what one does not like. It is easy to point out things that one does not like; it is harder to come up with one's own policies and a vision about what one wants to do to solve the problems of the State.

It has been over a year since the current Opposition leadership team has been in place and we are yet to see a single policy rolled out by that team. When asked by the media what Labor's priorities are for the next election, Chris Minns said, "We have got 10 months. It is not as if it is next weekend." That is not good enough. To have a better government, we need a better opposition—one that has policy ideas. Politics is often described as a contest of ideas. We are not seeing a contest currently because there is only one side on the field, while the other side is in the dressing room. Last night there was a wonderful rugby league contest with two evenly matched teams. The member for Tamworth, being a Queensland supporter, was pleased with the result but there was a genuine contest. I acknowledge the scoff from the Clerk and I agree that it is shameful.

Some great rugby league was played last night and that is because there was a contest. There were two teams on the field, both playing the same sport. In the New South Wales Parliament, we have one team on the field playing the game while the other team is in the dressing sheds, putting on their jerseys and getting ready to play. That is not good for our democracy. We need an opposition with ideas so we can have a contest of those ideas and a discussion to see whose ideas are better. One of the reasons the Opposition is deferring rolling out its policies is that it knows the Government's policies are effective and will take us to the next election in good stead.

We hear a lot of opposition to the Government's policies during question time. They have been challenged many times to provide an opposing policy that we might criticise. Being in government or in opposition is not just about criticising the other side; it is about putting forward one's own ideas. When the Leader of the Opposition was asked by the media what his priorities are for the next election, he said, "We have got 10 months. It is not as if it is next weekend." Those opposite do not have credibility when it comes to policy detail. Having the Parliamentary Budget Officer start earlier will not stop them from devising secret plans and uncoded policies. In order to have the Parliamentary Budget Officer start earlier, policies must be developed and released earlier. At the moment the Opposition is a policy-free zone.

The Government does not object to the principle of transparency; it celebrates and embraces it. We are happy to give members opposite an extra three months of the PBO but we know that they do not have anything ready to go. It is a waste of the State's resources for three months, which says it all. They are nothing but resource wasters that take the people of New South Wales for granted. This Government supports transparency and honesty. The Liberals and The Nationals have always been up-front with the people of New South Wales about what they will do to secure a brighter future for the families of New South Wales.

The member for Sydney has indicated that he will be moving amendments, which the Government will consider. His amendments are much more substantive and engage in genuine reform from the crossbench. We have heard from the crossbench members, who spoke passionately about their vision and things that they will look to do, their policy ideas and how they would love to develop policy ideas and work with the government of the day. The Government will also move its own set of amendments to ensure transparency and honesty in how the Parliamentary Budget Officer should operate. I want to touch on those two words, "transparency" and "honesty". The Government has policies, a policy agenda and ideas. In the next sitting week, in a fortnight's time, the Government will present the budget. Obviously, the Government will put out there what its policies are. Some of those policies the Government will be leading into the next election. They are ideas.

As I said, in a contest of ideas, the Government is putting out its ideas and is waiting to see if the Opposition has anything to counter those ideas. It might be a long wait. The Government will be waiting to see if the Opposition will bring forward some of its policy ideas. The Opposition wants to have the Parliamentary Budget Officer's appointment extended for three months. I do not know what that will achieve without any policies.

Mr RON HOENIG (Heffron) (12:00): In reply: The Parliamentary Budget Officer Amendment Bill 2022 simply provides for the appointment of the Parliamentary Budget Officer to be brought forward to 1 July rather than 1 September. That is two months before the Parliamentary Budget Officer is due to be appointed. The Clerks have advised me that the process for advertising and filling positions is currently taking place and that even if the bill is enacted, it would be unlikely that the appointment of the Parliamentary Budget Officer would take effect before the end of July—possibly, it would be the beginning of August. The provision of the bill requires that the Parliamentary Budget Officer be appointed on or as soon as practicable after 1 July. If the bill is enacted, in effect, the appointment of the Parliamentary Budget Officer will be brought forward by about four weeks, or one month. Over a simple request like that from the Opposition—basically, a one-line bill—in the finest tradition of the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales, members engaged in debate for almost 2½ hours on many irrelevancies, when I thought this place might somehow be moving forward in the conduct of its affairs.

I find the Government's approach to what is a fairly simple request—bringing the appointment of the Parliamentary Budget Officer forward by a period of some four weeks—to be very poor. I make no reflection on the Leader of the House, who has a function to perform and has always been honourable and cooperative in dealings with the Opposition. But the excuse of members opposite that somehow or other the Opposition has forced the bill on the Government on short notice and that it has needed to undertake detailed examination,

consideration and drafting of statutory provisions is laughable. It is not a genuine excuse. The Government is acting like a spoilt child. The Coalition no longer has control of the Legislative Assembly and the Government should get used to it. Neither the Opposition nor the crossbench has been doing anything to destabilise the Government of the day. Only very sparingly has this side of the House sought to make decisions and utilise the fact that there is a minority government. The Government has, and will continue to have, confidence from the Opposition, irrespective of how dreadful the Government's budget is in two weeks' time.

The Opposition recognises that the Coalition Government is the democratically-elected government of the day until March next year. We accept that, and we go about our process of holding the Government to account. The Opposition has sought to exercise the fact that the Government is a minority on only two occasions: to make minor changes to the standing orders to make the Government more accountable—although there were also substantial changes made to question time—and this bill. Even on private members' day, nobody from this side of the House has sought to defeat the Government on notices of motion. Nobody has sought to defeat the Government on matters of public importance on Tuesdays or Wednesdays in this House. Nobody has sought to embarrass the Government of the day in any way because it does not have control of the Legislative Assembly. But when the Opposition makes a request to enact a bill that, in effect, simply provides for the appointment of the Parliamentary Budget Officer four weeks earlier, for practical purposes, we get obstructed with every single excuse. We are told that the Government needs time to consider this complex bill that effectively replaces one word in the Parliamentary Budget Officer Act.

The Government was not caught by surprise. Members have heard that the Public Accounts Committee reported on the performance of the Parliamentary Budget Officer in its report No. 2/57 of 2019. I am told that all of these whispers that have been taking place during negotiations over proposed amendments have never been raised with the Public Accounts Committee. The Government says, "The member for Keira keeps sending policies and burying the Parliamentary Budget Officer with work." The Government has the entire Treasury at its disposal. This is about putting, at least during an election campaign, the Government and the Opposition on an even keel in terms of costings of policies and costings development. I urge those opposite to listen to what the member for Wagga Wagga had to say in his contribution, because I think he nailed the importance of the Parliamentary Budget Officer role.

That is all that the Opposition was requesting. I indicate the lack of genuineness of the Government's response by giving an example. Eventually—about half an hour ago—the Leader of the House handed me some Government amendments. I am not sure at this point in time whether the Government proposes to move them or not. They take away the effectiveness of the Parliamentary Budget Officer to the Opposition. We will wait to hear about that, because who knows what form those amendments may or may not take. The amendments were floating among some of the crossbench members even before we came into the Chamber this morning.

Usually, on contentious or non-contentious matters that go before this House, there is a discussion between the Leader of the House and the Manager of Opposition Business, in which the Leader of the House indicates the Government's position and a discussion ensues. That did not occur on this occasion, but people from the Premier's office were floating around, issuing instructions and causing confusion. The member for Willoughby opposed the bill. The member for Mulgoa started off by saying that she also opposed the bill until she was tapped on the shoulder. There was complete pandemonium on the Government's side on one bill, not the most complex piece of legislation, to simply bring forward the appointment of the Parliamentary Budget Officer by two months—and in reality by only four weeks.

We have been going for nearly three hours. Members cannot get their private members' statements going. They cannot get enough community recognition statements going. There has been a two- or three-hour debate. The Treasurer came into the Chamber—I would have thought he would be running the finances of the State—so he could attack the Leader of the Opposition. I do not know what that has to do with the Parliamentary Budget Office. It was a pretty reasonable request. Time is short. There are this week's sittings, there is budget week, and then we adjourn until August. If the appointment of the Parliamentary Budget Officer is to be brought forward, it requires an amendment to the legislation that has to go through this House and the other place by budget week.

On Tuesday I told the Leader of the House that this was what the Opposition wanted to do. Before I moved a suspension of standing orders—on relatively short notice, I confess—I gave him the motion to suspend standing orders and provided the bill as soon as it was available. I am not going to respond like other members have and use this debate as a free-for-all to fill time. The latest draft I saw from the Government of a schedule of amendments—I do not know whether the Government is going to proceed along this course—provides for an amendment to section 21 (1) of the Parliamentary Budget Officer Act. The amendment is to replace what is currently in section 21 (1) with these words:

As soon as reasonably practicable after receiving an election costing request, the Parliamentary Budget Officer must prepare a costing of the policy.

The Government wants to insert those words instead of these:

- (1) As soon as possible after receiving an election costing request, the Parliamentary Budget Officer is to—
 - (a) prepare a costing of the policy concerned, and
 - (b) provide the costing to the parliamentary leader who made the request.

What is the difference? That is not a genuine attempt to improve the legislation. It has been three years since the Public Accounts Committee reported on the Parliamentary Budget Office's operation. The Government has had since 2019 to effect any legislative change, and it has not done it at all. This is just a stunt. This is a stunt to try to make the Parliamentary Budget Office unworkable and to deter the Opposition from using it to access policy development for either the Opposition or the crossbench.

I am extremely disappointed in the Government's response. I would have expected, when it was indicated to me when I first raised the matter with the Government on Tuesday, that the Government would have said it was opposed to the bill and would have given reasons why. If it gave reasons—whilst I might privately know the reasons, I am not going to disclose them—one would have thought that in response to a bill it might have had reasons of substance and that it would put them before the House. But it has not done that. It initially opposed the bill and then it moved amendments that are useless, to make the Parliamentary Budget Office unworkable. The Parliamentary Budget Office is a very important mechanism of transparency and of ensuring that political parties—particularly oppositions, where the Government is going very shortly—can have genuinely costed policies so that they cannot promise the world without consequence. It is quite fundamental.

The Parliamentary Budget Office itself struggled with the resources that were available to it and the time proposed with respect to it, and that is clear from the report of the Public Accounts Committee. In response to my bill, the member for Sydney has sought the agreement of some Independents to increase the availability of the Parliamentary Budget Office to the crossbench. The member's amendments and discussions with the Opposition and the Government always took a reasonable position, that is, to limit the amount of requests per member to three and to ensure that, if the crossbench submits matters for costing, they do so by 31 October. That is reasonable. They should not be compelled to publish it. Sometimes people have the greatest ideas that they think might be good for the people of New South Wales, but the costing consequences would be too great and they then determine that the policy is not going to be released or adopted. That is why we have the Parliamentary Budget Office.

Again I remind the House that the Government has access to an entire Treasury to cost its policies for a four-year period. This is about being fair, and we are asking for four weeks. With respect to the bill, what the Opposition says to the government of the day—and I do not know whether it intends to pursue its amendments or not—is this: Just be reasonable. Do what you have done in the past in these circumstances. Agree to the request of the Opposition. Agree to the amendments proposed by the member for Sydney. Do not pursue the amendments that I have previously described—I do not want to provoke the Government and ensure that it pursues them—and let us get on with the rest of the day.

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

Motion agreed to.

Consideration in detail requested by Mr Alex Greenwich and Mr Alister Henskens.

Consideration in Detail

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: By leave: I will deal with the bill in one group of clauses. The question is that clauses 1 to 3 be agreed to.

Mr ALEX GREENWICH (Sydney) (12:16): By leave: I move my amendments Nos 1 and 2 on sheet c2022-112E in globo:

No. 1 **Election policy costings for cross-bench members of Parliament**

Page 2. Insert after line 9—

Schedule 1 Amendment of Parliamentary Budget Officer Act 2010 No 83

[1] **The Whole Act, other than sections 3, 18, 19(1), 23 and 27**

Omit "parliamentary leader" wherever occurring.

Insert instead "member of Parliament".

[2] **Section 3 Definitions**

Insert in alphabetical order in section 3(1)—

member of Parliament—see subsections (4) and (4A).

[3] Section 3(4A)

Insert after subsection (4)—

- (4A) In this Act, except in subsection (4) and section 18(6), a reference to a member of parliament means—
- (a) a parliamentary leader, and
 - (b) a member of Parliament who is not a member of the party or parties that form the Government or the Opposition.

[4] Sections 17(2)(a) and 22(1)

Omit "that leader" wherever occurring.

Insert instead "the member"

[5] Section 18A

Insert after section 18—

18A Request for election policy costings by cross-bench MPs

- (1) A member of Parliament, other than a parliamentary leader, may, in accordance with this Part, request the Parliamentary Budget Officer to prepare costings of publicly announced or proposed policies.
- (2) An election costing request may only be made in relation to 3 policies that are announced or proposed for implementation after the next State general election.
- (3) A member of Parliament may only make an election costing request in relation to a policy publicly announced or proposed by the member.
- (4) An election costing request may relate to proposed changes in expenditure or revenue.
- (5) An election costing request must—
 - (a) be in writing, and
 - (b) outline fully each policy to be costed, giving all relevant details for the purpose of costing the policy, and
 - (c) state the purpose or intention of the policy.
- (6) For the purposes of this section, a policy is taken to be announced or proposed by a member of Parliament if it is announced or proposed by another member of Parliament on behalf of the member or on behalf of the member's party.

[6] Section 19 When election policy costings to be requested

Omit section 19(1). Insert instead—

- (1) Election costing requests are to be made by a member of Parliament after the operational plan prepared by the Parliamentary Budget Officer under section 14 has been approved by the Presiding Officers and tabled in each House of Parliament.
- (1A) A request by a parliamentary leader must be made in sufficient time before the State general election to enable the leader to comply with section 18(1A).
- (1B) A request by a member of Parliament, other than a parliamentary leader, must be made before 31 October.

[7] Section 21 Parliamentary Budget Officer to prepare costings of election policies

Omit "by that leader" from section 21(4).

Insert instead "by or on behalf of the member".

[8] Section 27

Omit the section. Insert instead—

27 Nominee may act for members of Parliament

A function of a member of Parliament under this Part may be exercised on the member's behalf by a nominee of the member, being a person nominated by the member from time to time by written notice to the Parliamentary Budget Officer.

No. 2 Long title

Insert "and the costing of election promises of cross-bench members of Parliament" after "Officer".

I will speak briefly. We could have read the original bill a thousand times in the time this debate has taken today. My amendments are substantially longer than the actual bill and provide the crossbench with a limited number of costings—three costings. They are in line with the spirit of the Public Accounts Committee's review of the

Parliamentary Budget Office. There is a deadline of 31 October for those costings to make sure that, in the heat of election campaigns, time and energy is not taken away from the Government and the Opposition being able to get their costings, as they are the parties that largely form government. But it is important for people from the crossbench to be able to get a limited number of costings on policies more controversial than those that the parties would embrace or on infrastructure in our electorates which we believe is important but has not been costed. They are straightforward amendments put forward with goodwill. I appreciate the collaboration with colleagues to make sure that we got the balance right, and I urge the House to support the amendments.

Mr JAMIE PARKER (Balmain) (12:18): On behalf of The Greens I support these amendments. They are sensible. They are measured. They make sure that crossbench members have access to questions, but not in a gratuitous way that would flood Treasury or the Parliamentary Budget Office. There are some shortcomings in PBO costings; they do not take into account the triple bottom line that The Greens would like to include. There is always an ecological cost that should be included. We still see the merit in being able to achieve some detailed information about costings. When we addressed this last time, quite often members would say, "You guys are putting forward uncostered proposals." Well, yes—because we do not have access to Treasury, which the Government has, nor have we ever had access to the PBO. On the whole, I think it will lead to higher quality outcomes. The pooling provisions that allow individual members to request costings of policies announced by other members are positive for parties like The Greens as they enable it to be done in a staged and thoughtful way.

The final point is that the amended bill will result in a net gain for the public. Parties and crossbenchers will have greater opportunity to think carefully and strategically about commitments they make. It provides more transparency to the public. Even though The Greens will not be able to cost all of our policies, it does provide us with the opportunity to get some key policies funded, which is important. Labor took approximately 400 proposals to the last election, of which about 100 or so were made public. We need to be able to take the time to test ideas and get a sense of whether the overall public policy outcome takes into account the financial impact. We believe the proposals are balanced. Clearly the crossbench is seeking to be productive and to work collaboratively. We are not putting forward outrageous proposals that will embarrass or humiliate the Government. We are trying to think carefully and thoughtfully about introducing elements that have a net public benefit. We support the amendments.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is that amendments Nos 1 and 2 of the member for Sydney on sheet c2022-112E be agreed to.

Amendments agreed to.

Mr ALISTER HENSKENS (Ku-ring-gai—Minister for Skills and Training, and Minister for Science, Innovation and Technology) (12:21): By leave: I move amendments Nos 1 and 2 on sheet c2022-114K in globo:

No. 1 Election policies costing

Page 2. Insert after line 9—

Schedule 1A Amendment of Parliamentary Budget Officer Act 2010 No 83

[1] Section 22 Public release of election policy costings

Omit section 22(1). Insert instead—

- (1) The Parliamentary Budget Officer must, in response to an election costing request from a parliamentary leader, publish the following on a publicly available website maintained for the purposes of this section—
 - (a) the election costing request and
 - (b) the election policy costing.
- (1A) The publication must occur on the earlier of the following—
 - (a) within 7 days after completing the costing,
 - (b) the fifth last day before the State general election is due to be held.

[2] Section 22(3)

Omit "provided". Insert instead "published".

No. 2 Long title

Insert "and the costing of election policies" after "Officer".

The amendment to section 22 of the Act is an enhancement of transparency in our democracy. We often hear members speak about supporting transparency in this Parliament. This amendment truly promotes that end. The amendment will preclude the Government and the Opposition from squirrelling away and holding back their

costed election promises—potentially for many months—and then releasing them in the dead of night a few days before an election campaign.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The member for Newtown will have the opportunity to speak later.

Mr ALISTER HENSKENS: Because Labor's bill amends the Act to bring forward the appointment date to 1 July, it will have ample opportunity to formulate policy. We have not heard any policy from the Labor Party. In fact, the 100-day plan is now more than 270 days late. It is ridiculous not to have released a 100-day plan more than 300 days after it was supposed to be released and acted upon. The Leader of the Opposition has form in terms of holding back—

Mr Ron Hoenig: Point of order: My point of order is taken under Standing Order 76. The House is debating amendments to the bill, not engaging in a second reading debate.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I uphold the point of order. The member for Ku-ring-gai will return to the leave of the amendments.

Mr ALISTER HENSKENS: The purpose of the amendment, which applies equally to Government and Opposition, is to ensure that the public receives the benefit of costed policies. It is also an incentive for both the Government and the Opposition not to clog the Parliamentary Budget Office with ill-considered or insincere policy proposals but to develop proper policy—not thought bubbles but genuine policy—to present to the Parliamentary Budget Officer for costing. It is difficult to understand that anyone who values transparency in this Parliament would have truly substantive reasons to oppose such a measure, particularly in circumstances where section 20 will operate with the proposed amendment to section 22 to enable poor policy ideas to be withdrawn before they are publicly released.

I encourage members to support the amendment. It is an enhancement of transparency and democracy. Some concerns were raised in relation to the member for Heffron's speech in reply during the second reading debate about how the member for Heffron brought forward the bill. Those concerns require a response. Apparently, members of the crossbench had known for weeks about the proposed suspension of standing orders to bring forward the bill. However, I was told about it only a few moments before the suspension motion was moved in the House yesterday. For the Manager of Opposition Business to seek suspension of standing orders on the basis of urgency without notice to the Government and then complain about the Government's response to his bill, of which he had not had the courtesy to inform the Government, rings a bit hollow. I am concerned that the member for Heffron went to such lengths to complain about our conduct when the source of his concerns lay at his own feet. It is important to make that point.

Yesterday, when moving the suspension, the member for Heffron said that the Government had to agree to it because we did not have the numbers. The reality is that after discussion with the Government the suspension of standing orders that he first proposed was not agreed to by the crossbench, and it was amended. So it was not a case of the Government having no power or no consultation. The way in which this Parliament is operating is not in the old Labor fashion of always trying to use the numbers and impose things on it. It is working in a collaborative fashion and it is working well. It is most unfortunate for the House to be misled by a member suggesting that somehow the Government is impotent and is not engaging with the crossbench. It was very regrettable. An apology was made, but it did not address the evil of what was said in the House that was not right.

The proposed amendment is an enhancement of transparency. In amendment No. 1, the change to section 22 (3) is a consequence of the proposed changes to section 22 (1) and (1A). Amendment No. 2 simply seeks to make the long title of the bill reflective of the amendments that the Government seeks. I encourage members to support the enhanced transparency and efficiency measures that the Government is proposing by these amendments.

Mr RON HOENIG (Heffron) (12:28): I will not take the bait, save to say that if any evil was conveyed to the House or anything I said was taken that way by the Leader of the House, I withdraw it and apologise. There was no evil intended. In respect to his other rantings, I will not take the bait. As to the proposed amendments that he is moving, they indicate a pretty disappointing response. I would have thought that after hearing the contribution of the member for Lake Macquarie and the member for Wagga Wagga, which I urged the Government to do, the Government would recognise that it is important to give those who access the Parliamentary Budget Office the opportunity to have policies they consider to be of benefit to the people of New South Wales properly costed, with a view to determining whether the policies could be offered to the public in an election campaign. The policies being proposed may come at considerable cost, they may be expensive, or the revenue measures or offsets may not be sufficient to pay for such a policy. Accordingly, that policy is not pursued or proceeded with.

There should be no requirement for either policy costings or election policy costings to be made public within seven days, as that will deter people from submitting their matters for costing. I might agree with the proposed amendment if the Government during its term had to expose to this House its requests for costings to the Treasury. We can just imagine how many Government proposals to be contained in the budget have been submitted to Treasury for costing in the lead-up to budget week, the week after next. Those costings are not made available to the House for us to see what the Government's alternative policies may have been and what it decided not to proceed with. The bill is about having a fair system whereby members can put themselves on a slight even keel with the Government by having their policies costed.

It is argued, though not in this House, as I understand it, that because of section 20 of the Parliamentary Budget Officer Act, which provides for the withdrawal of policy costing requests, that somehow or other if section 22 (1) is amended by inserting proposed subsections (1) and (1A) in its place, a member has seven days to withdraw the costing. That was an olive branch, no doubt, held out to get support from other members of this House. But the fact is that the proposed subsections and section 20 do not operate together. So section 20 is no protection against the proposed subsections, which might be enacted.

In my view, the proposed subsections, just like the other two which have been withdrawn by the Government at this point, are simply designed to make the Parliamentary Budget Office unworkable. They do not respect the decision of the Public Accounts Committee and are designed to ensure that matters are not submitted to the Parliamentary Budget Office. If the bill does not proceed in the way in which it is proposed and amended by the amendments proposed by the member for Sydney, the only result will be that the very people who ultimately now benefit from what is proposed—the crossbench MPs in this place and the other place—are the ones who will not have access to the Parliamentary Budget Office.

Mr ALEX GREENWICH (Sydney) (12:34): I understand the intention and reason behind the amendments proposed by the Government. I understand that they relate to what they hope to be increased transparency. I have concerns about the amendments and the process they could create for the Opposition. Everything is being done in a rush today, which is due to no fault of the Government. This bill is being put through all stages in one go today. There has been a great deal of interest in it from members across the Parliament. I believe that a better process to address the concerns of the Government is to deal with them when the bill hits the Legislative Council.

I cannot support the amendments in their current form, and I encourage crossbenchers to oppose them because of the complicated process they will create. I foreshadow that should the amendments proceed, I will move an amendment to them to ensure that they do not put any complicated burden on crossbenchers in our very limited access to the Parliamentary Budget Office that has just been supported. There is no ill will towards the Government. I just feel that there could be a better process to address this matter. This is quite complicated and some time could be used to achieve the Government's aim. I will oppose these amendments. Should they proceed, I will move an amendment to them.

Mr ALISTER HENSKENS (Ku-ring-gai—Minister for Skills and Training, and Minister for Science, Innovation and Technology) (12:35): I will respond to a few of the points made. Firstly, I do not understand the member for Heffron's point about the crossbench being denied access. The Government supports the crossbench having access to the Parliamentary Budget Officer. I did not understand his point on that. Secondly, his point that section 20 does not speak to my amendment to section 22, about publication, is completely wrong. Section 20 sits with the current sections 21 and 22, which deal with publication of costings, and all my amendment seeks to do is make a change to section 22, which currently deals with the circumstances in which costings can be published. It is just wrong for the member to say otherwise. I do not want crossbenchers to be misled on a matter of law by a comment that was entirely incorrect. Thirdly, the amendment to the member for Sydney's foreshadowed amendments would be to ensure that section 22 as amended applies to the member for Sydney's amendments, which the Government supports. It is more in the nature of a tidying-up if our amendment is successful.

With the greatest of respect to the member for Sydney, I ask the crossbench members to support my amendments. I believe they add to transparency, although quickly put together. We were not given notice of this piece of legislation being put through the Parliament other than in accordance with the usual standing orders and we have had to move quickly. I do not believe that the speed takes away from the beneficial substance of what my proposed amendments would do, which is to enhance transparency and visibility of the policies that will be pursued by political parties in an election campaign. There are always complaints about people holding back their policies until the last minute. My amendments would stop that from taking place and would apply equally to the Government and the Opposition. It is not as if the Government is seeking to impose on the Opposition something it will not accept itself. So I ask and urge the crossbench to support my amendments.

Mr JAMIE PARKER (Balmain) (12:39): I know we have limited time, so I will address the amendments briefly. I appreciate the approach that the member for Ku-ring-gai is taking. We believe, however, that the provision will introduce unnecessary complications. Parties will lodge, withdraw, lodge again and withdraw. There is a range of issues and potential unintended consequences that need to be examined carefully. We are not prepared to support the amendments at this stage because we see the limitations and also the chilling effect they may have on parties lodging requests for costings. So we are unable to support the amendments. However, we appreciate the clarity that the member brings to the matter regarding the Government's support for the amendment that the member for Sydney has foreshadowed he will move if necessary. That is something we also support.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is that Government amendments Nos 1 and 2 on sheet c2022-114K be agreed to.

The House divided.

Ayes43
Noes39
Majority.....4

AYES

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

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

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

NOES

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

Finn, J
Greenwich, A
Harris, D
Harrison, J
Haylen, J
Hoenig, R
Holland, M
Hornery, S
Kamper, S
Leong, J
Li, J
Lynch, P
McDermott, H

Mehan, D
Mihailuk, T
Minns, C
O'Neill, M
Parker, J
Piper, G
Scully, P
Smith, T
Tesch, L (teller)
Voltz, L
Warren, G
Washington, K
Watson, A (teller)

PAIRS

Bromhead, S
Hancock, S
Hazzard, B
Sidgreaves, P

Lalich, N
Saffin, J
Park, R
Zangari, G

Amendments agreed to.

Mr ALEX GREENWICH (Sydney) (12:49): I move my amendment No. 1 on sheet c2022-115B:

No. 1 **Public release of election policy costings**

Insert after new section 22 (1A)—

- (1B) To avoid doubt, subsection (1) does not apply in relation to a member of parliament that is not a parliamentary leader.

This technical amendment will ensure that the amendment that just passed does not apply to members of the crossbench. I thank the Government for foreshadowing its support.

Mr ALISTER HENSKENS (Ku-ring-gai—Minister for Skills and Training, and Minister for Science, Innovation and Technology) (12:49): I thought the member for Sydney was going to do this in a different way, which is why I had not seen this piece of paper until it was handed to me. As I have already informed the House, the intention was that our amendment to section 22 (1) and the insertion of section 22 (1A) would apply only to the Government and the Opposition. The Government supports the amendment.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is that amendment No. 1 of the member for Sydney on sheet c2022-115B be agreed to.

Amendment agreed to.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is that clauses 1 to 3 as amended be agreed to.

Clauses 1 to 3 as amended agreed to.

Third Reading

Mr RON HOENIG: I move:

That this bill be now read a third time.

Motion agreed to.

BUDGET ESTIMATES AND RELATED PAPERS 2021-2022

Debate resumed from 12 May 2022.

Ms ANNA WATSON (Shellharbour) (12:52): On behalf of the communities of the Shellharbour electorate it gives me pleasure to address the challenges that we and the State as a whole have faced over the past few years and the impact that the most recent budget has had on those communities. The Shellharbour electorate, like many others, feels as though it has been ignored and avoided. It is clear that the Government has perpetually neglected my community for years and years. The sentiment in the electorate is that it has been forgotten by this Government time and again. Assets and resources have been closed, slashed without replacement and without a second thought for the real people that these decisions may affect. I will refer to the services that my community has had removed and what is desperately required to allow residents equitable access to services.

I highlight, as my colleagues have, the importance of investing in education throughout the State. Although the Government continues to maintain that it recognises the importance of quality schools and the provision of educational resources and opportunities within my electorate, my constituents and I continue to be disappointed by the Government's lack of care in the area. West Dapto is the fastest growing area in my electorate and will require eight new schools to cater for not only the growing population but also the current number of school children in the area. Seven schools in the Shellharbour electorate are over capacity and I hazard a guess that the number has already climbed. Dapto Public School, the only primary school currently catering to the West Dapto area, has an enrolment cap of 416 students but approximately 740 students are currently enrolled.

I draw the attention of the House to the fact that in 2019 Wollongong City Council nominated eight sites where West Dapto's new schools should be built. The New South Wales Government has still not committed to any educational facilities in the area. We do not know whether land has been purchased to cater for those new schools. The Government is neglecting the children of West Dapto, which no doubt will impact on their educational outcomes. With seven schools in the electorate already over capacity, there is simply nowhere for those children to go. The Government has failed time and again. I have spoken about this before. The teachers in the area are under immense strain. They email and phone me constantly. With the projected population increase the West Dapto area will have 50,000 additional residents in 19,000 new dwellings upon completion and new schools are desperately required to provide our children with the education that they need and deserve. Our teachers do not need further pressure.

Just yesterday thousands of protesters were out the front of this building—public sector workers who are sick to death of thankyou's from this Government. They do not want thankyou's; they want a decent pay increase. They want to be recognised for the work that they do and rewarded for it. The past two years have wreaked havoc on our educational system. Teachers are stretched to their limits and are leaving their profession in droves. Students are forced to learn from home, often with other siblings, trying to complete their schoolwork. Many

parents are forced to juggle working from home at the same time. We all saw that through COVID. Now that we begin to get back to some sense of normality—if that is what it can be called—I urge the Government to prioritise the building of these eight proposed schools in the West Dapto area to give our students and local teachers the support, resources and opportunities that they desperately need and deserve.

I refer next to tertiary education and draw the attention of the House to the fact that the once busy Dapto TAFE campus was closed in January 2016, after being gutted in previous years. Slowly but surely the Government made sure that this once thriving campus was whittled down to a big, empty building. It was then replaced with a storefront in the Dapto CBD. Interestingly enough, that office is closed as well. There is no presence in the Dapto area for people who want to access TAFE. It is completely gone. Job done boys; well done. The plan by this Liberal-Nationals Government to completely withdraw a TAFE presence from Dapto will further exacerbate the skills shortage that our State is facing. I speak to people who have heard the diatribe that comes out of the mouths of those opposite about skills and TAFE and how wonderful they are—they are chest beating and doing victory laps around the Chamber. Members opposite should come to Dapto and I will show them that there is not only no TAFE but also no storefront in Dapto.

There are no new schools in Dapto. The Princes Highway is a car park. This area in our State badly needs government services. I will have more to say about that later. Access and training opportunities should be a priority. However, the Government continues to cut services required for people in our community to upskill and further their education. The Government does not care about the education needs of Dapto and West Dapto residents. It will not commit to any new school infrastructure. In 2015 Labor committed \$40 million for new school infrastructure. In 2019 Labor committed \$60 million for new educational infrastructure. In both of those years—2015 and 2019—not one of those commitments was equalled by those opposite. They were not even talked about. Those opposite will not commit to any school infrastructure. Now with the loss of TAFE in Dapto, it is easy to see where their priorities are.

Adults in our communities deserve opportunities to further their education and training as well. Unfortunately, this has not been deemed worth funding by the Government either. Everything has just been taken to the private sector. Government members would privatise every single blade of grass if they could. Those adults have no chance to try to upskill their education and training so they can better themselves and maybe get a better job. They simply cannot afford to go to the private sector to get that training. That is evident not just in my community but in electorates across New South Wales. The Government's track record on TAFE is absolutely woeful. I implore it, again, to prioritise the education of not only our school-age students but the adults of our communities as well and to commit the funding to create eight new schools and reinvest in a TAFE presence in Dapto. It is needed desperately.

I continue to receive a never-ending stream of correspondence from constituents who are angry and fed up with the lack of access to and from Dapto from the M1 freeway and their exclusion from the Albion Park Rail bypass—the half-cooked bypass, as all members will know. Residents of the Dapto area feel as though they are continually forgotten, with this Government refusing to build on and off ramps to the M1 from Kanahooka Road. The M1 needs to be widened. It needs to be a three-lane highway. There is no doubt about that. There is currently a southbound off ramp to Kanahooka Road and that is all. We need on and off ramps on Emerson Road. I have been calling for this for years ad nauseam and I have not had a single response from any of the Ministers whom I have written to about the on and off ramps or the widening of the M1. It is greatly disappointing. Funnily enough, only this week I gave notice of two motions—one about the educational issues in Dapto and West Dapto and another about the on and off ramps and the M1. There is still no response.

The main street of Dapto is a car park for motorists. The traffic is increasingly congested because the population is growing at around 8 per cent, which is very fast. Yet the road infrastructure is woeful. Going through six sets of traffic lights to get from the south to the north is just ridiculous. What makes it worse is the Government had the opportunity to provide that access when it built the Albion Park Rail bypass, which it had to be dragged kicking and screaming to do. It did not bother. Why build a half-cooked bypass? The communities know what the Government has done and they also know that it does not care. That lack of access means residents wanting to travel south from suburbs within the 2530 postcode must either travel through the very busy Dapto CBD—which is often only one lane wide when accounting for parked vehicles—and along residential streets throughout the back of the entirety of Koonawarra to join the Princes Highway at Yallah, or first travel north before turning around at Berkeley, which is just absurd. They go north to come back south again.

A huge amount of traffic comes through and leaves Dapto every day, with significant delays experienced throughout the entirety of the suburb. People have to add 40 minutes onto the trip from Dapto to Wollongong. It should take them 15 minutes at most. They have to add 40 minutes to that. With a projected extra 50,000 residents expected to settle in the West Dapto area, the on and off ramps and the M1 freeway are a priority. Time and time again, my office has been told by the Minister, "Oh no, there is simply no need for the off ramps. It does not need

to happen." The community strongly disagrees. We will see how much they strongly disagree in March 2023. Dapto residents were excluded entirely from the Albion Park Rail bypass, with no access points available, as I said before. They have to drive five minutes north to Berkeley, turn around and head back south again.

While I am discussing access and travel, I again highlight the fact that Shellharbour remains the only electorate in the Illawarra—and I think one of only two electorates in New South Wales—that does not have a Service NSW centre. So if someone lives in Dapto or West Dapto there is no new school infrastructure—there is the one school—no access to TAFE, no access to a connected learning centre, no on and off ramps, no widening of the M1 and no access to any government services from those areas. I assure the House that people in that community know exactly what the Government thinks of them. It is glaringly obvious. To get to a Service NSW centre, residents must drive to Warrawong, Wollongong or Kiama. It is almost impossible for the elderly, those who do not drive or people with a disability. The bus services are not great; they are unreliable at best. A lot of elderly people do not drive because of disabilities. I do not know how they cope. Most of them do not have computers that they can log on from. They just cannot do it. At best it is inconvenient, but at worst it is impossible.

I have asked time and time again that my constituents be afforded the same convenient access to government services as the rest of the Illawarra. Since 2015 the entire electorate of Shellharbour has been left without a proper Service NSW centre. More than 80,000 people live in the electorate, with this number only set to rise with the ongoing development in not only West Dapto but also Haywards Bay, Tallawarra and so on. Without a local Service NSW centre, constituents are falling through the cracks. For many, travelling to Kiama, Warrawong or Wollongong is a huge feat and can at times be impossible. My constituents are often told to contact Service NSW over the phone only to sit there for half an hour or 40 minutes and then be told that they will need to present themselves to a Service NSW centre. It is just absurd. My office gets phone calls and emails every week about this issue. It is just astounding that two electorates in New South Wales do not offer government services.

I have asked the Government time and time again to provide this vital service to Shellharbour. I can even tell the Government where to build it. I have identified numerous sites where it could go. But those calls and correspondence have gone unanswered. When will the Government finally realise that the resources that Service NSW provides are not a luxury but essential to the smooth, ongoing functioning of the community? Everybody should have equitable access to a branch. In December last year I did receive correspondence from the customer service Minister, the Hon. Victor Dominello, MP. He was responding to the representations that we made outlining the impact on constituents of not having a Service NSW centre in the electorate. In his reply Minister Dominello asserted, "There are no current plans to introduce an additional Service NSW Centre in your electorate." I do not want an additional Service NSW; I just want one. I am not asking for a second one. One would be great. I hope the Minister is listening to this debate. The Shellharbour electorate desperately needs appropriate infrastructure to support not only the community's future growth but also the 80,000 residents who currently travel to neighbouring electorates to access vital services.

The planned upgrade to Dapto train station was announced by the New South Wales Government on 1 March 2019. As of today, there is still no planning in place. There is no news. We have seen an artist's impression of the project, a nice drawing on a big board. There are little marks all over it—street names and dots. People can have a look at the nice drawing, but there is no sign anywhere that the project is going ahead. The Transport for NSW website is showing that Dapto station will receive two lifts at the northern end of the station to improve accessibility. We still have not heard about that. In May 2019 it was announced that Dapto station will no longer receive two sets of lifts under the third tranche of the New South Wales Government's Transport Access Program [TAP 3]. The Government will instead upgrade the existing pedestrian level crossing in order to save funds—great.

Currently, the patrons of Dapto station have to negotiate a level crossing to change platforms. A petition about level crossings was brought to this place in the last session. We have a level crossing in Dapto, right in the middle of the city, that is so dangerous I will not even drive down that road. It terrifies me. It may be a two-lane road either way, but because of the dangerous level crossings it is terrible. People who are in wheelchairs or pushing prams or have mobility issues just do not go anywhere near Dapto train station. I believe it needs to be moved further north, where the State Government owns land big enough for a car park, a proper upgrade and a new station. That would be appropriate.

The New South Wales Auditor-General's report into the Transport Access Program that was released in February 2019 identified Dapto station as having the highest needs ranking for an upgrade out of all 44 intercity train stations under consideration for TAP 3—and still crickets from this Government, nothing. Of all the stations being considered in that category, Dapto also had the second highest cost-benefit ratio and the second largest number of patrons per week, yet the project is still only in the planning phase. It has not moved out of the planning phase since 2019.

I have also been calling for an upgrade to the commuter car parks at Dapto station for some time now. As I said, the land is there, but people who live in Dapto are obviously not a priority. Dapto station will only have increased traffic with the expansion of the West Dapto area that we are seeing right now through Wongawilli and Brooks Reach. All of the new suburbs that are coming online will meet up with Marshall Mount, and then that will meet up with Calderwood, and then on to Albion Park. That whole corridor of new homes is almost completed. [*Extension of time*]

There is one more point I want to make, and it is important. I am glad that the Attorney General is in the Chamber, because for some time I have been calling for a family and domestic violence trauma recovery centre. It is a huge issue. We have just been allocated \$25 million from the Federal budget to go towards a trauma recovery centre, and I am asking that we look for land or existing property that can be used, so that women and children can finally be protected from family and domestic violence. I am also asking that the Government bring on the bill to criminalise coercive control. I have had many conversations with the Attorney General, and I am hoping that will be done very soon. I thank the House for the extension of time.

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER: The question is that the House take note of the Budget Estimates and Related Papers 2021-2022.

Motion agreed to.

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

Announcements

MEMBER FOR HAWKESBURY

MEMBER FOR PROSPECT

The SPEAKER: I wish the member for Hawkesbury and the member for Prospect all the best for their upcoming birthdays and hope they have wonderful celebrations planned.

Visitors

VISITORS

The SPEAKER: I welcome to the Chamber the guests of the member for Blue Mountains, in particular Joe Woodburn and Edward Bell-Smith. They are work experience students from Katoomba High School. I also welcome the Lachlan Macquarie Institute fellows, who are interning this week with the member for Mulgoa, the member for Parramatta, the member for Wollondilly and a number of members from the other House. Those interns are Jonathan Worstencroft, Danielle Ezard, Julie Sladden, Isabella Clarke, Elizabeth Bryce, Brittany Everett and Rachel Allgrove. I welcome them to the Chamber and hope they enjoy their internships. I also welcome to the Chamber the guest of the member for Port Macquarie, Isobel Dixon-Holden, who is visiting the Parliament as part of a school work experience program.

Question Time

COST OF LIVING

Mr CHRIS MINNS (Kogarah) (14:18): My question is directed to the Premier. Given that it was revealed this week that the Government will not regain a triple-A credit rating for a decade, leading to higher debt and interest repayments, with a \$170 billion gross debt bill, is this yet another example of the Government creating the cost-of-living crisis in New South Wales?

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET (Epping—Premier) (14:18): What a ridiculous question from the Leader of the Opposition—an Opposition that stands for nothing, believes in nothing and does not have a policy. It opposed asset recycling, which led to a negative net debt position in this State.

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

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: This is a government that, due to its strong financial and economic management in the good times, has lined us up for success in difficult times, investing through droughts, bushfires and floods, \$46 billion in investments to get our people through one of the most difficult times in 100 years in our State, and managing debt in a responsible way. In addition, during the pandemic the Government increased its borrowings—around \$30 million in borrowings—and increased the weighted average life of those borrowings to around 11.3 years at record low rates of around 1½ per cent. In addition, we extended the weighted average life—

Mr Chris Minns: And a record high number.

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: Obviously it is increasing. The Leader of the Opposition reads the financial press. That is a start. When we look at the refinancing of those entire borrowings during the pandemic, not only were we locking in the weighted average life up to around 11.3 years but we increased the weighted average life of our entire borrowings across the State by about eight years. That shows the strong financial management of the State. Let us compare that to a comparable jurisdiction in Victoria, which, guess what, has also gone through a pandemic and difficult times. As a percentage of gross State product [GSP], New South Wales in 2021 had \$5.8 billion debt to GSP and Victoria had \$15.3 billion. If we go forward to 2022-23, New South Wales' debt to GSP is \$10.8 billion and Victoria's is \$21 billion. Let us jump ahead two more years. New South Wales' debt to GSP will be \$13.4 billion in 2024-25 and, under Labor, it will be \$25.8 billion in Victoria. That is the difference between the Liberals and The Nationals, which managed money well before the pandemic and through it, and what you will see under Labor.

PALLIATIVE CARE

Mr KEVIN CONOLLY (Riverstone) (14:21): My question is addressed to the Premier. Will the Premier update the House on how the Liberals and The Nationals are ensuring compassion, comfort and the best end-of-life care to people across New South Wales?

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET (Epping—Premier) (14:22): I thank the member for Riverstone for his question. He is a great member for Riverstone, the best we have ever had. Late last year we had a challenging debate in this House around voluntary assisted dying. While there were many disagreements in respect of that legislation, the one thing that every member in this Parliament agreed on was that end-of-life care in New South Wales must be much better. A few years ago in this State we committed record funding for palliative care, but the stories of end-of-life suffering, anxiety and loneliness that this House has heard, and in the upper House during that debate, have clearly demonstrated that more needs to be done. Too many people have not had the confidence that they will have adequate care and relief at the end of their life. But they should have that confidence in this State.

During that debate I committed to this Parliament and to the people of our State that we would put that care in place, including adequate pain relief; greater access, particularly in regional New South Wales; care options close to home and family; and the right care options for everyone, especially First Nations communities and people from diverse cultural backgrounds. I said that this would be a priority for my Government, and I am pleased to say that we are delivering on that promise today. Today we announced \$743 million to enhance end-of-life care in New South Wales. This will deliver an additional 600 health staff across New South Wales to support those in the final stages of life. That is extra nurses, allied health professionals, doctors and support staff to care for people during their most vulnerable times.

The investment will also increase the number of short-term, high-care beds in rural, regional and metropolitan hospitals. It will build two new dedicated palliative care units in western Sydney at Nepean Hospital and at Westmead Hospital. A society is judged by how it treats its most vulnerable—the sick, the frail, the elderly and the disabled. A strong society cherishes and protects its most fragile members. It sees them as a blessing, not as a burden. We stand in solidarity, as a State, with those who suffer. A good State accompanies the sick and the dying on this important journey, offering care, comfort and compassion. My message today is no matter how sick or frail or close to the end of life someone may be, here in New South Wales they will be cherished, they will be valued and they will get the best care. Today's announcement is more than just an investment in resources and personnel. [*Extension of time*]

It is an investment in the dignity of our loved ones and everyone in New South Wales in those precious moments of life. It is a commitment to compassion, to comfort and the best end-of-life care, no matter where someone lives in our great State. Every person in New South Wales, whoever they are and wherever they are, should be afforded the care and support they need to have a dignified end of life. Everyone in our State must have the right to live with dignity to the very end. I believe that the investment the Government has made today—\$743 million over five years, which escalates over time—will ensure that the annual amount the Government has invested on a recurrent basis in palliative care, which currently stands at around \$300 million a year, will more than double by the end of that five-year period. That will ensure there is greater support in homes and in hospitals. Most importantly, as I said, a sign of any great society is how it treats its most vulnerable people. I believe this investment from the Liberals and The Nationals today will mean that as people are coming to the end of their life they will have the care, support and compassion they need and the dignity they deserve.

STATE DEBT

Ms PRUE CAR (Londonderry) (14:26): My question is directed to the Premier. When the Government was elected in 2011 it inherited \$20 billion in gross debt. In 2024, New South Wales will have \$171 billion in

gross debt—the largest in the State's history. Is it not true that the Premier's statement that New South Wales will have "a virtuous circle of less debt" was a complete sham?

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET (Epping—Premier) (14:27): The only sham is that side of the House. That is the only sham. On every level across this State, if you compare New South Wales to anywhere else, where we have just gone through the pandemic—those opposite might have missed the pandemic. Before the pandemic there was a drought right across the State. What did this Government do? What did those on this side of the House do? The Nationals know. This Government spent \$4.5 billion investing in ensuring that our regional communities got through it. That is called deploying your budget for success. Then, in 2017, the State went through floods. Once again, this Government invested record amounts to help affected communities across the State to get through. The State then faced bushfires. The Government invested over \$4.5 billion to help get our communities back on their feet after that devastating time.

Then the pandemic came and the Government invested \$45 billion in response. Even after all of that, as a percentage of gross State product, New South Wales' debt is half as much as Victoria's. Why? It is because this Government recycles assets and invests capital into new infrastructure to drive economic growth across the State, which then grows the pie. Let us look at the net worth of the State. When Labor left office, the net worth of New South Wales was \$163 billion; today it is \$250 billion. That is a 54 per cent increase in the net worth of the asset, New South Wales. Under the former Labor Government, that equated to \$22,000 per person. Under this Government, each person's share in our State's worth is \$31,000. That is the difference. Those opposite were against tax cuts which we on this side bring in—which we saw at the last election. They were against asset recycling. What happened under Labor? An increase in the wage bill right across the State. The unions are protesting, but it is interesting to note that the Australian College of Nursing—

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

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: —came out yesterday and said it has called on every State to follow New South Wales' lead—

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

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: —and give a \$3,000 payment to every health worker.

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

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: They have called on every State to follow our lead—and guess who did? The Victorian Government came out today with—guess what—a \$2,000 payment to all health workers in Victoria. There are no protests down there. Once again, New South Wales is leading the country on wages and on everything. [*Time expired.*]

NSW POLICE FORCE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

Mr GURMESH SINGH (Coffs Harbour) (14:30): My question is addressed to the Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional New South Wales, and Minister for Police. Will the Deputy Premier inform the House how the Government is working to keep the people of New South Wales safe?

Mr PAUL TOOLE (Bathurst—Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional New South Wales, and Minister for Police) (14:30): I thank the member for Coffs Harbour for his question and for the work that he does in the Coffs Harbour area and to support his local police. On this side of the House, we are supporting our police in the work they are doing to keep the people of New South Wales safe. They are out there, every day and night, keeping our communities safe. I want to take this opportunity to thank our men and women in blue for the work that they do 24 hours a day, seven days a week, in our local areas.

I also want to update the House on the progress of Operation Hawk. Operation Hawk is a high-visibility policing operation designed to disrupt organised criminal networks and outlaw motorcycle gangs. Operation Hawk continues to deploy various strategies to prevent and disrupt serious and organised crime within the community. This operational activity is ongoing. So far the operation has seized \$3 million in cash, \$9 million worth of illicit drugs, 80 firearms and 3,300 rounds of ammunition. Police have executed 645 search warrants and they have arrested 404 people. This action has resulted in 1,256 charges being laid. I am sure members on both sides of the House would agree that progress is being made, but there is still more work to do. This Government is going to continue to rid our society of the scourge of these criminal gang networks in our communities.

The New South Wales Liberal-Nationals Government is working hard every day to keep the people of our State safe. I wish the same could be said for those sitting opposite. I had the pleasure of attending the Police Association of New South Wales' conference in Wollongong a few weeks ago. That is an organisation, like this Government, that is standing up for the interests of police. I note that the Leader of the Opposition, the member

for Wollongong and the shadow Minister for Police, the Hon. Walt Secord from the other place, were also in attendance. I was glad that the member for Wollongong was backing the Government's stance on keeping citizens safe when I read on the Wave FM 96.5 website:

Member for Wollongong Paul Scully, has used Tuesday's Police Association of NSW gathering in Wollongong, to call for funding to resume for Port Kembla, and lifejackets to be mandatory for rock fishers.

[Extension of time]

Ms Yasmin Catley: Yes, that is keeping them safe. That is about safety.

Mr PAUL TOOLE: Hang on! Hang on! The member opposite says that this is about jackets keeping them safe. Let me go on. I will now tell the House a bit more. The member for Swansea agrees, I agree—and they are the words that the Government supports, as does the New South Wales State Coroner, who recommended life jackets be made mandatory for rock fishing. So you can imagine my shock when last night the Labor Party backed a motion by the Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party in the other place to make life jackets optional for rock fishers. Treasurer, call off the search! I have found Labor's very first policy, and it is "no life jackets for rock fishermen". Ray Hadley summed this up this morning. He said, "If you support this, you are a dill." He said, "If Chris Minns supports this in the lower House, he is stark raving mad." Rock fishermen need life jackets. It is that simple.

[An Opposition member interjected.]

Hang on, I think the Leader of the Opposition needs a life jacket, because at the moment he is clearly sinking. Those opposite pushed the former leader, Jodi McKay, into the drink, and now they are trying to move on.

The SPEAKER: Members will come to order.

Mr PAUL TOOLE: Those opposite stand with the Police Association. They say one thing and then they come into the Chamber and do another. They have done this before. They stand out there with the nurses. They claim that they support the nurses, but when they talk about nurse-to-patient ratios, what do they do? They do not support it. Then they stand out there with the teachers and say they support an 11 per cent pay increase, but when they are asked about it, there is a vow of silence. This side of the House will stand up for safety. We will stand up for sanity, and we will stand up for the people of New South Wales.

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

STATE DEBT

Mr PAUL SCULLY (Wollongong) (14:36): My question is directed to the Premier. Is it not true that the interest New South Wales will pay on the Government's debt bomb is more than double what we spend on TAFE and more than what we spend on police every single year?

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

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET (Epping—Premier) (14:36): I completely reject the proposition in the question.

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

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: During the pandemic not only were we able to extend the weighted average life of our loans, but we increased the maturity to around 30 years. What we have done here, compared with any other jurisdiction, is set up our State in a low-interest rate environment to borrow and invest in infrastructure, to make a difference to people's lives. That is the difference between the Liberal-Nationals Coalition and the Opposition. It is good to borrow if you are investing in productive infrastructure. It is not good to borrow when you are investing in wage bills, which is what we are going to get under those opposite—and that is what we saw for 16 years. Under the former Labor Government in New South Wales, the Labor Party in Victoria drove up to New South Wales to see how they were doing it here and were told by then Treasurer Michael Egan, "No, we just give in to the union bosses." What did that deliver in our State? It delivered no infrastructure, and cuts to frontline services, to police—

Mr Paul Scully: Point of order: The question was very specific, so I take a point of order under Standing Order 129. The Premier is not being relevant to the question. He is on a little frolic, as usual.

The SPEAKER: I heard the question. The Premier is being relevant to it.

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: I could not be more relevant if I tried. As I was saying, we already saw Labor members out there yesterday protesting with the Public Service Association. There is still no policy, but

they are all protesting. What we see under Labor is increased debt to pay for wages, no infrastructure investment, and cuts to frontline services. What we have seen in 11 years in government is that those opposite have opposed every transaction that we have pursued. What does that mean? If you did not proceed with transactions like electricity, WestConnex and the land and property information transaction, then you would have one of two things: increasing debt or, alternatively, no infrastructure.

That is the difference between the Liberal-Nationals Coalition and the Labor Party. The Coalition recycles capital and invests it into productive infrastructure that creates jobs, grows the economy and ensures the share of every individual in the net worth of this State grows. That is exactly the proof that is in the pudding, because the net worth of this State has gone from \$161 billion to \$250 billion under the Liberal-Nationals Government. Our assets have grown because our policies work. Labor's policies take our State backwards.

MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY

Mrs LESLIE WILLIAMS (Port Macquarie) (14:39): My question is addressed to the Minister for Enterprise, Investment and Trade. Will the Minister update the House on the strength of the New South Wales manufacturing industry and how the Government is supporting its growth?

Mr STUART AYRES (Penrith—Minister for Enterprise, Investment and Trade, Minister for Tourism and Sport, and Minister for Western Sydney) (14:39): I thank the member for Port Macquarie for her question. I know that she is passionate about manufacturing in Australia—she has plenty of fantastic manufacturers in her electorate—and she has every reason to be. Over 30 per cent of the national manufacturing output comes from New South Wales. In fact, we employ over 253,000 people in manufacturing across our State. We have around 27,000 manufacturing businesses, and they account for 31 per cent of the manufacturing businesses across the country. In fact, manufacturing is now one of our largest exports—almost the largest—at \$20.3 billion a year, and it is growing at 7.5 per cent. It is a strong, prosperous sector that continues to grow.

One of the businesses that is a good example of this is a business from the member for Port Macquarie's electorate. It is a fantastic business called Birdon. It is a shipmaker. It has wonderful contracts overseas. It has contracts with the United States Marine Corps. It also has a number of contracts in Australia; it has recently been the recipient of a contract from the Australian Government for the construction of the new *Young Endeavour*, a really important vessel that has been critical to the way we have trained young people right around the country. The other day I was talking to Jamie Bruce, the CEO of Birdon, and I was asking him about other things that they have been involved in and how they have been able to interact into global supply chains to create jobs. He told me about two vessels.

He said that across those two vessels, 77 per cent of the material cost they used came from Australian suppliers. He also told me that 63 per cent of all of the contracts on those two vessels was spent in Australia. By rights, you would be saying that 37 per cent was made overseas. Those two vessels are known as the River and Emerald Class ferries. I want to say something particularly to the media outlets that often talk about them being foreign-built vessels: If you want to be truthful with the Australian public, by all means, call them 37 per cent foreign built. They are majority Australian built. They are built here in New South Wales by a wonderful Australian company that engages in an international supply chain and operates out of regional New South Wales. I always love the fact that whenever the Opposition wants to talk about these things, they conveniently ignore the Australian companies that are involved in the manufacturing of these products.

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

Mr STUART AYRES: I have no problem if the media wants to tell the truth and tell everyone what the percentage allocations are, but we want to make sure—*[Extension of time]*

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

Mr STUART AYRES: I am all for explaining to people across Australia that smart Australian businesses—like the 170 Australian businesses that are down at the International Convention Centre this week, participating in Australian Manufacturing Week—that employ people here in New South Wales will engage in a global economy. They will partner up with other businesses. But what I will not tolerate is those opposite or the media not telling the truth. I am more than happy to call this out, because this is exactly what is happening. If you want to say it is partially built overseas, go right ahead. If you want to be honest about the percentage of the materials—which, in the case of these two vessels, is only 23 per cent built overseas—then please be honest, because that is exactly what Australians want to know.

There are other great manufacturers. There is Kraftech down at Padstow, a wonderful new business that is creating new plasma laser-cutting machinery that is being used in our building industry. We have wonderful older businesses like Capral, which is the largest producer of aluminium anywhere in Australia. It operates out of

Smithfield and Penrith. We have companies like S&L Steel, which has delivered over 4,000 pieces for the roof of the new Sydney Football Stadium, which will be opening in August.

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

Mr STUART AYRES: They are all wonderful examples. From his Twitter page, I noticed that the Leader of the Opposition two days ago had a chat with Charlie from Eilbeck Cranes in Ingleburn. I want to know whether the Leader of the Opposition knew, when he was talking to Charlie, that Eilbeck Cranes supplied cranes to NorthConnex—a toll road that members opposite opposed. It also supplied cranes to— [*Time expired.*]

DRUMMOYNE ELECTORATE FERRY SERVICES

Mr JOHN SIDOTI (Drummoyne) (14:45): My question is addressed to the Minister for Transport. It has been extremely difficult for my constituents to access ferry services due to capacity issues. It is a longstanding issue, particularly on weekends and during special events like Vivid. I know the Minister inherited that problem, but is there a Government plan to address ferry capacity issues?

Mr DAVID ELLIOTT (Baulkham Hills—Minister for Transport, and Minister for Veterans) (14:45): I thank the member for Drummoyne for his totally unsolicited question. As members know, I have never solicited anything in my life.

Mr Matt Kean: Is that true?

Mr DAVID ELLIOTT: It is very true. A few members opposite cannot say that. But I digress; we will talk about that later. Ferry services are truly an iconic part of our harbour city. I know the member for Drummoyne is very excited about the growth of the ferry services across the harbour city. In fact, ferry services in this city date back to the First Fleet. Where is Brad? He is not here, but they do go back to the First Fleet. More than 200 years later this tradition of water-based transport lives on and continues to grow from strength to strength. Our modern, safe and reliable fleet of vessels transport many millions of commuters each and every year. We saw that during the fare-free period. As the Minister for Enterprise, Investment and Trade said earlier, it has been a decade of investment. We have modernised our infrastructure by upgrading 20 wharves right across the system, including the new CBD ferry wharf at Barangaroo.

The Department of Planning and Environment has finalised the Rhodes Place Strategy and Rhodes rezoning in the electorate of the member for Drummoyne. That includes a new ferry wharf. The member for Drummoyne has advocated strongly for it, and I joined him in that advocacy. I reaffirm the Government's commitment to the people of Drummoyne to deliver a new commuter ferry wharf at Rhodes to support the community well and truly into the future. I have directed Transport for NSW to work with the planning department to ensure that it is delivered in close consultation with the community and in line with the development of the Rhodes precinct. In this decade of investment, we are rejuvenating our fleet by rolling out nine Emerald class vessels and 10 new River class vessels, which are already servicing the member's local community.

Ms Jo Haylen: His constituents can't get on because they don't stop.

Mr DAVID ELLIOTT: I'm not at home to "Ms Rude". Be quiet. We have expanded our services. We have introduced 455 additional services. Under our Government, satisfaction levels are at a high of 99 per cent. I note the member's advocacy for the popular F3 Parramatta River ferry service, which runs from Parramatta and Sydney Olympic Park to Barangaroo and Circular Quay, past Cabarita, Abbotsford, Chiswick and Drummoyne. [*Extension of time*]

I understand that it can be very busy for customers at locations closer to the city, particularly at key times. The popularity of the ferry service is heightened during special events, as we have seen during Vivid, and on busy weekends like the long weekends that we enjoyed over the April period. I am sure it will be the same this weekend. I do not blame commuters; it is an excellent transport option. Who can blame people—families, tourists and commuters alike—for wanting to get on a ferry? To combat that surge, Transport for NSW has developed several alternatives, including additional services to support major events and alternative bus services from places like Abbotsford and along Victoria Road. That is in addition to the service uplift across our public transport network, which was made possible only by the foresight and strong economic management of our Government over many years.

Ms Jo Haylen: Foresight? There were no ferries. It was a total failure.

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

Mr DAVID ELLIOTT: You have already heard that it was not my fault. Since 2011 we have added approximately 175 additional services to the ferry network on the F3 Parramatta River. Bus services have also

improved under this Government. Since 2011 we have introduced over 7,000 additional weekly services in regions 6 and 7, which service the electorate of the member for Drummoyne, giving commuters more choice. Service frequency has increased on many routes. Those services operate at least every 10 minutes or better during the day on busy routes like the 438X from Abbotsford to the city and route 500X from West Ryde to the city along Victoria Road. We have introduced additional services on a number of other routes, including the 461X, 464, 501 and 504. We have delivered new routes right across the city, including through Leichhardt and over the Anzac Bridge. The member can be assured that our Government will continue to make a brighter future possible for commuters by delivering and continuously improving our world-class public transport network.

NORTHERN NEW SOUTH WALES RATE RELIEF

Mr GEOFF PROVEST (Tweed) (14:50): My question is addressed to the Minister for Local Government. Will the Minister apprise the House of how the Government is supporting ratepayers in northern New South Wales?

Mrs WENDY TUCKERMAN (Goulburn—Minister for Local Government) (14:51): I thank the Member for Tweed for his question. I note his strong connection with and advocacy for his community, which is doing it tough as it faces the challenges of recovering, rebuilding and returning to normal. As the Minister for Local Government, it is my job to ensure that councils are well equipped to secure a brighter future for residents, families and businesses.

Ms Yasmin Catley: Oh!

Mrs WENDY TUCKERMAN: You may well scoff at that, but it is really important. It is devastating when the livelihoods of communities are impacted so greatly by an event or a series of events. I am disappointed that the Opposition is not interested in how we are securing brighter futures for communities in the Northern Rivers.

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

Mrs WENDY TUCKERMAN: None of us could have anticipated the scale and magnitude of the most recent flood events in February and March this year. Numerous communities were affected across much of our beloved State—everywhere from Tweed to Bega. However, none were as hard hit as the Northern Rivers. Engagement with the mayors and general managers of the Northern Rivers made it apparent for the need to lend a hand to the most impacted ratepayers as they embark on the strenuous process of getting their families and themselves back on their feet. That is why last Friday in Lismore the Deputy Premier, the Minister for Emergency Services and Resilience and I were honoured to join the member for Tweed, the member for Lismore—who is also doing a wonderful job supporting her community—and the wonderful mayors—

The SPEAKER: The Clerk will stop the clock. Earlier this week, I told the member for Maroubra not to stand in the Chamber. He will refrain from doing so. Members will quieten their conversations. I call the member for Tweed to order for the first time.

Mrs WENDY TUCKERMAN: I was delighted to join mayors from the Northern Rivers councils to announce the Government's \$40 million relief package for Northern Rivers ratepayers. The flood-affected ratepayers in seven of the State's most severely impacted local government areas [LGAs] of Ballina, Byron, Clarence Valley, Kyogle, Lismore, Richmond Valley and Tweed, whose properties were damaged in this year's devastating floods, will receive rates relief. Ratepayers in those LGAs who made a successful claim through Service NSW or whose property has been assessed as damaged will have their 2022-23 rates waived.

The program will cover the residential, commercial and farm rates of eligible ratepayers. The payments will be made directly to councils, to ensure that eligible ratepayers receive the relief automatically, without having to worry about red tape. Eligible residents will soon receive a letter confirming the rate relief they will be receiving and the support this Government is providing to them. This is a great initiative helping the wonderful residents to get back on their feet. I thank the New South Wales Government for enabling this wonderful package.

ERARING POWER STATION

Mr JIHAD DIB (Lakemba) (14:54): My question is directed to the Treasurer. Discussions to extend Eraring were so far advanced that the New South Wales Government appointed a full suite of advisers, including financial, legal, accounting and technical, to come up with a proposal that would cost the State \$239 million. What was the cost of all of those advisers?

Mr MATT KEAN (Hornsby—Treasurer, and Minister for Energy) (14:55): I thank the member for Lakemba for his question. After yesterday's question time performance, I was shocked to get a question today. It was so bad by the Opposition. Talk about leading with their chins! The Leader of the Opposition is now going to

be known as Chris Chins. That is how bad his question time performance was yesterday. But now we have heard it all. They were giving the hospital pass to all the Jodi supporters yesterday, but they brought in a Chris Minns supporter to ask a question. What we are seeing is, unfortunately, the Leader of the Opposition setting up the good member for Lakemba to do a deal with the racist right of New South Wales politics. That is right. He is pushing the conspiracy theories—

Mr Jihad Dib: Point of order: I do not know where the answer is going, but I do not like where it is heading. Standing Order 129—

The SPEAKER: I have heard enough on the point of order.

Mr Jihad Dib: If you guys are happy to be compared to racists, then we'll talk again. But racism is not a laughing matter, mate—and do not go down there with me.

The SPEAKER: That is enough. The member for Lakemba will come to order.

Mr Jihad Dib: Do not go down there with me, Matt.

The SPEAKER: I uphold the point of order. The member for Lakemba will resume his seat. The Treasurer will be directly relevant.

Mr MATT KEAN: Mr Speaker, I am being directly relevant.

The SPEAKER: The Treasurer will be directly relevant to the question.

Mr MATT KEAN: I am just disappointed that the member for Lakemba would be indulging the conspiracy theories of Pauline Hanson's patsy in the upper House, Mark Latham—

Mr Ron Hoenig: Point of order: The Minister is ignoring the ruling under Standing Order 129—

The SPEAKER: The Treasurer is coming to the issue. I will hear further.

Mr Ron Hoenig: —and he is proceeding to infringe Standing Order 73. He is moving towards making quite offensive remarks—

The SPEAKER: I have heard enough on the point of order. At this stage the Minister has not contravened Standing Order 73. I have asked him to be directly relevant and he was coming to the question straightaway.

Mr MATT KEAN: If the member for Heffron keeps going back and forth, he will wear out the rug—I mean, carpet! The reality is that Eraring Power Station is obviously needing to be modernised. That is what we are working with Origin Energy on. You know who likes our policy when it comes to Eraring? Guess who—the Labor Party! Chris Bowen is the friend and mentor of the Leader of the Opposition. They are so close that they took a business-class flight to China together, paid for by a banned Chinese donor. They are so close. Who endorsed it? Chris Bowen did.

Mr Jihad Dib: Point of order—

The SPEAKER: The Treasurer will resume his seat. I call the member for Ku-ring-gai to order for the second time. The Treasurer's time has expired.

UPPER HUNTER WATER MANAGEMENT

Mr DAVID LAYZELL (Upper Hunter) (14:58): My question is addressed to the Minister for Lands and Water, and Minister for Hospitality and Racing. Will the Minister elaborate on what the Government is doing to secure a strong future for our agricultural sector through a commonsense approach to water management?

The SPEAKER: Order! Someone is tapping on a microphone. Please stop.

Mr KEVIN ANDERSON (Tamworth—Minister for Lands and Water, and Minister for Hospitality and Racing) (14:58): In my air force days, I studied Morse code, but I could not pick the tapping that was happening there. It was a little bit difficult. I thank the member for Upper Hunter for his question. I will elaborate on how the Government is making the best possible decisions in relation to providing safe and secure water for the Upper Hunter and Hunter Valley agricultural community. We know that the agricultural sector is the backbone of the New South Wales economy, and we are working with the sector to ensure that it remains strong. It is a sector that generates \$30 billion worth of economic output. That is why we are making sure that we are working with them.

It was great to join the key players in the Hunter, like the Parliamentary Secretary for the Hunter, Taylor Martin, as well as members of Maitland City Council and local farmers Stephen and Roger Osborn, when we, as part of water options, listened to that community and did not proceed with a cease-to-pump rule in the salinity

pools, those tidal areas close to the coast. Because these rivers like the Paterson and the others are very close to the coast, at times salt water comes up those rivers. The farmers manage those rivers and say, "It's too salty. We're not going to use that water for our stock or our horticulture or our agriculture. We will wait. We will manage it"—like they have done for generations. They told us that that is what they wanted to do, so we listened to them. That is why I said no to implementing a government rule that would tell them how to run their farms. That is what we do. We listen to the community.

We listened to the member for Upper Hunter, who said the farmers know best, they know how to manage their properties, they know what they need to do. That is why I said no to that plan of introducing cease-to-pump rules in the Upper Hunter. It would have undermined the vegetable and dairy production and it would have undermined Tocal College, which is dedicated to training the next generation of farmers. We listened to other local members, like the member for Coffs Harbour, the member for Myall Lakes, the member for Oxley and the member for Clarence, when it comes to allowing coastal properties to capture more rainwater in their dams for when it gets dry. We know there will be another drought. They will need that water so they can use it when it gets dry and when there is another drought. We know that droughts will come. We will make sure that we continue to listen to our agricultural sector. We are making sure that we are committed to securing a brighter future for regional communities by securing the future—I know that the member for Swansea agrees with me—of the agricultural community through commonsense water management.

ERARING POWER STATION

Mr DAVID HARRIS (Wyang) (15:01): My question is directed to the Treasurer, and Minister for Energy. Will he confirm that the modelling provided to his Government as early as July 2021 showed that the early closure of Eraring would cause wholesale energy prices to spike 33 per cent in the years after 2025?

Mr MATT KEAN (Hornsby—Treasurer, and Minister for Energy) (15:02): The member for Wyong should know better. The best way to drive down electricity prices is to build more supply. Who opposed building more electricity supply? The Labor Party did. When it had a chance to open up State forests, to build new generation into the system, what did it do? It took its riding orders from its bosses in the Construction, Forestry, Maritime, Mining and Energy Union—

Mr Ron Hoenig: Point of order: My point of order is taken under Standing Order 129. The question was: Were you aware—

The SPEAKER: I have heard enough. The question was concise and specifically about the closure of Eraring. I ask the Treasurer to address that issue directly.

Mr MATT KEAN: We are talking about the closure of Eraring. The thing we need to do when existing power stations close is build new generation, and this Government has a plan to do exactly that. It is called the Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap. It is one of the most progressive and leading energy policies—

Mr Ron Hoenig: Point of order—

Mr MATT KEAN: —anywhere in the country. It is supported by Liberals, supported by The Nationals, and supported and endorsed by the Leader of the Opposition.

The SPEAKER: The Treasurer will resume his seat.

Mr Ron Hoenig: The question was: Were you aware—

The SPEAKER: Is the point of order taken under Standing Order 129?

Mr Ron Hoenig: Standing Order 129. Were you aware?

The SPEAKER: I uphold the point of order. I say again that the question was specifically about Eraring and the Treasurer's awareness of modelling in relation to price increases. While the Treasurer was being generally relevant, I am now enforcing the direct relevance requirement. The Treasurer will be directly relevant.

Mr MATT KEAN: We are always focused on prices. We are always focused on what we can do to get the cheapest and most reliable energy anywhere in the world. That is exactly what our policies are all about. This is a government focused on driving down electricity prices for everyone, whether it be in the context of Eraring or Vales Point or Bayswater.

Mr Chris Minns: Point of order: My point of order is taken under Standing Order 129. We need to know: Were you aware that prices were about to spike? Please answer the question.

The SPEAKER: I uphold the point of order again, and I refer to my earlier comments.

Mr MATT KEAN: The question needs to be asked, was the Leader of the Opposition aware of Huang Xiangmo making \$10,000 donations to his campaign? That is the question that needs to be answered today.

Mr Ron Hoenig: Point of order—

Mr MATT KEAN: Was the Leader of the Opposition in the know when dodgy money—

The SPEAKER: The Treasurer will resume his seat. I call the Treasurer to order for the first time. I do not need to hear the point of order.

RENEWABLE FARM FORESTRY SECTOR

Mr CHRISTOPHER GULAPTIS (Clarence) (15:05): My question is addressed to the Minister for Agriculture, and Minister for Western New South Wales. Will the Minister refresh the House on changes to the farm forestry sector?

Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS (Dubbo—Minister for Agriculture, and Minister for Western New South Wales) (15:05): My word I certainly will. I thank the member for Clarence for the question. He is a great supporter of the industry right across his electorate. I am very pleased to update the House on the New South Wales Government's recently signed-off renewable farm forestry codes of practice, formerly known as private native forestry codes. What we are talking about is the greatest organic, renewable, regenerative resource we have—it is timber. The environmental, social and economic benefits will be significant, and importantly this will continue to grow the economy and provide jobs in the regions. If any of those opposite would care to be quiet for a moment, they might understand what I am saying.

Opposition members: Woah!

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS: I thought I would see if anyone was listening. I got their attention.

Ms Anna Watson: Lazy Dugald.

Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS: Lazy—oh, harsh. Why don't you listen about an industry that matters in regional areas? Why don't you listen and learn about how you can support people? Absolutely unbelievable! Anyway, renewable farm forestry is something we should all be supporting, and it is something this Government supports.

The SPEAKER: Order! The Clerk will stop the clock. The Minister is answering the question seriously, and he will be heard in silence.

Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS: I will talk about how important this industry is and tell you about a bloke, Ron McKinnon, who is part of this industry and has been for quite some time. I visited Ron at his 105-hectare property in Tomerong on the South Coast, a property that has been in his family since 1945. He has been harvesting trees on the property with his family for close on 80 years. He says that selective harvesting has been going on on the property for about 150 years. He harvests blackbutt, spotted gum, turpentine and woolly butt species—all high-value trees. On average he harvests about 60 logs each year to supply the top quality timber that we need but also supplies things from bushfires and storms events to supply firewood providers, which is pretty important at a time like now, as it is getting cold.

Ron is a classic bushie, but he knows about protecting his farm, his forestry and the environment. In the past 10 years he sold about \$300 grand in sawn timber from his Lucas Mill. He has his own special mill there. He says that there have been no ill effects. There is now more forest on the property than there was 50 years ago. He selectively harvests for specific things and allows regrowth of saplings, which convert CO₂ far more quickly and effectively than mature trees. I had a good yarn to Ron and he says that his experience of selective farm forestry is all positive. He has been doing it for around 40 years. It has given him income, at the same time as having really positive effects on the environment. It is a renewable, organic, regenerative, sustainable industry that this Government will continue to support, providing meaningful jobs in the regions and securing a brighter future for New South Wales families.

KOALA AND ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION

Ms KATE WASHINGTON (Port Stephens) (15:08): Because we all want to hear from him again, my question is directed to the Treasurer. Does the Treasurer really think he can call himself the greatest environment Minister in Australian history given the fact that koalas are now endangered and at very real risk of becoming extinct?

Mr MATT KEAN (Hornsby—Treasurer, and Minister for Energy) (15:09): I thank the member for Port Stephens for her question. I acknowledge the work of the member for Port Stephens. She was my shadow during the time I was the environment Minister and she was outstanding. She cared about the environment, and the reward from the Leader of the Opposition that she got for working so hard to protect our environment was a demotion, all because of her loyalty to the popularly elected former leader of the Labor Party.

Ms Anna Watson: Point of order—

The SPEAKER: Is it on relevance under Standing Order 129?

Ms Anna Watson: It is relevance. May I finish my point of order? It is taken under Standing Order 129.

The SPEAKER: I have heard enough from the member. I call the member for Shellharbour to order for the first time.

Mr MATT KEAN: I wholeheartedly reject the recollection of events by Ms Cusack. It is clearly some wild fantasy that has been dreamed up late at night. What is not a wild fantasy dreamed up late at night is this Government's record when it comes to the environment, because no government has done more to protect the environment than the New South Wales Liberal-Nationals Government. That is why it was a Coalition Government that banned the plastic bag in New South Wales. It was not a Labor government. It was a Coalition government and those opposite know it. That is why it was a Coalition Government that stood up for our biodiversity and has protected over 600,000 hectares of new national park estate in perpetuity, because we as conservatives believe in conserving our environment for future generations.

It was a Liberal-Nationals Government that delivered one of the most ambitious 2030 emissions reductions targets anywhere in the country—a 50 per cent emissions reduction target by 2030—because that is what Coalition governments do. We believe in delivering for today and building a better future for tomorrow. We believe in handing our planet to our kids better than we found it. I was proud as the environment Minister to stand up for those things, following great environment Ministers like Robert Hill, Bob Carr and Bob Debus—people of character who stood for things. I look at the Leader of the Opposition and I think, "How far has the Labor Party fallen?" [*Time expired.*]

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

LAW REFORM

Ms MELANIE GIBBONS (Holsworthy) (15:12): My question is addressed to the Attorney General. Will the Attorney General update the House on what law reform in his portfolio the Government has undertaken to improve people's lives?

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla—Attorney General) (15:13): I certainly will. I will begin with sexual and domestic violence. We have passed nation-leading affirmative consent reform in this State, with the almost unanimous consent of both Houses of this Parliament. That law started on 1 June. Not only are we introducing affirmative consent but also five new jury directions to explode rape myths. They are backed up with a positive powerful awareness campaign resonating with young people, including phase three of Make No Doubt, which we launched on 25 May. We are looking at nation-leading coercive control laws in New South Wales as part of the Government's response to the joint select committee that was tabled last December. We have provided a consultation draft bill to restricted legal stakeholders to identify any legal matters, prior to releasing an exposure draft for broader consultation. We are well on track to introduce legislation this year.

We have banned self-represented people accused of domestic violence in criminal and related proceedings from directly cross-examining domestic violence complainants. That is in the sexual and domestic violence area. In other areas of violence and homicide, as we announced in April, we are implementing better protections for emergency workers so that people who assault frontline health workers, correctional and youth justice officers and emergency services staff and volunteers will face tougher penalties under new offences that will be introduced later this year.

We are the first jurisdiction in Australia to legislate a standalone offence of causing the loss of a foetus, to support grieving parents who lose an unborn child due to another person's criminal act and to ensure that offenders face tougher sentences. That started in March. We have outlawed the despicable possession, production and dissemination of animal crush bestiality material, which commenced on 2 May. For victims of child abuse, we have legislated to allow courts to overturn historical unfair civil claims settlements to child abuse survivors. That law commenced in November.

In the area of hate crime, we are acting to criminalise the public display of Nazi symbols without a reasonable excuse. That was announced in our response to the Legislative Council Standing Committee on Social

Issues report. We have provided a consultation draft to each of the stakeholders who made submissions to that inquiry as well as to additional targeted legal stakeholders to identify any technical legal matters, and we are well on track to introduce a bill in this House shortly. We have established a Special Commission of Inquiry into LGBTIQ Hate Crimes, to provide grieving families and loved ones answers about crimes that have gone unsolved, in some cases for half a century. The final report is due to the Governor by 30 June 2023.

In the area of public order, we have legislated far stiffer penalties to prevent illegal protesters from causing further mayhem. New South Wales is leading the nation in nationally agreed defamation reforms. We have passed improved whistleblower protection laws. We have expanded the Drug Court and are working to establish a Walama List pilot diversion program in the District Court. [*Extension of time*]

We have permanently legislated the availability of video tech witnessing of legal documents. We are delivering on substantial and innovative reform in this portfolio to protect the community, to strengthen frontline services and to improve people's lives. I will personally continue this focus by the Government to protect our community.

BUSHFIRE READINESS

Dr JOE MCGIRR (Wagga Wagga) (15:16): My question is directed to the Minister for Emergency Services and Resilience. Will the Minister advise the Wagga Wagga electorate, in particular the Snowy Valleys area, what steps have been taken to improve bushfire readiness, specifically around forestry plantations, including weed clearing, maintenance, the provision of fire trails and improvements to mobile communications, for example at Bondo and Lower Bago?

Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra—Minister for Emergency Services and Resilience, and Minister for Flood Recovery) (15:17): I thank the member for Wagga Wagga for his question and for joining me recently in his beautiful part of the world in Batlow and Tumut for the National Emergency Medal presentations to our RFS volunteers who were heavily involved in the Dunns Road bushfire during Black Summer. I briefly acknowledge the attendance of the member for Albury at Khancoban at those same events. The Dunns Road fire left a deep scar on the landscape and an indelible mark on the hearts and minds of all those who lived through that catastrophic bushfire event.

As the member for Wagga Wagga would know, following the Black Summer bushfires in 2019 the New South Wales Government has committed more than half a billion dollars to address the recommendations of the bushfire inquiry. I am pleased to confirm to the House that 100 per cent of the 76 recommendations of the inquiry are either complete or underway. Almost all of New South Wales is experiencing above average rainfall, which means that fuel loads are growing very quickly. The areas where the fuel load was completely wiped out in 2019-20 are seeing regrowth occur quicker than expected. This is a timely reminder that we cannot be complacent and we should always be preparing for the potential of another Black Summer. Across the Snowy Valleys area, I can advise the House that four hazard reduction burns have recently been completed, providing protection to 110 residential properties. This is in addition to 31 mechanical mitigation works and three cultural burns conducted within the Brungle-Tumut Local Aboriginal Land Council.

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

Ms STEPH COOKE: In the Riverina area, I can advise the House that two hazard reduction burns have recently been completed, providing protection to 330 residential properties, and 101 mitigation works have been undertaken, including eight around strategic communications towers. Within the Snowy Valleys area, the Sturgess fire trail leading to the Bago State Forest on the western side of Blowering Reservoir was recently upgraded to meet RFS fire trail standards, at a cost of \$513,000. This work is now complete. The Gentle Annie fire trail near Brindabella is also scheduled to be upgraded. The initial designs are currently being completed. Across the Riverina, work is currently underway on the upgrade of five trails, at a cost of \$1.4 million. [*Extension of time*]

I again thank the member for Wagga Wagga for his question, and as a neighbour of my electorate of Cootamundra I will continue to work very closely with him to continually prepare for bushfires, mitigate risks and support our wonderful RFS volunteers.

WESTERN SYDNEY TRANSPORT PROJECTS

Mr MARK TAYLOR (Seven Hills) (15:20): My question is addressed to the Minister for Transport, and Minister for Veterans. Will the Minister update the House on how the Government is securing a brighter future for the people of western Sydney through transformative transport projects?

Mr DAVID ELLIOTT (Baulkham Hills—Minister for Transport, and Minister for Veterans) (15:21): I must admit that question may have been solicited, but in a different way to how certain members on the other side solicit things. But more about that later. Ladies and gentlemen, members and colleagues, I thank

the member for Seven Hills for his question. He is a great product of western Sydney and a wonderful advocate for the Parramatta Light Rail, which is supercharging the Parramatta CBD, restaurants and retail outlets. Tourists are flocking to western Sydney, with its entertainment offerings and culture. We have wonderful local members in the Hills district, where families and tourists have an opportunity to experience something very unique. We have a bright future.

Only last week the Government announced the names of the 16 stops along the exciting \$2.4 billion city-shaping project. Stations like Benaud Oval, Yallamundi and Prince Alfred Square—quite appropriate, given it is the Queen's birthday long weekend—will illuminate western Sydney's bright future for many years to come and reflect the rich history of Parramatta and its contribution to our great State. The final segment of track has been laid across the 12-kilometre alignment of Parramatta Light Rail Stage 1, with preliminary work on the first light rail stop now underway. People should avail themselves of that wonderful bit of infrastructure. This effort has been shouldered by over 700 people, who have worked day and night for more than a year to lay the tracks of the new light rail network and the future of transport to this important city.

It is estimated that by 2026, 28,000 people will use the Parramatta Light Rail every day and 130,000 people will live within walking distance of that wonderful piece of infrastructure. I was delighted to announce, together with the Premier, the Treasurer and Minister Stokes, the Government's commitment to Parramatta Light Rail Stage 2, committing a further \$602.4 million to start works and commence a detailed planning process to forge ahead with this mega project. I have spoken many times in this place about the projects of tomorrow and the transformative power of public transport. The Parramatta Light Rail Stage 2 is just one of these projects.

I am proud that since this Government was elected in 2011, we have invested more than \$178 billion in critical projects that change lives, that shape cities and pave the path of progress, made possible only by the Government's prudent economic management. Construction of the bridge connecting Wentworth Point to Melrose Park will commence with the Parramatta Light Rail Stage 2. But, of course, that is just me boasting. I could talk to the Labor party's record: Metro West, cancelled; North Metro West, cancelled—a billion dollars out of the business community on preparing tenders—the Epping to Parramatta rail link, cancelled. Those opposite masquerade as champions of western Sydney, but it is only people like the member for Seven Hills who can deliver for the people of that great region.

Ministerial Statements

RESPECTFUL WORKPLACE POLICY

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET (Epping—Premier) (15:24): A few weeks ago, Australians took to the polls to elect representatives to our national Parliament. Whether at the Federal or State level, serving as a representative in parliament is a privilege and an honour. The integrity of our democracy depends on the integrity of our parliamentary and governmental institutions, so these institutions—and all who serve in them—must be beyond reproach. In recent years we have seen that, like all institutions, Australia's parliamentary and governmental institutions have at times failed to guarantee basic standards of decency, respect and safety for those who work in them. As a result, a number of people employed in parliaments and governments have come forward to report that they have been victims of sexual assault, harassment and other offences.

They have called out inadequate processes for having complaints heard and dealt with. They have exposed the lack of clarity about the boundaries that are or should be in place at work and the standards of behaviour that are expected. These issues have caused frustration, distress and, above all, real harm to survivors. Disappointingly, these failures have been identified in New South Wales as well. This is not a state of affairs that my Government is willing to accept and it is not a state of affairs anyone in this Parliament should accept. Safety and respect in the workplace are more than priorities; they are non-negotiable. They are a measure of the integrity and basic decency of this place and all who serve within its walls.

In this context our Government initiated the Goward review of policies and procedures for Ministerial offices – bullying, harassment, and sexual misconduct. We commissioned this review to identify the policies and processes necessary to ensure a safe environment for ministerial staff and to provide appropriate support and just outcomes where allegations of misconduct are made. The review was ordered by the former Premier Gladys Berejiklian and it was completed last year. It consulted a range of stakeholders, including survivors. The Government accepted all the recommendations arising from the review and we continue to implement them as recommended.

To that end, I recently approved publication of the NSW Ministerial Offices Respectful Workplace Policy. This policy clearly establishes the standards of behaviour required by Ministers and their staff to ensure that every ministerial office is a safe and respectful workplace. That is its primary objective: proactively establishing safe and respectful workplaces and preventing harmful behaviour so it simply cannot happen. The Government's

approach additionally includes a requirement for ongoing training for all Ministers and their staff as a condition of their employment. This means there can be no doubt that everyone in the ministerial office environment has been made fully aware of their obligations for respectful conduct in the workplace.

I have also asked that the policy be updated on at least an annual basis to ensure that it regularly incorporates feedback for improvement from a trauma-informed specialist, that it achieves its intended outcomes, and that it reflects best practice in the future. The policy also provides clear, safe and expedient avenues for complaints to be reported, investigated and referred to the relevant authorities where appropriate. There are new safeguards to ensure that complainants receive support and sensitivity during what can be a deeply traumatic time. The policy is already being implemented and the first training sessions have now taken place. I thank Felicity Menzies for the initial training sessions she conducted. I commend her for the job that she has done.

I also acknowledge and thank the many people who have contributed to the development of this policy: Pru Goward, who conducted the review supported by staff of the Department of Premier and Cabinet; and former Australian sex discrimination commissioner Elizabeth Broderick, who provided insightful feedback to ensure that the policy reflects contemporary best practice. In this regard, I understand Ms Broderick's review in relation to the New South Wales Parliament will be delivered in the near future, and I confirm that the New South Wales Government will work with her and the New South Wales Parliament to ensure consistency in approach as much as possible.

I also thank the current and former ministerial and parliamentary staff who contributed to the review and the development of the policy. Most importantly, I thank and acknowledge the survivors. I particularly acknowledge Dhanya Mani, who has used her own experience as a survivor to be a courageous voice for change. I was fortunate enough to spend some time with Dhanya discussing these issues in recent weeks, and I thank her for her ongoing contribution to this process. Dhanya is in the gallery today and I know that takes courage, so I thank her for being here.

Implementing the recommendations of the review acknowledges that in the past the Government could have and should have done better. In some historical incidents, complainants who came forward in good faith could have had their complaints handled differently and no doubt with more sensitivity. Adequate policies and procedures, which would have allowed for complaints to be resolved, simply did not exist. As a result, survivors were badly let down. This was especially the case for survivors of minority backgrounds. Careers were affected and survivors felt that there was no way back. As Premier, it is appropriate for me to acknowledge that it is not now, and never was, acceptable. We deeply regret what complainants and survivors have been through and the distress that many have suffered. Our review process and the new policies that we have put in place will ensure that in the future the Government will do better.

Working in politics inevitably means working in high-pressure, high-stress environments. In the past, that simple fact of life has been used as an excuse for behaviour that fails the basic standards of human decency. That way of thinking has to end. Everyone in this place has an opportunity and an obligation to make this moment a turning point. Of all the workplaces in New South Wales, the Parliament and the Government should set the standards for safety and respect. These workplaces must be the safest and most respectful workplaces for all those who work in them, especially women. We must not and will not be satisfied with anything less. Because safety and respect at work are not optional extras; they are the bare minimum that any of us would expect in any workplace in the State. We should be setting the example. So today I call on all members of this place to join me in our Government's commitment to raise the bar for safety and respect at work.

Mr CHRIS MINNS (Kogarah) (15:31): On behalf of the Opposition I thank Dhanya Mani for her resilience and honesty in coming forward and for recounting her experience to those reviews. The Parliament is a place of work and, like every other place of work and without exception, it must provide an environment that is safe and where everyone is treated with respect. As elected representatives we must hold ourselves to the highest of standards. That means ensuring the highest standards also exist in the workplaces of our staff. So on behalf of NSW Labor I welcome the Goward report. We accept its findings and offer our bipartisan support to the implementation of its recommendations. We support the establishment of an independent process for complaints handling and we welcome the increased focus on training for Ministers and their staff.

I thank former Premier Gladys Berejiklian for her leadership on this issue and for commissioning this review in March last year. The Respectful Workplace Policy, released last month, says there is zero tolerance for bullying, harassment, discrimination and sexual misconduct in the New South Wales Parliament. Zero tolerance must be our collective mission in the fifty-seventh Parliament. We wait now for the Independent Review into bullying, harassment and sexual misconduct in NSW Parliament by Elizabeth Broderick. When it is released, I urge all members of this House to respond with conviction and urgency. It is our duty to create a safe workplace for everyone in the Parliament and in our electorate offices. Through successive parliaments our historic mission

has been to make workplaces safer. This remains our mission today. And based on reports of behaviour directed towards staff, it is clear this mission has never been more important.

Ms JENNY LEONG (Newtown) (15:34): By leave: I thank the House for granting me leave to respond to the ministerial statement made by the Premier. I acknowledge the Premier for making the statement and I recognise the powerful fact that the Premier making such a statement in the Chamber, and the Leader of the Opposition reiterating his comments, has made it very clear to this Chamber and this workplace that perpetrators of sexual violence and sexual assault and those who engage in harassment, bullying or intimidation have no place in this Parliament. I acknowledge and thank them for their speeches. As we speak, there are people sitting in this Chamber and in this workplace right now who are listening as victim-survivors of bullying, harassment and assault in this workplace. I say to all of them, we know and we hear you. We realise and acknowledge that you have had those experiences and we all acknowledge that we must do better to ensure that those experiences stop.

I also say to the perpetrators of that sexual violence, those sexual assaults and that harassment and bullying that things are changing, and we will call out their abuse. It is very clear that all of us recognise that we have a collective responsibility to do that. I have form in doing that, which means that people in this place tend to tell me their experiences. I could give members details, but I do not intend to do that today. I do not say that lightly. I say it as a warning to people who continue to bully, harass and assault others in this workplace—that people from all sides of politics come to me and share their stories. I have the power of parliamentary privilege to share names and details. I have used it before in relation to a member of my own party, and so I will have no qualms about using it in relation to others. If those survivors wish me to share their stories, I will certainly do so.

I acknowledge Dhanya, who is in the gallery today. To me, the most disappointing part of Dhanya's political life is that she is a member of the Liberal Party, but everything else about Dhanya's politics and her commitment to being a survivor advocate has been so strong. Dhanya approached me in March last year and told me about her experiences, and together we approached then Premier Gladys Berejiklian and spoke in detail to her. I share that with Dhanya's permission, because it is important to recognise that while the information I had to hand could have been used for my political benefit in a very explosive way, I have always held the confidence of that information. First and foremost, we must recognise that survivors should be in control of their own stories, and it is not for anyone else to weaponise the issues of sexual harassment or assault for their own benefit.

It is also crucial that we recognise that a multipartisan approach is needed to stamping out the levels of violence, harassment and bullying that happen in this Chamber and this workplace. I apologise to Dhanya for how the system failed her, and I recognise that she told her story as a woman of colour. When then Premier Gladys Berejiklian spoke about the Goward review, she sadly did not mention Dhanya's story or her name. She just mentioned Brittany Higgins. All power to Brittany Higgins, but we should recognise that the stories that are highlighted in the media are the stories of white women who are held up in a position of power. The marginalisation of women of colour when it comes to issues of harassment and assault is real, and we need to recognise that.

We also need to recognise that it is much harder to talk about the problems that occur in our own circle of influence, in our own factions, in our own parties and in our own connections, but it is incumbent on all of us to do that. I appreciate that this will be a challenging process from here on. I know ministerial staff who have expressed concerns about the realities of the Members of Parliament Staff Act 2013, Standing Order 52 in the other place and the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009, which cause serious concern about the ability to share complaints and disclosures. We have to put our brains together to solve those problems. I recognise that the Broderick review revealed that people are so fearful about the political risks, the weaponising of their complaints and the sharing of their disclosures that they have felt too nervous to disclose, and we need to look at how we deal with that as a workplace.

Finally, I acknowledge that people who come into this Parliament have a role and responsibility to show leadership in stamping out sexual violence, harassment and assault across our whole society. If we cannot do it in this Chamber, we have no hope of doing it across the State. There is so much work to be done. To the survivors, to Dhanya and to all of the staffers who have listened to the statements today or will hear about it later, I say that I am sorry that we do not do better. I am very committed and determined to do all that I can in my time in this place to make sure that everyone across this workplace ensures that it is a respectful place to work and that we put an end to sexual violence, harassment and assault in our workplaces. I thank the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition for making their statements and for allowing me to also make a contribution today.

*Business of the House***SUSPENSION OF STANDING AND SESSIONAL ORDERS: ORDER OF BUSINESS**

Mr ALISTER HENSKENS (Ku-ring-gai—Minister for Skills and Training, and Minister for Science, Innovation and Technology) (15:40): I move:

That standing and sessional orders be suspended:

- (1) On Tuesday 21 June 2022 to:
 - (a) provide for the following routine of business prior to 2.15 p.m.:
 - (i) at 12 noon, Speaker takes the chair;
 - (ii) introduction and second reading speech on the Appropriation Bill and cognate bills; and
 - (iii) Speaker to leave the chair until 2.15 p.m.
 - (b) permit the giving of general business notices of motions (general notices) at the conclusion of the routine of business after question time.
- (2) On Thursday 23 June 2022:
 - (a) interrupt the business before the House at 9.45 a.m. to permit the Leader of the Opposition to speak on the Appropriation Bill and cognate bills;
 - (b) following the speech of the Leader of the Opposition on the Appropriation Bill and cognate bills, the passage through all remaining stages, the question "That these bills be now read a second time" being put forthwith, without consideration in detail on the bills;
 - (c) a member, immediately following the passage of the Appropriation Bill and cognate bills, to move the motion "That this House take note of the Budget Estimates and related papers for 2022-2023";
 - (d) after the member has moved "That this House take note of the Budget Estimates and related papers for 2022-2023":
 - (i) the debate is to be adjourned without motion moved;
 - (ii) the resumption of the debate is to be set down as an order of the day for a later time; and
 - (iii) the mover may speak to the motion at a later time prior to their right of reply.
 - (e) the House to resume the regular routine of business, namely:
 - (i) Government business for up to 30 minutes;
 - (ii) general business notices of motions for bills for up to 20 minutes;
 - (iii) general business orders of the day for bills for up to 90 minutes; and
 - (iv) general business notices of motions or orders of the day (not being bills).
 - (f) to permit the consideration of the routine of business to continue until 2.00 p.m.

Mr RON HOENIG (Heffron) (15:42): I support the motion moved by the Leader of the House. Yesterday I apologised to the Leader of the House, who had drawn to my attention what he thought was something that I had inaccurately told the House. In the intervening period I found a document and I showed that document to the Leader of the House. Accordingly, I withdraw my apology.

The SPEAKER: That is not a matter for debate at this time. The question is that the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

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

Mrs LESLIE WILLIAMS: As Chair: In accordance with Standing Order 299 (1), I inform the House that the Committee on the Independent Commission Against Corruption has resolved to conduct an inquiry, Review of aspects of the Independent Commission Against Corruption Act 1988, the full details of which are available on the committee's home page.

*Community Recognition Statements***GUILDFORD WEST PUBLIC SCHOOL PADDOCK TO PLATE**

Mr GUY ZANGARI (Fairfield) (15:44): I congratulate Guildford West Public School on the opening of its paddock to plate kitchen. This great initiative promotes healthy eating choices for students, with produce being grown in the school garden and turned into delicious, fresh food dishes. It was great to visit and see the final

kitchen up and running and enjoy the freshly cooked homemade traditional scones. I look forward to going back and seeing future Guildford West Public School master chefs at work. I commend Principal Kerry Weston, the school P&C and the students for completing and supporting this worthy initiative.

WESTMEAD HOSPITAL PALLIATIVE CARE

Mr MARK TAYLOR (Seven Hills) (15:45): I update the House on the announcement made today by the Premier of a brand-new palliative care unit at Westmead Hospital. This new ward is part of the New South Wales Government's \$743 million investment into palliative care and other specialist health services. The facility will give residents of the local area access to the highest quality care and pain management services during some of the most trying times. This commitment will also employ 600 nurses and health professionals across the State into the palliative care specialty, ensuring patients have access to the best care possible. Palliative care staff provide some of the most extraordinary services to individuals and families in the most difficult times for our community, and we are grateful for that. I thank the palliative care staff in my local community and those who have advocated for this commitment today. It is something that I have supported for a number of years, and I am pleased to see it being delivered for the electorate of Seven Hills.

TRIBUTE TO TROY BEAVIS

Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland) (15:46): Sadly, Troy Beavis passed away on 27 May after a short two-month battle with mental illness. Troy lived in Maitland for all of his nearly 50 years, and he leaves behind his loving wife, Sally, and his children, Lachlan, Grace and James. Troy's dad, Jeff, died suddenly of a heart attack at the age of 49 when Troy was only 16, but Troy went on to complete a commerce degree at the University of Newcastle, work full-time for the family business and raise his young family. Troy and his brother Craig grew Beavis Hire to be a leading hire business in the Hunter region. In 2004 Coates acquired Beavis Hire, but "Beavo" stayed on as branch manager. Troy chaired the Harry Meyn Foundation for 15 years, supporting lifelong mates David and Sam after they lost their son Harry to brain cancer at the age of seven. Troy's own huge heart nearly gave out in 2007 whilst on holiday with his family in Perisher, but he was brought back to life by an off-duty nurse with a defibrillator. Troy was a beautiful person. On behalf of our grateful community, I thank him for his contribution. May he rest in peace.

EMERALD HILL COUNTRY WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Mr KEVIN ANDERSON (Tamworth—Minister for Lands and Water, and Minister for Hospitality and Racing) (15:47): I pay tribute to the Emerald Hill Country Women's Association, which on the weekend celebrated not one but two centenary milestones. On 2 June 1922 a group of Emerald Hill ladies were inspired to come together to improve the lives of women in their small community. In April of that year, they opened a hall with the help of the Emerald Hill progress association and set in stone two organisations that have been strong advocates for their community ever since. Communities in rural and regional New South Wales would be so much poorer without the hard work and tireless advocacy of our CWAs and progress associations. It was an honour to be able to celebrate this dual centenary with the community. I thank the progress association chair, Scott McCalman, for officiating the ceremony, Emerald Hill CWA President Maxine McDonald and all of the CWA members for hosting the event. A special congratulations to new life members Betty Herbert, Corrie Carter, Lorna Thompson and Norma Macdonald, who have been recognised for their decades of service to the CWA.

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD WINNER TONY WARD

Mr DAVID HARRIS (Wyang) (15:48): I congratulate Tony Ward of Toukley, who is the winner of Volunteering Central Coast's 2022 Volunteer of the Year award. Tony started volunteering at Wayside Chapel in the 1980s and was president of his local primary school's P&C. He has also organised logistics for environmental workshops. Tony unfortunately had a stroke in 2016 and lost his speech and his ability to read and write. Despite this, Tony volunteered at the Norah Head Lighthouse Reserve as soon as he was fit enough to walk, stabilising the steep slopes on the reserve by hammering one-metre-long stakes into the slope, placing Koppers logs behind the stakes and then planting out with lomandra. Additionally, Tony volunteers at the Norah Head Lighthouse Reserve, the local Norah Head Coastcare volunteers weeding and replanting native plants on Bush Street Reserve, the Norah Head cemetery and Jenny Dixon Beach Reserve. I congratulate Tony on all his contributions to our community. I wish him all the best for the future.

CROOKWELL DAY COUNTRY WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Mrs WENDY TUCKERMAN (Goulburn—Minister for Local Government) (15:49): I recognise the Crookwell Day branch of the Country Women's Association. The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted our communities, yet I am pleased to acknowledge and congratulate the Crookwell Day branch of the CWA for continuing to undertake a vital role in the community. The branch was awarded the Alison O'Brien Community Award for its significant contribution to the local community in 2020-21 whilst also remaining an active

participant in CWA of NSW events. The Crookwell Day CWA formed its first branch in 1922 and celebrated its centenary at this year's Crookwell Show. The Crookwell Day CWA is the oldest branch in New South Wales. It has achieved so much over its many years and has opened opportunities and improved conditions for many women and children. I congratulate all members and acknowledge the inspirational work undertaken to generate opportunity and improvement.

GRADUATE REGISTERED NURSE OF THE YEAR AWARD WINNER STACEY DENNY

Mr ROY BUTLER (Barwon) (15:50): Gilgandra nurse Stacey Denny was announced as the winner of the Western NSW Local Health District's Pauline Webster-Cox Award for Graduate Registered Nurse of the Year. The inaugural award was named in honour of nurse educator Pauline Webster-Cox and was established to recognise newly graduated nurses from the preceding year who participated in the GradStart transition to professional practice program. Stacey graduated from her nursing degree and started her graduate program in February 2021. She has been a mentor for other graduate nurses and takes pride in making sure everyone is well looked after. Stacey has become a key member of the team at Gilgandra Multipurpose Service. She is a true patient advocate and shows incredible empathy and care with every patient interaction she has. I congratulate Stacey on this achievement and wish her well in her future nursing studies.

QUEENSLIFF SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB

Mr JAMES GRIFFIN (Manly—Minister for Environment and Heritage) (15:51): I congratulate Queenscliff Surf Life Saving Club, especially President Garry Fox and the board. On Wednesday 1 June the Queenscliff Surf Life Saving Club reopened after months of renovation and refurbishment. Upgrades include a new community hall and kitchen, a renewed club and bar area, and a new lift and stairs. Further solar hot water and LED lights were installed, helping reduce the club's energy bills and emissions. These vital improvements are fantastic news for the 1,300 club members and lifeguards. The improvements will allow the surf club to provide its key services of saving lives and acting as a beacon of the community. They are doing a wonderful job at Queenscliff Beach.

EUROBODALLA LOCAL HERO DR JENNY MUNRO, AM

Dr MICHAEL HOLLAND (Bega) (15:52): On behalf of the Bega electorate, I congratulate Dr Jenny Munro, who has recently been named the Eurobodalla Local Hero for 2022. Dr Munro has served the community of Narooma for over 30 years. Her list of contributions and awards is extensive and includes Australian General Practitioner of the Year in 2011, Telstra New South Wales Women Business Owner of the Year in 2013 and Member of the Order of Australia in 2013 for services to rural medicine. Jenny has been a president of the Narooma Chamber of Commerce. She is also actively involved in the Narooma Oyster Festival and Four Winds Festival. She has established the Lighthouse Scholarship Fund to assist rural students undertaking tertiary studies away from home, is active in the Narooma Rotary Club and is an active member of the local branch of the Liberal Party. I am proud to have had a professional association with this outstanding member of our community.

HONOUR YOUR HEART WALK

Mr ADAM MARSHALL (Northern Tablelands) (15:53): I recognise the sudden passing from heart disease of Warialda resident Deb Ford. Her daughter, Natasha Price, is using the family tragedy to bring attention to heart health, potentially helping someone else avoid losing their life or a loved one. Natasha heard about the Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute, which is dedicated to finding cures for deadly heart and blood vessel conditions. To support the institute and raise heart health awareness, Natasha is holding the Honour Your Heart Walk in Warialda, which is a five-kilometre walk around Warialda, culminating in a social gathering. Locals are supporting the event and have donated raffle prizes and auction items to help raise valuable funds. Natasha is passionate about spreading heart health awareness because "the hardest thing has been knowing now that her heart had been affected all those years ago and we didn't know". Awareness could have saved Deb's life. I congratulate Natasha on organising the Honour Your Heart Walk for the benefit of the Warialda community. I commend her for using a family tragedy to help others.

NEW SOUTH WALES BAR ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT GABRIELLE BASHIR

Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect) (15:54): I offer my personal congratulations to Gabrielle Bashir, SC, on her election as president of the New South Wales Bar Association. Ms Bashir was first admitted as a legal practitioner in 1996, before being called to the New South Wales bar in 2000. In 2014 she was appointed senior counsel and has appeared before courts at all levels of the criminal justice system, commissions of inquiry and inquests, disciplinary tribunals and administrative proceedings. She also served as a director of the Law Council of Australia. Under Ms Bashir's stewardship, the New South Wales Bar Association will launch its updated Best Practice Guidelines, which incorporate recent changes to the Sex Discrimination Act 1984. President Bashir has stated that she is wholly committed to driving reform to underscore the necessity of respectful interactions in

the practice of the law and in relationships connected with that practice. She reaffirms the New South Wales Bar Association's commitment to the Uluru Statement from the Heart. She also remains committed to seeing the profession through the COVID-19 pandemic. Congratulations again to Gabrielle Bashir, SC. I look forward to working with President Bashir during her term in office.

KU-RING-GAI LITTLE ATHLETICS CENTRE

Mr ALISTER HENSKENS (Ku-ring-gai—Minister for Skills and Training, and Minister for Science, Innovation and Technology) (15:55): Each Saturday morning since 1977, young athletes and their families head to Bannockburn Oval in Pymble to compete and hone their skills in a variety of competitive sports. These competitors belong to Ku-ring-gai Little Athletics Centre, a club that has helped local young people find success in sport for over 40 years. There is no better testament to the club's success than the recent performance of two members at the Coles Australian Little Athletics Championships held in Melbourne in April. Little Athletics stars Matilda Harrison and Sarah Lovell were among two of 15 athletes chosen to represent New South Wales at the national event. Matilda, a student at Pymble Ladies' College and rising sprint star, was humble in her achievements, which included claiming gold for New South Wales in the under-13 relay team. The team finished with a remarkable 39 medals across two days. Congratulations to Matilda, Sarah, their families, President Mike Hooton and all the volunteers at Ku-ring-gai Little Athletics Centre. I am confident there will be many more achievements in the years to come.

ST ANTHONY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL GLEE CLUB

Dr MARJORIE O'NEILL (Coogee) (15:56): I acknowledge the outstanding efforts of the senior Glee Club students and their teachers from St Anthony's Catholic Primary School in Clovelly. The 17 students from years 5 and 6 competed in the Sydney Catholic Schools Dance Eisteddfod held in Burwood. The Glee Club blew the judges away with their choreography, synchronisation and energy on stage to take out second place—an amazing achievement as they competed in a division against high school students. Congratulations to the girls and to their dedicated teachers Ms Bridget O'Neill and Ms Brittany Abela, and to principal Anna Novak. The Glee Club students are to be congratulated on their outstanding effort and for representing their school and the community at such a high standard.

HOCKEY COFFS COAST

Mr GURMESH SINGH (Coffs Harbour) (15:56): Hockey Coffs Coast Under 15s have returned home from the State Championships in Parkes as the Under 15s Girls Field Hockey Champions. They came away undefeated, beating Newcastle 4-0 in the grand final. The squad is made up of Hannah Dickson, Oryn Divola, Quinn Doolan, Rose Gibson, Chloe Irwin, Anouk Laverty, Evie Laverty, Indie Laverty, Maddy Osland, Maddy Porter, Lucy Rodgers, Tayla Wallace, Imogen Webb, Gracie Winfer and captain Molly Williams. Proud coach Jonathan Williams paid tribute to the team's strong defence as the key to their great win, as they had only one goal scored against them during the whole tournament. Three of the players—Evie Laverty, Maddy Osland and Gracie Winfer—were also selected in the State squad to represent New South Wales in the Under 15s Championships. Congratulations, girls.

BIG 3 TREK FUNDRAISER ELLIE PASTOURMOGLOU

Ms YASMIN CATLEY (Swansea) (15:57): I acknowledge Ellie Pastourmoglou, who will be taking part in the Big 3 Trek to raise funds for the Mark Hughes Foundation on 29 June. Ellie was diagnosed with brain cancer when she was just 18 years old. Instead of enjoying life as an adult, Ellie had to undergo surgery to remove the tumour that was wrapped around her optic nerve. Due to this, Ellie's vision was impaired and she was forced to drop out of university—she had been studying to become a nurse. In spite of these challenges, Ellie has persevered and has achieved great things, such as gaining a job as a bookkeeper. Now she will be walking 150 kilometres from Newcastle to Sydney to raise funds for people who have also been diagnosed with brain cancer. The Mark Hughes Foundation provided support to Ellie whilst she was going through her surgery. It is fantastic to see her giving back to them in this way. I commend Ellie for taking part in the Big 3 Trek and wish her all the best for the walk and her future endeavours.

SES LIVERPOOL UNIT COMMANDER JAMES HEFFERNAN RETIREMENT

Ms MELANIE GIBBONS (Holsworthy) (15:58): I acknowledge Mr James Heffernan, who has decided to stand down from his position as SES Liverpool Unit Commander. Mr Heffernan has been with the New South Wales SES for over 18 years and has shown great leadership and hard work during some difficult times that our community has faced, from bushfires to floods to hailstorms. He was recognised for his service at the 2020 Order of Liverpool Awards with a Companion of the Order of Liverpool, which is the highest category of award. I thank Mr Heffernan for all his years of past service to the local community. I understand he is one of the longest serving members of the unit and it is great to hear that he will continue to be a volunteer, to provide support and to share

his years of knowledge with the team and the community. I have appreciated working with him. Congratulations to James Heffernan on an outstanding career.

WESTERN NSW LOCAL HEALTH DISTRICT NURSE OF THE YEAR GENIE MCMULLEN

Mr ROY BUTLER (Barwon) (15:59): Genie McMullen has been nursing in Cobar for the past 15 years. Genie was recognised as a finalist for the 2022 Western NSW Local Health District's Nurse of the Year award. Moving to Cobar from Ireland with her family in 2007, Genie came equipped with nursing qualifications, but it soon became evident that the harsh environment in Cobar was different from that of Ireland. Never discouraged, Genie strengthened her skills through her experiences in Cobar. She is a worthy model for our rural nurses who have resilience, understanding, compassion and a willingness to help in unexpected situations, at times without all the resources of their city colleagues. Genie acknowledges that, along with the challenges, the heartfelt rewards are there too. Genie has helped many community members, about which she has said, "You get to be involved in their health journey right through—from antenatal care through to palliative end-of-life care. It's a whole of life journey." I thank Genie for her generous contribution to supporting the health of the Cobar community.

BANKSTOWN POLICE AREA COMMAND AWARDS CEREMONY

Ms WENDY LINDSAY (East Hills) (16:00): Recently it was my privilege to attend the Bankstown Police Area Command awards ceremony to recognise and celebrate the hard work of the police officers who serve our local community. Bankstown is one of the busiest commands and the past few years have been some of the toughest it has faced. A lot of work is also done behind the scenes supporting those on the front line. The duties of unsworn staff often go untold, as does the endless work of the multicultural liaison officers. All of those roles are crucial and contribute directly to saving lives and keeping people safe. The Region Commander's Certificate of Merit was awarded to Constable Corban Cornish, who swiftly and effectively pursued on foot a suspect who was fleeing from police in Yagoona. The suspect was clutching a black duffle bag that was later revealed to contain a sawn-off shotgun, ammunition for his firearm and several knives. Having formerly worked in this area of Yagoona, I commend the officer for this apprehension, which I am sure was well received by residents and businesses in the area. I thank all the officers for everything they do and for keeping our community safe.

JOE WOODBURN AND EDWARD BELL-SMITH

Ms TRISH DOYLE (Blue Mountains) (16:01): I acknowledge two young work experience students Joe Woodburn and Edward Bell-Smith, who have been working alongside my fabulous staff in my electorate office this week and who today visited the New South Wales Parliament. I thank Joe and Edward for their interest in politics and for writing a couple of community recognition statements for me for the next sitting week, and for the enthusiasm they displayed when meeting some of our fantastic members of Parliament from both Houses. Highlights of their visit included chats with the members for Swansea, for Coogee, for Maitland and for Cessnock. They were also quite thrilled to run into the Treasurer in the corridor and to get a photo with the Leader of the Opposition. I thank Joe and Edward for their efforts and I look forward to reading the private member's statement that they will draft for me tomorrow.

MEGASWIM MEGA MATES

Mrs TANYA DAVIES (Mulgoa) (16:02): I take this opportunity to recognise a very dedicated group of local swimmers, nicknamed the Megaswim Mega Mates, who undertook a gruelling 24-hour swim to raise much-needed funds for charity. Representing Glenmore Park High School was Joshua Auld, Talan Quinn and Emma Borg. Representing Penola Catholic College was Jack, William and Ava Barry, and representing Penrith Anglican College was Klarissa Goodwin. They swam over 89 kilometres over 24 hours and raised more than \$11,000. The money raised will go towards MS Go for Gold Scholarships, financial assistance programs and providing services to directly benefit people living with multiple sclerosis. Thank you to all the incredible swimmers who took part in this effort to help make a difference to the lives of sufferers of MS. They have all made a significant contribution.

RURAL WATCH

Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland) (16:03): May 2022 marked the thirtieth anniversary of Rural Watch in Millers Forest and Duckenfield, a group that was formed to create closer ties with neighbours in its rural location, help form strong relationships with the police and deter criminals. Rural Watch prides itself on being neighbours looking out for each other. It is a welcoming group that encourages anyone moving to the area to get involved in its monthly meetings, with the group having a focus on building a sense of community. On 17 May the group hosted its thirtieth anniversary celebration, which was a huge success. It was a special milestone and represents decades of commitment to the Maitland community. I congratulate current president Gloria Green and members Bill and Pat Munton, who have been integral to the success of Rural Watch in Millers Forest and Duckenfield, with all three being members since its formation. At the very first meeting, Bill took on the role of

inaugural president and Gloria the role of secretary. They are still around, and Pat Munton is now the secretary. I congratulate all members on the achievement of 30 years and their efforts to make our community safer and stronger.

PARLIAMENTARY FRIENDS OF GREYHOUND RACING

Mr NATHANIEL SMITH (Wollondilly) (16:05): Yesterday in this building I had the pleasure of attending a meeting of the Parliamentary Friends of Greyhound Racing, a friendship group that I co-chair with my colleague the member for Fairfield and the secretary, the member for Barwon. Greyhound racing has many friends in this building. Myself, Guy Zangari, Roy Butler and approximately 20 other colleagues were updated on the activities of the Greyhounds As Pets program [GAP], a not-for-profit initiative coordinated by Greyhound Racing NSW. GAP promotes the merits of greyhounds as pets, facilitates adoption through responsible rehoming practices and educates industry participants about options available for their greyhounds after racing. Headed up by the impressive Dr Alicia Fuller, GAP matches greyhounds to each individual adopter. Lastly, my thanks go to the outgoing CEO of Greyhound Racing NSW, Mr Tony Mestrov. On behalf of the Parliamentary Friends of Greyhound Racing, I wish him well in his new role as the CEO of the Manly Warringah Sea Eagles. As a lifelong Tigers fan, I can only hope he is not as successful with the Sea Eagles as he was at Greyhound Racing NSW over the past five years.

AUTHOR SULARI GENTILL

Dr JOE McGIRR (Wagga Wagga) (16:06): The community of Batlow has long been recognised for its beautiful mountain scenery and its biggest export, apples. But those delicious Batlow apples have growing competition in the export stakes in the form of internationally recognised author Sulari Gentill. The former lawyer, who has also studied astrophysics, is based in Batlow with her family. She is much loved in my household—especially by my youngest daughter, Anna—for her series of young adult books, but also for her more recent novels, which were mostly written from her Batlow home. In just 15 years she has produced an impressive 15 novels, which have been welcomed by a growing audience. I was pleased to be on hand in Wagga Wagga recently when Ms Gentill's most recent work, *The Woman in the Library*, was officially launched. I am delighted to see that, as a local writer, Ms Gentill considers the support of local bookstores and libraries to be very important. Wagga Wagga City Library is a wonderful community facility that not only is filled with resources but also provides a warm, friendly environment that welcomes members of the community.

SENIOR CITIZEN OF THE YEAR CAROLYN OSMOND

Mr ADAM MARSHALL (Northern Tablelands) (16:07): I recognise Mrs Carolyn Osmond, who has been an outstanding resident of the Moree Plains shire since relocating from the city to experience her love of all things that the bush offered. There she met her late husband, Bruce Osmond. Together they made a life on the land, raising three boys and being involved as a family in community events, pony club, tennis club, church activities and school. In 1981 the family moved to Moree and Carolyn began her nursery business, the iconic Fork and Spade Garden Centre. Gardening was in the family genes and Carolyn's business thrived, along with her involvement as founding member of the Moree Garden Club, donations to local shows and garden competitions, visits to Fairview and the gardens there. She was an original member of the Main Street Committee and the Moree Plains Urban Advisory Committee. She has been an ambassador for tourism for the whole of Moree Plains. It is only natural that Carolyn would be honoured for her service to the district, which Moree bestowed by naming her Senior Citizen of the Year for 2022. I congratulate Mrs Osmond on her many achievements and commend her for her valuable contribution to the community.

SURF LIFE SAVING SYDNEY EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Dr MARJORIE O'NEILL (Coogee) (16:08): I give a massive congratulations to all the nominees and winners at this year's Surf Life Saving Sydney Excellence Awards. Once again, the eastern suburbs beaches dominated. I give a massive congratulations to Coogee Surf Life Saving Club on being awarded community education program of the year for Project Libertas. I could not think of a more deserving program to win the award. I congratulate community educators Glen Clarke and Stewart Wells from Clovelly on their wins. A huge congratulations goes to Doug Hawkins, who had his life membership induction. Our young athletes were absolute stars. We took the Junior Team of the Year award, and young women Bronte Bloxsom and Kathryn Jordan each won Junior Female Athlete of the Year in their age categories. In their capable hands, I have no doubt at all about the safety of the eastern suburbs beaches. I know we will continue to punch above our weight in these awards for decades to come. I congratulate all nominees and award winners for their hard work and dedication. I am so proud of our local community.

COMMUNITY MORNING TEA

Ms MELANIE GIBBONS (Holsworthy) (16:09): I recently hosted a community morning tea at the Bellbird cafe in the Casula Powerhouse for local seniors and multicultural leaders from the community. It was great to have the Hon. Mark Coure, MP, Minister for Multiculturalism and Minister for Seniors, join us. He came to speak to the locals and update them on what the Government is doing to support seniors and multicultural groups in New South Wales. The Minister also answered questions from locals, and it was a great opportunity for him to learn about different issues in our area. Community leaders joined us from various community groups, such as Liverpool Meals on Wheels, Turbans 4 Australia and Liverpool Scout Group. I enjoy hosting morning teas like that one as it gives me a chance to catch up with local residents and to have a Minister or another special guest join us so that they are aware of things happening in the Holsworthy electorate. I thank the Minister for being the special guest at my community morning tea, and I look forward to hosting another in the future.

THE LAKES SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB

Ms YASMIN CATLEY (Swansea) (16:10): I acknowledge The Lakes Surf Life Saving Club for celebrating the completion of the 2021-22 surf lifesaving season last month. Like past years, the club worked tirelessly to ensure that each and every beachgoer was safe. This season, the club's volunteer lifesavers completed a staggering total of 28 rescues and 74 first-aid response events, and spent over 5,700 hours on patrol. This was in spite of enduring many unique challenges, such as assisting during the flood crisis and dealing with tsunami warnings, extreme weather, dangerous surf and extensive coastal erosion. These efforts are a credit to each and every one of the club's volunteers, who strive to keep visitors to their beach safe. The volunteers are so committed to their role that they have already started preparing for the 2022-23 season by planning their training and development programs. I congratulate The Lakes Surf Life Saving Club on their work this season and wish them all the best for the seasons ahead.

FLASH ME PHOTOBOOTH

Mrs TANYA DAVIES (Mulgoa) (16:11): I recognise and congratulate Flash Me Photobooths, a small business from Glenmore Park which was recently selected to be promoted in Telstra's Big Plugs for Small Business. Many small businesses bore the brunt of COVID-19 and its economic impacts over the past two years. I am proud of the many small businesses in my community, such as Flash Me Photobooths, that remained resilient and never gave up. Flash Me Photobooths was promoted and showcased during round eight of the 2022 AFL premiership between the Greater Western Sydney Giants and the Geelong Cats at Manuka Oval in the ACT. I congratulate Flash Me Photobooths on this achievement.

WEST MAITLAND CENTENNIAL LIONS CLUB

Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland) (16:12): I acknowledge the fantastic efforts of the West Maitland Centennial Lions Club. Its selfless members recently raised \$4,000 from their Australia's Biggest Morning Tea function at the Telarah Bowling Club, with two awesome causes, Variety Hair with Heart and Cancer Council NSW, the major beneficiaries. The money will support those people who have, or had, the insidious disease. The club hosted a lucky door prize, stalls, raffles, guest speakers and lots of fun. A major highlight, however, was seeing president Wilma Lilley, Elizabeth Lilley and Lyn Dark each chopping off 30 centimetres of their luscious locks for wig libraries and to help build the fundraising coffers. All three displayed plenty of bravery to do that, especially so close to winter. From all reports I believe the day was fabulous, with 80 people in attendance. Full credit must go to Lyn Dark and Graham Dark, OAM, for working so hard to organise the fundraiser. I congratulate everyone involved in the very successful event.

FOREVER JOHNNO FUNDRAISER

Dr MARJORIE O'NEILL (Coogee) (16:13): I take this opportunity to thank everyone who took part in making the Forever Johnno twenty-second annual fundraiser such a huge success. Last month I was honoured to attend the Forever Johnno fundraiser at the Coogee Bay Hotel, in loving memory of John Anders Ward. It is truly a fantastic community fundraiser, raising funds for an important cause in a way that brings us all together. It is also an opportunity for us to remember and reflect on Johnno's life and come together with those that mattered most to him to continue his legacy. All proceeds from the fundraiser go to the transplant unit's Clancy Ward at the Children's Hospital at Westmead. This year's event was the twenty-second annual Forever Johnno fundraiser and the first one in person for three years. I thank and congratulate everyone who made it possible. Their hard work, perseverance and dedication to such an important cause is so valued by our community. I thank everyone who attended and donated.

AUTISM ADVISORY SUPPORT SERVICE

Ms MELANIE GIBBONS (Holsworthy) (16:13): I recognise Autism Advisory Support Service, which recently received a \$15,000 grant from the Minister for Health, Brad Hazzard. Grace Fava and her team at Autism Advisory Support Service do incredible work to assist the community and families who have a family member with autism by providing a range of support, advocacy, education and guidance services. The team works to empower children and adults with autism and their families through services such as therapy, carer support, social skills groups and NDIS assistance. They also guide schools in how to best assist individual students. The grant will go a long way to help Autism Advisory Support Service enhance its services and support. I commend Grace and the entire team at Autism Advisory Support Service for continuing to provide support and services to those with autism and their families. I look forward to seeing what the future holds for the organisation.

Private Members' Statements

ORGANISED CRIME AND GUN VIOLENCE

Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect) (16:15): As a strong advocate for law enforcement, I speak to raise awareness of an issue of increasing concern to families and the NSW Police Force in the electorate of Prospect and indeed throughout New South Wales—the rising scourge of organised crime in our State and the New South Wales Government's lack of action to keep our community safe. Illicit drug trafficking and supply, human trafficking, money laundering, fraud, murder and extortion have grown significantly. Research undertaken by the Australian Institute of Criminology [AIC] identified that between 2020 and 2021 direct organised crime cost \$37.3 billion in damage to individuals, the private sector and government. The AIC also found that consequential organised crime cost an additional \$6.4 billion to those groups.

The prevention and response costs incurred by law enforcement, the criminal justice system, the private sector and individuals in our community is approximately \$16.4 billion. Clearly the rise in organised crime is costing our State billions of dollars. The scourge of organised crime is not only infringing on the safety of our community but also placing a heavy burden on the taxpayer. The increase in organised crime in New South Wales is apparent from the consistent rise in gang-related gun violence, recent homicides and serious injury to victims. Since the new year, there have been five gang-related firearm murders and countless shootings in western Sydney.

During the 1990s the State of Victoria faced a similar problem. Organised crime gangs were settling disputes through shootings, bombings and murder. The Victorian police response was slow due to the attitude that as long as the criminals were shooting each other it did not matter. That view changed drastically when a senior criminal identity was murdered at a children's sporting event as children sat terrified. Sadly, I have seen similar misinformed comments by members of this Parliament in the media. We should never have a situation in New South Wales where criminals settle their disputes through violence. The rule of law governs justice in our society. It must always be the role of law enforcement and the legal system to deliver justice in New South Wales. Justice must never be determined by criminals.

It has become clear that if the Perrottet Government will not take on criminals who use guns to settle disputes or give law enforcement officers the support, resources and direction they need, it is time for our local community organisations to take up the challenge. In addition to the actions of the NSW Police Force, the most enduring fix will come from the combined efforts of community groups exerting pressure on the Government to break the culture of gang and criminal activity that supports recourse to gun use as an acceptable means of dispute resolution. The police area commands [PACs] and specialist law enforcement units in our community have been making a concerted effort to tackle the threat of organised crime. However, the lack of funding for PACs has left many under-resourced and understaffed, which has caused delays in responding to organised crime.

Apart from the constant challenge of organised crime and the resulting pressures on our community, the NSW Police Force has been greatly weakened by the inappropriate restructuring of local area commands. Recently police response times in western Sydney have been criticised. But those who criticise the NSW Police Force for those delays simply demonstrate their ignorance of the conditions under which New South Wales police officers have to operate. In addition to lack of funding, amalgamations of PACs have resulted in their size significantly increasing. It is far harder for PACs to service those large amalgamated local government areas due to longer distances and significantly increased populations. But the problems are not just at an operational level. Leadership is also an issue. Another challenge faced by police in tackling organised crime is the misdirected, competing priorities of the current police Minister, Paul Toole. He serves as Deputy Premier and as Minister for Regional New South Wales. It has become obvious that his priority is that ministerial portfolio, not his police portfolio.

The police Minister's slow response in tackling organised crime, which overwhelmingly occurs in urban areas such as western Sydney, proves it is not a priority for him. Western Sydney's communities deserve a police Minister who will prioritise combating rising organised crime. The New South Wales Government must listen to

the concerns raised by the NSW Police Force, particularly in Western Sydney. The Government must take the threat of organised crime in New South Wales seriously and commit to its responsibility of keeping our community safe.

PROJECT YOUTH

Ms ELENi PETINOS (Miranda—Minister for Small Business, and Minister for Fair Trading)
(16:20): I acknowledge the incredible work of Project Youth. Established in 1992, Project Youth was founded by three members of our local community to focus on housing and street-based outreach. Right from the start, the group worked collaboratively, sharing ideas and focusing on creative solutions for young people in need of support. A 1993 annual report described the then Eastern Area Service for Youth as a highly innovative, proactive and preventative organisation that gives many young people the opportunity to discuss their circumstances and make informed decisions about their future. Today Project Youth still believes all young people, regardless of the disadvantage they may face, deserve the opportunity to thrive.

By 2002 the small group had multiplied. It changed its name to Shire Wide Youth Services and expanded its work to include early intervention programs. By 2008 its main office moved to the Miranda electorate, where it is still based. The group has extended its range of services to include parenting programs, drop-in services and community events. Project Youth now operates 23 services in three streams: early intervention; education, employment and training; and housing and homelessness. The early intervention team runs lots of free programs to help young people to be safe, happy, healthy and able to make informed decisions. Those programs aim to intervene early to reduce and stop escalation of issues and concerns that young people may be facing. They include drop-in sessions, one-on-one support, family conversations and family therapy.

Underemployment and unemployment is a prevalent issue for young people. Project Youth works hard to tackle these problems through two social enterprises. Firstly, Labour Y focuses on the education and training of young people and collaborates with companies that offer employment opportunities. The fantastic team works with young people to secure jobs in areas such as hairdressing, beauty therapy, hospitality, manual labour and nursing. In addition, Labour Y runs free courses to further training for individuals, including hospitality courses, special effects make-up, horticulture courses and photography workshops. Secondly, Cafe Y is a vibrant social cafe that supports the training of young people in hospitality and cooking. Each year more than 60 young people undertake training and placements through Cafe Y, where they gain cooking, barista and front-of-house skills. For young people facing disadvantage, this fantastic cafe offers a fresh start and the tools to secure a job and live independently.

One of the greatest things about the cafe is that 100 per cent of the profits go back into supporting young people by providing local solutions for local needs. Recently I visited Cafe Y, where I enjoyed a delicious hot chocolate and a freshly baked scone made by the wonderful team. In particular I acknowledge Natasha Ransford, Casey Stevens and Kesia Chabros along with manager Karen Tsoumbaras. In addition to the fantastic programs Project Youth runs, the organisation offers a four-stage housing system that provides accommodation for young people in crisis, which transitions them into independent living or back to their family home. In the Sutherland shire and Georges River, Project Youth currently runs over 70 beds across two crisis refuges, transitional housing and semi-independent housing. It also offers a Rent Choice Youth Subsidy program, which is an optional pathway for eligible young people.

Project Youth has made an incredible impact on young people in the Sutherland shire. In 2021 over 4,000 people were helped and 3,358 young people were supported through early intervention programs. Of course, none of Project Youth's success would be possible without the commitment of board members Louise Birnie, Pauline Barker, Naomi Bryant, Tanya Hardy, Melinda Graczol, Tsae Liew, Jennifer Rayner and Peter Taniane. I also acknowledge the incredible team members who have been instrumental in the delivery of the programs offered by Program Youth.

I thank Aidan Donohoe, Brianna Morris, Brooke Horne, Carlee Heise, Charlotte Mansfield, Claudia Validum, Claudine Trevena, Daniel Faour, Elizabeth Turbet, Emily Thurgar, Emma Davey, Evonne Manias, Hayley Munro, Jade Adam, Jade Bankier, Jen McDonald, Jodie Darge, Julie McAlpine, Justin Ng, Kathryn Gilligan, Kevin Crowe, Kiera Daly, Kirby Mead, Larra Faraj, Louise Woods, Maddison Bryant, Max Prout, Merveille Omari, Michelle Henry, Michelle Wallis, Mikayla MacLean, Natasha Doherty, Nell Fewell, Pat Thomas, Pennys General, Querida Faber, Rachel Hembrow, Rikki Ellwood, Romina Toledo Garcia, Rose Sacco, Ruby Ward, Sally Llewelyn, Shafia Birem, Shona Newbury, Stacey Donohoe, Stella Simmance, Teagan Palmer, Tiana Russell and Yvonne McDonell. I thank the team at Project Youth for the ongoing work it does in our local community.

KEMPSEY CIRCLE SENTENCING

Mrs MELINDA PAVEY (Oxley) (16:25): Recently Kempsey's Aboriginal Services Unit senior Aboriginal client and community support officer, the wonderful Victor Darcy, arranged a presentation and thanked the Kempsey community for its support of the circle sentencing program. Run by the Aboriginal Services Unit in the Department of Communities and Justice, the program was recognised by the NSW Premier's Awards for tackling longstanding social challenges. The ceremony was attended by very well-respected retired magistrate Wayne Evans, local Elder Aunty Mavis Davis, Elders and other respected people.

I mentioned the over-representation of Aboriginal people in the criminal justice system in my contribution to the 25-year commemoration of the apology to the Stolen Generations in this House. We as a Government are committed to reducing the number of Aboriginal people in custody, improving Aboriginal outcomes in criminal justice and tackling the deep-rooted causes of Aboriginal disadvantage. The New South Wales Government is implementing a range of initiatives to address the over-representation of Aboriginal people in the justice system, including increased opportunities for offenders to be supervised in the community and receive tailored interventions that are proven to reduce reoffending.

The circle sentencing program is breaking down barriers between Aboriginal people and the justice system in local courts in rural, regional and metropolitan areas. The program leaves the punishment of convicted offenders to a group comprising Indigenous Elders, the magistrate, police, legal officials, parents or guardians, and victims. New South Wales offers the circle sentencing program as an alternative sentencing court for adult Aboriginal offenders not only in Kempsey but also throughout regional New South Wales, including the Nambucca Valley. Respected Aboriginal community members, the local magistrate, support people and the victim sit in a circle to discuss the offender and the offending behaviour. The offender is sentenced by community members with the full sentencing powers of the court and the magistrate makes sure that the sentence complies with law.

The objectives of the circle sentencing program are to include members of Aboriginal communities in the sentencing process, to increase the confidence of Aboriginal communities in the sentencing process, to reduce barriers between Aboriginal communities and the courts, to provide more appropriate sentencing options for Aboriginal offenders, to provide effective support to victims of offences by Aboriginal offenders, to provide for the greater participation of Aboriginal offenders and their victims in the sentencing process, to increase the awareness of Aboriginal offenders of the consequences of their offences on their victims and the Aboriginal communities to which they belong, and to reduce recidivism in Aboriginal communities.

In May 2020 the Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research released its latest report on circle sentencing. The study looked at 656 Aboriginal offenders who completed the program and found that when compared to Aboriginal offenders sentenced in the traditional way, offenders participating in circle sentencing were 9.3 percentage points less likely to receive a prison sentence and 3.9 percentage points less likely to reoffend within 12 months and took 55 days longer to reoffend if they did. In Kempsey, circle sentencing has been operating since 2005, with its first circle in 2006. It expanded to Nambucca Valley in 2009. Since 2005 there have been 226 circles in Kempsey. In 2022 five circles have been completed in Kempsey and three in Nambucca. In 2021, 13 circles were completed in Kempsey. In 2020 four circles were completed in Nambucca. I thank everyone in the local Indigenous community, the police and the justice system for their support of the circle sentencing program. The Premier's award is a testament to their efforts.

Because of other commitments I had in my diary, the Federal Member for Cowper, Pat Conaghan, attended the presentation. Pat, as a former policeman and police prosecutor, was a very important attendee at that event. I highlight the work Victor Darcy has been doing and look forward to catching up with him. Tomorrow Pat Conaghan and I will be taking a big step forward in a project for Kempsey, which will include special accommodation for teenagers, families and mums at risk. At the heart of that will be a kitchen, because too many kids in our community do not get to have a meal at night. We want them to have a safe place to go to, to have food and to be loved and looked after. That is very much at the heart of what we need to do. Ensuring that kids are looked after when there is no-one else able to do the job is the best thing we can do to get better outcomes, and we need better outcomes.

Mr GEOFF PROVEST (Tweed) (16:30): I applaud the member for Oxley for her interest in and concern for circle sentencing. A number of years ago I led a parliamentary inquiry into circle sentencing, or Koori Court. We spent a whole day at Parramatta and witnessed a number of cases going through that process. It is a very worthwhile exercise, with proven results. The member for Oxley's deep commitment to her electorate and her support of circle sentencing, or Koori Court, should be applauded. It will have great benefits in years to come in her electorate of Oxley. The member has done well.

ORGAN DONATION REGISTER AND ROBERT MANNING

Mr DAVID MEHAN (The Entrance) (16:30): I inform the House of the work of my constituent Robert Manning. He describes himself as the luckiest man alive. Robert is concerned about the low rate of organ and tissue donation in this State and wants to do more to improve that, because he is a recipient of a donated organ. I asked him to put his experience in his own words so that I could relay them to this House. He said:

... I benefited from everything going precisely to plan. My illness was quickly diagnosed by an amazing General Practitioner. My condition was expertly treated and managed by an amazing team of doctors and nurses at both the Royal North Shore and Royal Prince Alfred Hospitals. Then when the time came and my health catastrophically deteriorated, landing me in a coma from the 19th December 2021, I found myself in the hands of the best possible surgical and transplant teams and the recipient of a perfect liver from a generous donor whose family consented to the donation at a time of impossible sadness. I am forever grateful that my donor family consented to the gift of life and will now and always passionately advocate and promote awareness of Consent.

Robert reckons we can do better. After he advocated at my office, I must agree with him. New South Wales has the lowest rate of donor consent of all the States. People can register their consent to donate organs and tissues on the Australian Organ Donor Register, which is a national register. In New South Wales, organ donation registration was removed from the driver licence renewal process when the national register was created. The national register sits above the work done by NSW Health, who is ultimately responsible for the organ and tissue donation service in this State, working underneath that national register.

Under the Human Tissue Act 1983, the next of kin of a deceased person can decide not to donate, even if the deceased person was a registered donor. So consent is the key. That is what my constituent Robert Manning is all about. As Robert pointed out to me, New South Wales is at the back of the pack. The consent rate in this State is at 51 per cent, which is the lowest of all the States. I will not go through the other States except to note that South Australia has a consent rate of 73 per cent. So we can do much better. South Australia retained the option of persons being able to give donor consent as part of their licence renewal, which automatically updates the national register.

New South Wales has a government plan for increasing organ donation in New South Wales dated 2012. The plan has clearly failed and needs to be reviewed and updated. It has a photograph of the Hon. Jillian Skinner, who has not been the health Minister for a very long time. My constituent believes that a return to organ donation registration as part of the driver licence process is key to improving consent because it generates discussion amongst families about the decision of those who want to donate their organs. He has also suggested that posthumous recognition of next of kin who grant consent would encourage community discussion and improve the donation consent rates in this State.

We can do much better. Other States have done it. We need to ensure that more people who voluntarily decide to donate their organs make the step of getting themselves registered and have their wish granted by their next of kin. I commend Robert Manning for his work and encourage all members of this House, in particular the Government, to have a look at this issue. We can do better in New South Wales. Other States are doing better. We can improve the health and health outcomes for all of our citizens by making this process work a little better in this State.

ROTARY CLUB OF RICHMOND

Ms ROBYN PRESTON (Hawkesbury) (16:35): I congratulate the Rotary Club of Richmond on reaching a major milestone in its history as it celebrates 50 years. A fiftieth anniversary does not come around every day, so I acknowledge the Rotary Club of Richmond on this special occasion and thank them for their generous contribution to our local community. Recently club members and other attendees rang in the fiftieth anniversary with a dinner, which I attended. It was a night of fun, and I was very excited to be there to applaud the Rotary Club of Richmond members on this special occasion.

My genuine thanks go to immediate past president of Richmond Rotary Tim Bickford, whom we celebrated and farewelled on Monday night. I thank Tim for his work as president and for using his time to give back to our wonderful community. I also extend congratulations to Jo Dunstan of Angels Florist in South Windsor on her appointment as the new president of Rotary Club of Richmond. I am looking forward to seeing her succeed in this new position. I was pleased to meet District Governor Lindsay May, OAM, from Lane Cove Rotary at the celebration on Monday night and, as luck would have it, we have a friend in common. My Uncle Kevin was also a Lane Cove Rotarian and actually recruited Lindsay into the club decades ago—just another example of Rotary bringing communities together.

The Rotary Club is at the forefront of community life and works tirelessly to make sure its members and the locals feel supported in their daily lives. From supporting young people in Hawkesbury through exchange programs to assisting during catastrophic events, such as the bushfires and floods that Hawkesbury has endured, Richmond Rotary Club has its finger on the pulse of its community. The Rotary Club of Richmond provides a

place for people to gather and connect, which we need now more than ever after the past two years of COVID-induced lockdowns and isolation. The solitude many people experienced as a result of these lockdowns left a lasting impact, and it is so important to recognise organisations such as Rotary clubs whose mission is to provide services to others and facilitate goodwill and peace.

I was pleased to see how the Rotary Club of Richmond adapted to the unique challenges of COVID-19 and ensured that those people who found comfort in their exchanges with the organisation continued to have access to meetings. I attended quite a few Zoom meetings at the time we were all in lockdown due to COVID. As physical meetings were not always possible due to the pandemic, Richmond Rotary found a way to keep connected with its members by moving online. In this way, Rotarians stayed happy and healthy as meetings continued in a safe environment. Helping organise events such as a weekly meat raffle at Richmond Golf Club—or "the Golfy"—Richmond Rotary Club has always found ways to bring locals together to relax and have fun and, if they are lucky, win a meat tray to throw on the barbeque.

Rotarians provide valuable services to the community, often forfeiting their own free time to give back to locals. This year's Hawkesbury Show was a prime example, with members volunteering to help out at the stalls, including the canteen, and to run ticket sales. Young people from the region also lent a helping hand and boosted Richmond Rotary's presence at the 2022 show by volunteering through the club. I also express my gratitude to the Rotary Club of Richmond members for their unfailing efforts to support Hawkesbury in its times of need. To highlight just a couple of occasions, it was wonderful to see them supporting the NSW RFS Hawkesbury Catering Brigade during the Black Summer bushfires of 2019-20.

Even more recently, club members showed up time and again to support locals through the successive devastating floods Hawkesbury suffered in 2020, 2021 and again in 2022. It takes a very special person to keep showing up in times of crisis, when stress levels are high and crews are facing often dangerous conditions. I am proud to say the Rotary Club of Richmond fit the bill. They have supported Hawkesbury communities for five decades and I am confident there will be many more years of service ahead of them. I send my best wishes to the Rotary Club of Richmond. Its members' efforts, generous spirit and life skills continue to shine in our community, and I congratulate them on many jobs well done.

DUNGOG SHIRE ROADS

Mr DAVID LAYZELL (Upper Hunter) (16:40): Tonight the member for Tweed asked me what I was going to speak about, and I have kept him on the edge of his seat because it is a very important subject. It is the subject of roads. I can tell you, in Dungog shire it is a very important issue. The member for Cessnock knows how important it is for the people of Dungog. For many years Dungog shire has built up a reputation of having some of the worst roads in the State. That is something that we need to change. We are well and truly on our way. If we are not talking about potholes, we are talking about bridges that are falling down. It is really important to the people of Dungog.

I will provide an update to the House about the Dungog roads and bridges. Last Friday I hosted the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads to inspect the progress of works in the Dungog shire. The number of projects in the Dungog shire about to start or finish or are under plan is numerous. We spent the whole day touring around the electorate. I acknowledge the participation of Dungog's mayor, Councillor John Connors, with the assistance of the shire council's general manager, Gareth Curtis, and his staff, as well as Anna Zycki, Transport for NSW Regional Director, Northern Region.

The pipeline for work in the Dungog shire is enormous. I am talking about an \$88 million investment in roads and bridges. I plan to change the reputation of Dungog shire from having the worst roads in the State to that of rolling green hills and a happy populace who can drive around happy in their cars every day without spilling their coffee. That is a good test of roads in our part of the State. I will talk about the programs, including special purpose grants—Fixing Country Roads and Fixing Country Bridges—and a number of other black spot programs. I will start with the special purpose grant.

At the by-election, we managed to get a focus on the roads in Dungog. We looked at what the issues were and how we needed to raise the standard across the region. So \$25 million was put into roads in the area, and I can report back to the House that the process of assessing roads has been done. Coordinating and collaborating with the council, we have highlighted exactly which roads that \$25 million is going to be spent on. We have a schedule and we have signed the deeds with the council. The council will now be undertaking that work. Using the test of the coffee in the car, Stroud Hill Road traditionally is known for losing at least half a cup of coffee by the time you have gone over the potholes. Now I can say that \$3.1 million of that \$25 million is going to Stroud Hill Road.

That is very good news for the people of Dungog. The Fixing Country Roads program is putting in an enormous amount of work. On the southern side of Dungog shire, Clarence Town Road is being well and truly

upgraded. I receive complaints about roadworks there all the time. They are the sort of complaints I like to receive. That work is happening. The road from Maitland is well and truly on its way. Going forward, we will see the Western Access Road heading towards Gresford and Singleton upgraded, as well as the eastern road heading to Stroud. That is a lot of work being undertaken.

Fixing Country Bridges is a great news story. We have so many timber bridges in the Dungog shire. We have been blessed with timber in the past, but we have to upgrade to concrete and that is happening all through the Dungog region. At the moment we have 23 bridges being upgraded. That will make a big difference to bringing cattle and feed in and out and will help our economy. The Black Spot Program is underway. I can report to the House that the state of Dungog roads will get a lot better during my time in this place.

WYONG HOSPITAL STAFFING

Mr DAVID HARRIS (Wyong) (16:45): I raise a very important issue, not just for my electorate but for electorates across the Central Coast. I will write to the Minister for Health, Brad Hazzard, but I raise the issue now because I want to give the Government a reality check about what is happening out there on the ground with medical services. I recently met with the Health Services Union and the medical imaging staff from the Wyong Hospital. They informed me of a proposal to cut medical imaging staff at both Gosford and Wyong hospitals, including but not limited to radiographers and administrative roles. They outlined how this would cause a detrimental effect to the provision of imaging services not just to my electorate but also to the electorates of The Entrance, Gosford, Terrigal and Swansea.

In summary, the restructure plan consists of radiographer staff cuts of 3.5 full-time equivalent [FTE] staff at Wyong Hospital and 4.5 FTE staff at Gosford Hospital; the loss of a chief radiographer at Wyong Hospital; no staffing allocation for the newly installed second CT scanner at Wyong Hospital; and reduction in administrative assistance hours and FTE allocations. The Central Coast Local Health District is already struggling to cope with demand from the growing population and increased reliance on imaging services. The proposed cuts will sustain further delays, intensify the bed block crisis, delay ambulances, unnecessarily extend lengths of admission for inpatients, delay or cancel outpatient services, and delay emergency department [ED] turnaround times.

Common sense would indicate that cutting staff levels is not a good strategy to improve healthcare services that Central Coast residents deserve. Potentially dangerous delays regularly occur at Wyong Hospital due to not staffing the second CT scanner. The staff there fear that the proposed cuts in an already understaffed department will further increase risks and wait times, resulting in bed block for the entire hospital. They told me that they perform interventional radiological [IR] procedures in CT as the alternative to invasive surgical procedures; however, this in turn shuts down the availability of the CT scanner for emergency referrals. They told me that the previous week, for example, a scan of a five-week-old baby in resus was delayed due to scanner unavailability. Furthermore, in the week that we met, a large backlog of ED referrals resulted in an ED patient requiring an IR procedure at 4.00 p.m. followed by a critical COVID intensive care unit patient at 5.30 p.m.

We should be proud that Wyong Hospital can provide IR procedures to our community, but without staffing the second CT scanner, it comes at a large cost to the hospital, it is detrimental to the efficiency of the already stressed hospital and causes delays in care to the Central Coast community. The staff believe that an additional staff member should be added to the night shift for patient safety, work health and safety concerns, and efficiencies in workflow. They have requested me to get in touch with the health Minister and ask that he rescind the proposed medical imaging restructure, refuse the cutting of staff in the already stretched local health district, and support a full financial investigation into the budget of Central Coast Local Health District medical imaging.

The staff had genuine concerns, but not because they thought that they were going to lose their jobs; it was all about the impact on patients. They provide a service that saves lives, yet they are restricted in what they can do. I asked the health Minister to look into the issue. I know the Government has now announced additional funding. What we find on this side of the House—and I assume those on the other side do as well—is that whilst there are announcements of lots of dollars, the reality is that our health districts are constantly cutting staff and cutting corners, which impacts on patients. I heard the member for Northern Tablelands talk about this as well. We need proper administration of these funds to ensure that our frontline health workers can do the job they need to do and that the government dollars are going to the right places. This is an important issue, not just for the Central Coast but for electorates right across New South Wales.

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK

Mr MARK TAYLOR (Seven Hills) (16:50): I acknowledge the fantastic work done by volunteers across the electorate of Seven Hills and the State. National Volunteer Week began on 16 May with a celebration that ended on 22 May. Although a single week is not enough to fully thank and appreciate volunteers across our State, it is a great opportunity for organisations across local communities to pay forward the generous spirit that

characterises volunteering. National Volunteer Week is a dedicated event to thank the more than six million Australians who volunteer their time in their local communities, such as Seven Hills. Volunteers come from all walks of life—students, teachers, professionals, retirees—and they come from all corners of New South Wales. They form the lifeblood of our local communities, manning the barbeque on weekends at their local sporting club, taking time off work to battle bushfires or floods or helping deliver much-needed aid to people doing it tough.

Volunteering Australia is an organisation founded under the National Secretariat Program and represents the peak body for volunteering in the country. The group advocates for a range of programs and services, all aimed at increasing the resources allocated towards volunteering efforts throughout our communities. Most recently some of those programs include providing resources for volunteers who have assisted in national disaster recovery, notably the 2019-2020 bushfires in New South Wales. They also offer programs to assist volunteers in the care and support sectors, particularly those impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The flagship event directed by Volunteering Australia is National Volunteer Week. The theme for 2022 is Better Together. This theme highlights the core principle behind the volunteering spirit. National Volunteer Week is a chance for all of us to celebrate and recognise the vital work that volunteers do throughout our communities. The New South Wales Government has increased its investment into volunteering across the State with its 2020-2030 Volunteering Strategy. The strategy is implemented across a range of sectors, with the primary focus being growing, valuing, investing and maintaining the volunteer base of our State. The strategy also focuses on making volunteering opportunities more accessible for members of our communities. Volunteering has a variety of benefits for individuals, including better mental health outcomes, improved social skills, personal satisfaction, and gaining a wide range of skills and experiences. In the electorate of Seven Hills the tireless local volunteers are always working to improve our local community.

The Seven Hills electorate and surrounding community is home to multiple SES units, with bases located in Blacktown, Parramatta and the Hills. Other emergency response groups include the RFS further afield, the Australian Red Cross, particularly around the Parramatta area, and multiple police units. The electorate of Seven Hills also hosts a number of community aid groups who use their resources to assist individuals in need. Some of the groups are well developed and have national identities, such as the St Vincent de Paul Society and the Salvation Army, more commonly known as Vinnies and the Salvos. More localised groups include the many P&C associations, Rotary clubs, Lions clubs, returned and services leagues, local bushcare groups and, of course, the Scouts.

Other volunteering organisations in the Seven Hills electorate include Karabi Community and Development Services, the Endeavour Foundation and the Blacktown City Lantern Club. These organisations specialise in providing services for individuals living with disabilities or disadvantage. I recently visited Karabi with the Minister for Families and Communities, and Minister for Disability Services, the Hon. Natasha Maclaren-Jones. It was fantastic to see firsthand the immense impact that volunteers have on the local community. Volunteers at Karabi are regularly involved in dropping off food to local residents and coordinating Foodbank operations in the area.

Finally, I recognise the Blacktown City Lantern Club and its volunteers in the electorate of Seven Hills. The club regularly holds fundraising events for the Royal Institute for Deaf and Blind Children. In 2022 the club is celebrating its fiftieth anniversary of operations. I thank its volunteers for their work in our community. As mentioned before, there is no shortage of quality volunteers in our local communities. It is fantastic to have events like National Volunteer Week, when the State can recognise the tireless and often thankless job that many of these individuals embark on to improve their local communities.

MAITLAND FIRE STATION

Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland) (16:55): Today I speak about a very serious kind of "TOLing"—not the tolling that happens on the road but the TOLing, or taking offline, of our fire rescue stations across the State. I am concerned about this happening in my community. I wrote to the former emergency services Minister in September 2021 because—as you might be aware, Mr Temporary Speaker—Maitland got a new fire station when 455 Telarah became 455 Rutherford. That station did not carry across its TOLing. Under the taking offline and the In Orders arrangements, the Minister for Police and Emergency Services at the time, Minister Elliot, was taking that station offline when the number of staff at the station dropped below four rather than using overtime to fill the gap to make sure that the station had a minimum of four firefighters available to provide the necessary safe response to our community.

That TOLing arrangement at Telarah was removed and transferred to the Maitland CBD station. That is a real problem. The station in our CBD is blocked on one side by the Hunter River. Then on the other side there is the New England Highway and a lot of half-done projects that connect two roads across our city. There is a big congestion issue in Maitland. If you take the Maitland Fire Station offline, you actually put all the CBD businesses

of Maitland at risk when there is a fire because it means that it is more difficult for stations from other areas to get in and respond. We know that response times are a vital component of responding to fire and other emergencies. In fact, if you are going to maximise the opportunities for preventing loss of lives and minimising damage to properties, you need to have standards that are effective and enable the firefighters to respond quickly to those emergencies.

The response time and the number of qualified and trained firefighters at the incident within that required time determine whether a rescue can even be performed, whether a home and business can be saved and, more importantly, whether a life can be saved. It also directly impacts on the safety of the firefighters on the fireground. Scientific research dictates that a fire must be suppressed within five to 10 minutes of ignition. That is really important and the physical characteristics of fire cause the temperature in a building to rise extremely rapidly. A sudden and dynamic simultaneous ignition of most combustible materials and gases is flashover.

A flashover in our CBD from any potential fires is a very dangerous situation for us. My concern is that the In Orders now in force as of 23 May—this is the intention—are designed to save a projected \$2 million over three years. That is a paltry amount compared with the huge consequences that will be paid by the 56 communities that are being TOled as a result of this Government's decisions. I note that the member for Bega is in the Chamber. He, of all people in this place, should be very aware of the importance of having firefighters who are resourced and able to save lives. This Government is penny pinching and taking stations offline so that it can save \$2 million over three years.

I will list some of those stations, because it is not just Maitland and my area. It is also Morpeth. If you get into the broader Hunter, there is Kearsley, Kelso, Minmi, Abermain, Paxton and even Quirindi in your electorate, Mr Temporary Speaker. Those stations are being taken offline. What is happening to those communities when the stations are offline? They are put at extra risk. Fifty-six stations could be closed by Fire and Rescue NSW at any time. That is a really big concern. I call on the Minister for Emergency Services and Resilience, and Minister for Flood Recovery to please reconsider the In Orders. I urge her to not leave our regional and rural communities at risk from fire and do some resourcing. We just had open days for Fire and Rescue NSW. We have spectacular people employed in Fire and Rescue NSW, and we need to be supporting them, not taking them offline at a time of deepest need in our community.

CASTLE HILL HIGH SCHOOL ASBESTOS

Mr RAY WILLIAMS (Castle Hill) (17:00): I raise a very serious health issue occurring in my electorate at Castle Hill High School. Teachers and parents of the school have advised me that in 2016 the school community was advised that the outcome of an asbestos test report undertaken at the time was negative when in fact it was positive. That 2016 asbestos report was hidden from the community until very recently, meaning that thousands of students, staff and teachers were exposed unnecessarily to some of the most hazardous forms of asbestos for years. In May 2020, following four more years of complaints from teachers working at Castle Hill High School, the Department of Education asset management unit conducted an asbestos test, which confirmed evidence of hazardous asbestos discovered in 91 areas of the school, including blocks A, B, C, D and E—all learning areas of the school. Five of those areas are considered high priority to this day.

The Department of Education then initiated an inquiry in response to the many complaints that it had received from teachers at the school, together with the positive 2016 asbestos test. That inquiry commenced two years ago and we still do not have any answers as to who was responsible for this disgraceful cover-up. Earlier this year on 4, 19 and 20 January air monitoring of Castle Hill High School was undertaken and further elevated levels of asbestos fibres were recorded, as is evident in the environmental clean inspection report provided to Castle Hill High School on 29 January this year.

At a meeting on 26 April this year—just weeks ago—Department of Education hygienist Haysam Elhassan presented the original 2016 asbestos report to a group of teachers. When asked during that meeting whether any levels of the three hazardous types of asbestos uncovered in the 2016 report were safe, Mr Elhassan replied, "No". The cover-up by the Department of Education continues to this day. Two weeks ago I called for an immediate, independent asbestos test to be undertaken to prove unequivocally that there is no risk of asbestos contamination to the 2,000 students and hundreds of staff and teachers currently working at Castle Hill High School each day. On the same day the Department of Education infrastructure manager, Mr Manning, advised the media that he was sure the school was safe.

I remind the House that a complete cohort of students from year 7 to year 12 have attended Castle Hill High School since the 2016 positive asbestos test was undertaken. We now know that they have been exposed to some of the most hazardous forms of asbestos. We do not know what the health implications will be for those students, staff and teachers in the years ahead. But, more importantly, we still do not know what risk of asbestos exposure exists today in Castle Hill High School. That is still placing the health of students, teachers and staff in

serious jeopardy. Mr Manning of the Department of Education may say it is safe for students, staff and teachers to continue to be in the school each day. That is because none of Mr Manning's family are in that school. His family has not been exposed to the serious levels of hazardous asbestos that the thousands of students, staff and teachers at the school have over many years. Mr Manning will ultimately also not be accountable in the years ahead if there are serious health implications for the Castle Hill High School community.

I state again: We need an immediate, independent asbestos report to confirm whether Castle Hill High School is completely safe for the students, teachers and staff who attend that school each and every day. We need that test to be completely independent—and when I say independent, I mean independent of government and of the Department of Education. I do not want to see a company that has any government contracts undertaking a test. I want this to be completely transparent because we have a massive problem at Castle Hill High School, with thousands and thousands of students who have been exposed to some of the most serious levels of asbestos over the past six years. I do not think it is too much to ask on behalf of my community that we take responsibility. It has been hidden for too long. It is time someone stood up, and I am more than happy to be that person.

BEGA ELECTORATE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Dr MICHAEL HOLLAND (Bega) (17:05): Paramedic service response times and the provision of hospital services are matters of concern to the constituents of the electorate of Bega. Recently, a constituent notified me of the sudden death of her partner at home. She wrote:

Regional and rural residents are not second class citizens, however we are so often treated like that when it comes to the health system.

If any one of us in Bega experiences an out-of-hospital cardiac arrest, there is a 90 per cent chance of death. That mortal statistic alone is enough to define the importance of paramedic response times, particularly in rural and regional areas, and that is the experience of rural and regional communities across New South Wales. Living in rural and regional New South Wales is not a lifestyle choice; it is our home. The current level of paramedic service exposes the residents of the Bega electorate to an unacceptable level of risk. The coastal strip of the Bega electorate is 250 kilometres in length. There will soon be two hospitals with emergency departments, 120 kilometres apart. Ambulance stations are between 30 and 60 kilometres apart, making response trips and returns to hospital up to 100 kilometres.

As a consequence of that geographical tyranny, our essential emergency services see births, deaths, major traumas and near-misses. Those events are occurring increasingly frequently due to the failure of adequate emergency paramedic response times. Paramedic call-outs in rural areas are 2.5 times higher relative to metropolitan areas. There is a paramedic shortage as a consequence of chronic under-resourcing. Like all health workers under this Government, they are overworked, under-supported and under-resourced. Sixty per cent of paramedics reported completing shifts of 15 hours or longer. Eighty per cent of paramedics reported feeling too fatigued to drive home safely, with 28 per cent saying that happened often. Thirty-five per cent of paramedics reported attending to a patient who was negatively impacted by the extended response times.

This Government needs to provide better pay to those specialist paramedics. This Government needs to recruit an adequate number of paramedics to bring paramedic ratios into line with other States before there is further loss of life. I acknowledge the recent Government announcement of funding of \$1.8 billion and the delivery of 2,000 paramedic staff over the next four years. However, despite the recruitment of some 750 paramedics in 2019, there was no enhancement of services due to the backfilling of long-term vacancies and the change from an on-call to a 24/7 roster. In fact, there was no increase in cars, and vehicles were still sent away on long-distance transfers. That results in off-duty call-outs, which account for 475 incidents per month.

The Government's commitment needs to solve the issues of staffing levels, resource availability and career progression opportunities. If that initiative is to be successful in improving paramedic services in rural areas, innovation must occur. It requires increased training and resourcing of extended care paramedics who can provide management for low-acuity patients with minor illnesses and injuries, keeping them out of emergency departments and leaving intensive care paramedics to perform their life-saving duties. It needs the construction of new ambulance stations and the development of treatment facilities within existing ambulance stations. Paramedic training can be provided through the establishment of a multidisciplinary educational facility in the Bega electorate. The other need is to increase the numbers of patient transport officers, who perform the important role of non-acute and elective transfers between hospitals.

Finally, the need to transfer to those hospitals will be reduced by the provision of higher levels of clinical services in the existing South East Regional Hospital in Bega and the yet-to-be-commenced Eurobodalla Regional Hospital, for which I have advocated for many years.

COST OF LIVING

Mr GURMESH SINGH (Coffs Harbour) (17:09): One of the biggest conversations around the water cooler and around the dinner table has been the cost of living. It is one of those issues that everyone has talked about in recent times, but the New South Wales Liberal-Nationals Government is committed to easing the cost-of-living pressures for Coffs Coast families and stimulating our economy at the same time by offering opportunities to help save on everyday costs and to help stimulate the economy in other ways.

Constituents in the Coffs Harbour electorate could be eligible for \$150 worth of Dine & Discover vouchers. Those vouchers are only valid until the thirtieth of this month, so anybody out there with Dine & Discover vouchers has until the end of this month to spend them. I had a look at mine this morning, and I still have a \$25 voucher to go. I might decide to take out my good friend the member for Tweed, if he is nice to me. Parents NSW vouchers provide \$250 to reward and thank eligible households for their efforts to support learning from home in 2021. As a parent of a child who was in year 4 at the time, I certainly struggled with learning from home. I had to relearn many things that I thought I would never need again. That \$250 goes a long way to help reward those parents. One person from each eligible household is able to apply for five \$50 vouchers, which can be used until 9 October 2022.

A great initiative announced in last year's budget was the \$100 First Lap voucher for parents, guardians and carers of children aged between three and six who are not enrolled in school. That great voucher program went towards the cost of swimming lessons. Growing up, we either learned to swim in primary school or did not learn to swim at all, but these days most parents put their kids into swimming lessons before they can walk. That \$100 voucher will ease the cost of living for many parents across New South Wales, and especially on the Coffs Coast. The program was also extended to children in kindergarten in 2021 or who are starting kindergarten in 2022, and those vouchers are valid until the end of this month as well.

A staple of our Government's cost-of-living measures for the past few years has been the Active Kids vouchers—two \$100 vouchers for parents, guardians and carers of school-enrolled children to use towards sport and active recreation costs every year. Those vouchers are available until 2023. Every sport that a child enrolls in can easily cost over \$100 per sport, and most kids these days are doing two or three sports at any given time. As a parent, I know that those vouchers go a long way towards helping ease cost-of-living pressures. Alongside Active Kids, another voucher program that we have had for quite some time is Creative Kids. Its eligibility is similar to Active Kids, but it is \$100 towards cultural and creative activities with registered providers. That program runs until the end of this year.

Another great program is Stay NSW. Residents aged 18 and over can apply for a \$50 voucher to put towards the cost of accommodation bookings. That great program is open until 9 October this year and is helping to stimulate our regional tourism industry, which is so crucial for my electorate of Coffs Harbour and for the electorate of Tweed as well. Another great program that addresses the cost of living in regional New South Wales is the regional seniors travel card, brought to you by the New South Wales Nationals, providing eligible seniors living in regional, rural and remote areas of New South Wales with a \$250 prepaid card to help ease the cost of travel. Public transport is heavily subsidised here in Sydney and in other parts of metropolitan New South Wales, but in regional New South Wales seniors will get that subsidy that helps them pay for their travel.

I encourage everybody on the Coffs Coast to go to Service NSW and see which of those vouchers they are eligible for. Apply and use the vouchers before they expire, because it is a great way to stimulate the economy. For instance, my parents would ordinarily not go out to the movies or go out to dinner very much, but they went out and enjoyed the vouchers and stimulated the economy while they did so.

Mr GEOFF PROVEST (Tweed) (17:14): I applaud the promotion of the voucher system by the member for Coffs Harbour. As he has eloquently put it, the Dine & Discover vouchers, learning from home vouchers, swimming vouchers, Active Kids vouchers, Creative Kids vouchers, Stay NSW vouchers and the Seniors Card have all been great. The constituents of Coffs Harbour benefit greatly from having such a great member promoting it and looking after their needs. He is taking this information out on a daily basis for the benefit of his community, which should be applauded. Long live the voucher system.

ASSOCIATION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN BOLIVIA

Mr PAUL LYNCH (Liverpool) (17:15): I speak tonight about an organisation that has significant support amongst a number of my constituents. It recently held an event that I attended along with constituents of mine. I am talking about the Association for Human Rights in Bolivia, also known as the AHRB. The organisation was established in Sydney in May 2020. Its formation followed the coup in Bolivia which saw the end of the presidency of Evo Morales and his eventual replacement by Jeanine Anez. The coup was condemned by many at

the time, including by Jeremy Corbyn and Bernie Sanders. The first leader to recognise Anez was Brazil's Jair Bolsonaro. Anez invited Juan Guaido to appoint a Venezuelan ambassador to Bolivia.

Following the coup, there was significant repression and abuses of human rights, leading to the formation of the association. It said, "AHRB was founded by people of Bolivian and Latin American and Australian origin with the aim of working in Australia in the defence of human rights in the plurinational state of Bolivia." I note that in the most recent Bolivian election in 2020 the presidency was won by Luis Arce, who is from the same political organisation as Evo Morales, the Movement for Socialism, also known as MAS. Its supporters are known as MASistas. The president of the AHRB is Juana Maldonado and the secretary is Juan Carlos Borde. On 28 May the association held an event at the SLASA Community Centre, SLASA standing for Spanish and Latin American Association for Social Assistance. The event included the screening of a documentary titled *Fue Golpe*, which is Spanish for "it was a coup". This was the Australian debut of the acclaimed documentary by Maria Fernanda Rada.

The documentary raises a range of interesting issues, including the complicity of the Organisation of American States in the coup and its reputation as a branch of the US state department. It reveals the extent of armed and fascist groups in Bolivia, demonstrates the violations of human rights and interviews victims of the Senkata and Sacaba massacres. It features and refers to Rafael Correa, Cristina Fernandez, Jose Mujica, Alberto Fernandez and Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, known by everyone as AMLO. The documentary results from a year-long project and is an impressive effort. The November coup that it documents resulted in at least 37 deaths, with more than 1,000 injured. It resulted in arbitrary and illegal arrests and political persecution. It was intensely racist and provoked the formation of the AHRB. When the AHRB was formed, it described itself this way:

AHRB is an association that promotes human rights in Bolivia. Our vision is to ensure that the country has public policies that protect human rights and recognise human dignity, and where justice prevails over violence. AHRB focuses on exposing and denouncing human rights violations in Bolivia.

The association specifically tethered itself to the Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, a resolution of the United Nations General Assembly. The recent AHRB event was emceed by Frederico Fuentes and features a presentation by Rodrigo Acuna. There was also a contribution by AHRB President Juana Maldonado. The documentary is a powerful and impressive presentation of the lead-up to and history of the 2019 coup. The army said it was time for Morales to go, and he obtained sanctuary in Mexico, being warmly welcomed by Mexican President AMLO. People who are interested in politics in Australia probably think of Bolivia, because of events in 1967, as the scene of the final campaign of Che Guevara and his murder whilst a prisoner. The history and politics of Bolivia go far deeper and are far more complex than that.

Starting with the April revolution in 1952 and the betrayal of the hopes raised then, there has been a long history of popular struggle to improve the lot of ordinary citizens. A palpable and strong history of racism against those with indigenous heritage is a central part of the story. Morales was the first indigenous president of what is an indigenous majority country. He was a significant improvement over his predecessors as president, many of which were military dictators. Even by the bloody and horrifying standards of South American military dictators, some of them were particularly appalling and vicious. One was so clearly a criminal that writer James Dunkerley described their rule as a "delinquent dictatorship".

Some were so awful, they used the services of Klaus Barbie, the "Butcher of Lyon", who ran the Gestapo in Lyon during the Second World War, was responsible for torturing and killing French resistance fighters—including the famed Jean Moulin—and for sending people to concentration camps. It is estimated that he is directly to blame for 14,000 deaths. It is no mere rhetoric to describe some of these dictators as fascists. They were actual fascists who used ex-Gestapo staff. But it is not just that Morales and his MAS were so much better than their predecessors at a policy level. First elected as president in 2006, he was the longest serving president in Bolivian republican history, which provided important and valuable stability in government. With his indigenous heritage, he was, in many senses, better qualified than any of his predecessors to be president of the plurinational state of Bolivia. I was delighted to attend the AHRB event, and I am happy to express my support for the association. I wish it well in its future endeavours.

TRIBUTE TO ALAN WESTWOOD

Mr LEE EVANS (Heathcote) (17:19): It is with a heavy heart that I inform the House of the passing of Alan Westwood, the Chairman of the Engadine Bowling Club, of which I am a patron. His untimely death has rocked not only his family but the whole community. Alan was a stalwart of the club, steering it through the financial crisis of 2008 when it was touch and go whether the club would survive. With his accountancy knowledge, he managed the books and made very tough decisions. The Engadine Bowling Club stands as a popular and financially strong club. In recent years Alan spearheaded the modernisation of the club to stay ahead of the curve with facilities and amenity. The club itself has grown from being just a bowling club to much more, with sub clubs that cover sporting activities such as golf, darts, snooker and fishing. It also provides the people of

Engadine and their families with a pleasant social facility, which is all due to Alan's leadership. My sincere condolences go to Alan's family, his many friends, the bowling fraternity and the club's members. Vale Alan Westwood.

DESIGN AND PLACE STATE ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING POLICY

Dr MARJORIE O'NEILL (Coogee) (17:21): Sustainability and environmental protection are some of the most important issues in my community, which is why, when the Minister for Planning announced earlier this year that the draft Design and Place State Environmental Planning Policy would be scrapped, my office was inundated with local constituents who were concerned and appalled. The Design and Place State Environmental Planning Policy was the closest this Government had come to a sustainable housing development policy that holds developers accountable for ensuring quality of living and mitigating climate change in the future, which is why it was important they did not dump the policy. As members can imagine, a lot of developers did not like the draft State environmental planning policy [SEPP], including developer group Urban Taskforce Australia, which organised and hosted the lunch where Minister Roberts announced that the Government would be scrapping the draft SEPP. It was a shameful and disgusting announcement.

At a developer's lunch, the Government killed two years' worth of consultation and work done by the State architect and community stakeholders to impose environmental standards regarding ventilation, green spaces, proximity to infrastructure and flooding on all developments. This is understandable from a government that has decided to build the Powerhouse Museum on a floodplain. I wonder how many members of the community are appalled by this Government's inaction on improving standards of living. Not only did the Government ignore its own members, the State architect, industry experts and the community, it did not even consider the hundreds of submissions regarding the implementation of the draft SEPP. This goes to the heart of the credibility of this Government—it obviously has none.

The only people the Government listens to are the developers that it wines and dines with. In defending his actions, Minister Roberts pointed to other policies to mitigate climate change. It was not a Liberal Party policy that he pointed to, it was the Building Sustainability Index, or BASIX, which was implemented under a Labor government. BASIX imposes sustainability standards for water, energy and thermal performances on new and renovated homes. In order to tackle climate change, we need a whole-of-government approach. We must listen to industry experts and the communities that want to see real action on climate change and incorporate that across the board. In order to combat climate change, we need to implement sustainability standards and not pass on the cost of climate change to the average family. This Government cannot identify a single one of its own policies that implements sustainability standards and tackles the rising cost-of-living issues that it has only made worse.

This Government cannot be trusted to regulate and police developers. It cannot be trusted to act on climate change. It cannot be trusted to fight the rising cost of living and it definitely cannot be trusted to improve people's standard of living. How do we know this? The Government consistently votes against legislation that would improve all of these things. Last year, Labor introduced the Climate Change (Emissions Targets) Bill into both Houses of the New South Wales Parliament to establish the principles to guide action to address climate change, set 2030 and 2050 targets to achieve net zero emissions in New South Wales—

Mr Kevin Conolly: Point of order—

Dr MARJORIE O'NEILL: Please stop the clock.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr David Layzell): The Clerk will stop the clock.

Mr Kevin Conolly: I refer to the previous rulings of Speakers over many years about the nature and the content of private members' statements. They are not a discussion of general statewide issues.

Mr Alex Greenwich: To the point of order: I assure the House that climate change is of immense importance to the people of Coogee, and also to the people of my electorate and a number of other electorates. I think there are also rulings that members should not interrupt—

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr David Layzell): There is no point of order. The member for Coogee may continue.

Dr MARJORIE O'NEILL: Last year Labor introduced the Climate Change (Emissions Targets) Bill 2021 into both Houses of the New South Wales Parliament to establish the principles to guide action to address climate change, to set 2030 and 2050 targets to achieve net zero emissions in New South Wales, and to establish a net zero commission to monitor and report on progress towards achieving the 2030 and 2050 targets. Labor's legislation would give the net zero commission the ability to develop adaption action and facilitate a whole-of-government approach to addressing climate change—an issue my electorate cares very deeply about. This would create jobs, tackle climate change, improve standards of living and independently regulate industries

the Perrottet Government cannot be trusted to regulate on its own. The New South Wales Liberal-Nationals Government voted against the bill when it was passed in the Legislative Council. The Government can change its mind by the time the bill makes it to the Legislative Assembly, but I am sure it will have to ask its developer mates for permission first.

MONARO ELECTORATE SCHOOLS

Mrs NICHOLE OVERALL (Monaro) (17:26): Since being sworn into this Parliament as the member for Monaro on 22 March 2022, following a whirlwind by-election, one of the first of many matters needing my attention has been the delivery of the new and upgraded schools committed to for Monaro. It is so exciting to know that after so many years of our communities calling for schools, thanks to the New South Wales Liberal-Nationals Government this is finally happening. Some \$420 million has been invested in major school works in the Monaro alone, including the Braidwood Central School, the Finigan School of Distance Education, Karabar High School, Queanbeyan High School, Queanbeyan East Public School, Queanbeyan West Public School, and the Tirriwirri School. Following on from those fantastic advancements, Bungendore and Jerrabomberra are set to host new high schools after decades of agitation to see this happen.

For Jindabyne, there will be a new primary school and high school, while Monaro High School in Cooma is reaching completion of its extensive upgrades, including a state-of-the-art, 350-seat performing arts centre. One of our newest and fastest growing residential areas, Googong, is also getting a new primary school. Its construction has progressed unbelievably in a matter of months, thanks to the new methods of construction employed to deliver the architecturally designed works. This Government is an expert in the delivery of schools, investing \$7.9 billion over the next four years in its continuing program to deliver 215 new and upgraded schools across the State—the largest investment in public education infrastructure in the history of New South Wales. This is an unprecedented commitment to the future of our young people and families, and particularly when it comes to our regions—not least the Monaro.

Delivering such infrastructure is not without challenges. Along with the standard processes, there have been the hurdles of COVID, resulting in supply and workload issues for tradies, contractors, suppliers and all involved in these community-building endeavours. Another element in introducing new schools is intake areas of both the new and existing schools. Intake areas ensure the effective utilisation of permanent teaching spaces across the public schools network and an equitable distribution of student enrolments, staff and resources. In regard to the intake areas in the Queanbeyan region, new zones were developed over the past three years. While involving various stakeholders, the wider community's views were not taken into account. As the new member for Monaro, I was not made aware either. The public announcement of the new areas was the time I also learned of them.

Since then, I have had constant communications with education Minister Sarah Mitchell, Department of Education directors, school principals, P&C representatives and concerned community members. The reversal of the Jerrabomberra primary school zoning decision—the initial matter advanced by the community—occurred within three weeks. The resulting community survey produced in excess of 1,000 submissions, all of which had to be reviewed by the department to fully address concerns and formulate options. Having progressed all of that and with a conclusion in sight, meetings had been scheduled with myself, the Minister and department officials to review the outcomes this week in Parliament. While the Department of Education's preferred option was to maintain the intake areas of 24 March, the community's calls essentially revolved around two priorities: (1) the provision for all of Jerrabomberra, as it is today, to be zoned for both the primary school and the new high school; and (2) solutions and concurrent options that would allow this to occur without severely disadvantaging other local schools and offering ways in which their long-term future is also assured.

My only focus has always been ensuring the community was being properly heard and engaged with, and to advocate, support and promote the community's clearly expressed views and position. In relation to student numbers for the new Jerrabomberra High School, the initial capacity of stage 1 is 500 students, planned as a staged rollout, beginning with years 7 and 8. Stage 2 of the masterplan allows for as many as 1,000 students. In line with the community's calls, I have requested more detailed information on stage 2 and on how expansion will occur as demand dictates. Now that the Department of Education has finalised its review, this can be presented at a community meeting early next week.

In light of the extensive process undertaken and with school enrolments meant to close on 17 June, I have also called for an extension on that particular deadline. In addition, I am pleased to say there are other positive conversations currently occurring around this Government's continued commitment to education in our region and how this might take shape into the future. I thank the community for continuing to make their views and concerns clearly heard and thank Minister Mitchell for being willing to constructively engage to see them practically addressed. Here's to continuing to provide the best public education for our students in Monaro, now and beyond.

Mr GEOFF PROVEST (Tweed) (17:31): I commend the member for Monaro. She is relatively new to the Parliament, but she has certainly hit the ground running. I think she has established herself as a real "doer" for her local community. That is exactly what we do here. We strive on both sides of the House to look after our local people and if it runs against some government policies, if it runs against some bureaucratic process, well, to hell with it! That is what we are in this place for: to represent our local constituents, our local people. I think what the member for Monaro does is admirable. I hope she keeps up the great work and I am sure the people of her town will respect her even more.

SYDNEY ELECTORATE INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING

Mr ALEX GREENWICH (Sydney) (17:32): Development must always correspond with high-quality infrastructure that meets the needs of residents, workers and visitors. Without it, neighbourhoods become wastelands of disadvantage and local residents are more likely to raise objections to proposals. Access to bike paths, footpaths, parks, libraries, community centres, pools and childcare centres makes a neighbourhood liveable and ensures it can cope with increased density. Councils provide these infrastructure services in response to new development using contributions from developers. But the New South Wales Government is planning to change the way these contributions are collected and allocated through a bill that has already passed this House—snuck through as a budget appropriation bill last year—and is under consideration. The proposal will radically change how infrastructure is planned, funded and delivered in my and other electorates.

While the Government has promised that these planned changes will not leave any council worse off, councils across Sydney, including in my electorate, inform me of massive cuts to revenue that will prevent them delivering the infrastructure essential for planned population growth. Woollahra Municipal Council reports that it will lose nearly \$50 million over the first 20 years of operations and the City of Sydney will lose \$193 million over the first five years, reaching a loss of \$650 million by 2040. Under the proposed scheme, contributions collected in densely populated areas can be redirected for Regional Infrastructure Contributions to spend elsewhere in the State, putting local amenity, safety and economic viability at risk, along with the wellbeing of residents and workers.

New urban infill development creates significant pressure on infrastructure, essential facilities and services, and that will always require local infrastructure delivery. The City of Sydney has also identified significant flaws in the modelling that was used to calculate regional infrastructure contributions that fail to properly reflect the projected growth in homes, work and tourism expected in the inner city. There are plans to further restrict the types of infrastructure that can be funded from developer contributions to what are considered to be essential works, with social infrastructure significantly restricted. The approach ignores the fact that different locations have very different needs and that facilities like libraries are often what attract people to an area. Social infrastructure is regularly used by developers to advertise new builds.

Proposed new calculations for contributions would make the system much more complex, thereby increasing the potential for disputes among councils and developers. Exemptions from contributions are proposed for schools, which already do not pay rates but put significant pressure on infrastructure, including transport and recreation. Woollahra council points out that there are seven large non-government schools in its local government area that regularly propose upgrades and expansions. The infrastructure provided by councils is not provided by any other level of government. In the case of child care, no level of government has been identified as responsible, but councils have responded to growing demand by building and running world-class centres.

Contributions make up 22 per cent of the City of Sydney's financial plan and would make up significant revenue for most inner-city councils. The city is implementing significant growth in the inner city, and its capacity to do this responsibly should not be constrained. The changes put at risk the city's ability to support Australia's global city, which is a major contributor to the New South Wales economy. Councils have been subject to cost-shifting policies over decades that have increased their responsibilities and operating costs. They have foregone revenue to deal with the pandemic to help businesses stay afloat and are investing heavily in economic recovery. Many councils now also have significant clean-up and rebuilding costs as a result of the devastating floods. With the cost of building new and upgrading aging infrastructure increasing, it is difficult to see how the infrastructure we need and have come to expect with new population density will be built.

At a time when we need infrastructure such as bike lanes to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and infrastructure such as flood-resistant drainage systems and water recycling to survive the impacts of climate change, we should not be thwarting councils' capacity to deliver this. Allowing councils to charge higher rates to cover the loss in revenue just transfers the cost to ratepayers. The rate increase needed to cover the shortfall has been estimated to be as high as 13 per cent annually. Ratepayers will suffer from the loss of adequate infrastructure and significant rate rises. Proposed infrastructure contribution changes provide no benefit to community or industry and will not result in any housing affordability improvements. The Lord Mayor of Sydney, Clover Moore,

and I recently met with the Treasurer to urge him not to proceed with the bill. I call on the Government to withdraw plans and work with councils to deliver high-quality infrastructure across the State.

TUFFINS LANE SPORTS FIELDS

Mrs LESLIE WILLIAMS (Port Macquarie) (17:37): This evening I talk about one of the most iconic sporting competitions held at Port Macquarie's Tuffins Lane each year, and that is the NSW Touch Football State Cup, which injects millions of dollars into the local economy. The Tuffins Lane sporting fields were purchased from private ownership in 2016 by St Agnes' Parish to ensure it was retained as a sporting complex for the benefit of the community. Tuffins Lane is a unique and valuable asset for the mid North Coast. As well as providing thousands of residents the opportunity to utilise this sporting and community complex every single week, it also provides an opportunity to attract large events to our region.

Hosting sporting events such as the junior NSW Touch Football cup and the senior State Cup among many other large school- and community-based events, Tuffins Lane provides a welcome boost to local businesses in the local economy generally. Retention of the junior and senior NSW Touch Football cups was one of the key reasons why the late Father Leo Donnelly and the parish finance council made the decision to purchase the land. It was Father Donnelly's wish that we should keep the site preserved for community benefit. Importantly, had the parish not intervened when it did, there is no doubt that the community would have lost this valuable sporting asset.

In recent times, both the senior and junior NSW Touch Football cups were cancelled due to drainage issues at Tuffins Lane following heavy rain. Unfortunately, this has become a pattern in recent years. While certain weather events were severe enough to close even the best-drained sporting fields in the area, locals know full well that Tuffins Lane floods following even minor rain events. The parish has committed in excess of \$1.5 million to Tuffins Lane, including \$1.1 million for the purchase and the ongoing costs of approximately \$80,000 per year. However, to upgrade the fields to a standard that allows them to be used in all weather conditions, regardless of rainfall events, will require funding of approximate \$1.5 million.

I have met on numerous occasions with the Tuffins Lane Sporting User Group, including representatives from the popular codes of touch football and soccer, and all agree that a united push is needed to ensure improvements are made to the grounds in the short term. Of course, I have encouraged the parish to seek out any opportunities for funding, including through various New South Wales Government sporting grants. If funds to support the urgently needed upgrade to the drainage issue at Tuffins Lane are not available in the short term, there is the potential that, after 33 years of hosting these iconic events, the NSW Touch Football association will choose to relocate these events away from Port Macquarie when it goes to tender next year.

I reiterate that equally as important are our local sporting clubs and community groups that are the regular users of the field. I will continue to do everything I can as the member for Port Macquarie to ensure this does not happen, and I also call on Port Macquarie Hastings Council to consider partnering with St Agnes' Parish to save touch football from relocating to another regional location. I know that NSW Touch Football loves coming to Port Macquarie, and we love having them, and we need to work together to ensure these events are locked in for another 33 years. In closing, I particularly thank those who are so passionate about Tuffins Lane who have met with me and the member for Cowper, Pat Conaghan, to investigate funding opportunities that will secure the future of the sporting fields. I thank Cath Eichmann, Wayne Prince and Mark Pilgrim, as well as Adam Spencer from St Agnes' Parish, for their counsel. It has been much appreciated. I look forward to working with them to secure the future of Tuffins Lane.

DRUMMOYNE ELECTORATE FERRY SERVICES

Mr JOHN SIDOTI (Drummoynes) (17:40): I have said in this House on numerous occasions that the bloodline of my electorate is public transport. It is critically important that this Government makes serious investments into public transport, particularly into ferries; hence, today I asked a question to the Minister for Transport. During its 11-year tenure, the Government has made enormous improvements in ferry wharf infrastructure. Together we have fixed the mess left by the previous administration. Not only were scrapped ferry services restored but extra services were introduced, and every ferry wharf in my electorate has been upgraded and is now accessible. That is great news. But it is time for another major investment into ferry services.

The issue is multi-pronged in that it requires a holistic view of the services on the Parramatta River. It needs short-term and intermediate fixes as well as long-term planning for the future as demand in Sydney grows. I believe my area is unique in that, for many residents living on peninsulas, the ferry is the only direct public transport option available. More services at the right times, including on weekends and special event days; a major investment in additional ferry vessels to service the Parramatta River; and more services beginning further down the river are ways to address the current issue of overcrowding and passengers being left stranded at wharves.

At the heart of this argument is the notion that ferries are not just a scenic way to get into the city. For many they are the only viable option. My office is continually inundated with emails from constituents about being left stranded at ferry wharves. The situation is simply unacceptable and unsustainable. It is particularly bad on weekends and during special events. Just last weekend there were many upset residents who could not use the ferry to travel into the city for Vivid. In an email I received, Chris from Abbotsford described her experience last weekend:

The 17.10 ferry was full so it didn't stop at Abbotsford except to drop one person off. But the ferry before didn't stop as well because it was full. Also another 6 ferries didn't stop because they were full. You had children crying, a lady's missed her special birthday dinner, people missed their shows.

It is not fair that my community is missing out because the service is running over capacity. I have raised this matter with the Minister for Transport in the hope that additional provisions could be made during weekends and special events such as Vivid. I hope to see some improvements in this space. The issue of ferries being over capacity will never be addressed until there is a substantive investment in acquiring new vessels, not simply purchasing new vessels to retire older vessels. These vessels need to move mass amounts of people, and they need to be adequate and suitable for the conditions of the Parramatta River. There needs to be a long-term vision for what ferry services will look like in the future, and we need to start the conversation and begin planning now for the years to come.

Perhaps the most salient part of the debate is the solution to start ferry services further down the river. As I have previously stated, there are no train stations near ferry wharves in my electorate. That is why residents choose the ferry. It is a direct route into the city. It is the fastest route and often the stops are right near residents' back doors. If they are unable to catch a ferry, it is harder for constituents who are left stranded at Cabarita, Abbotsford, Chiswick and Drummoyne to organise an alternative route than it is for people in Parramatta or Meadowbank who have access to a train station. That is why the ferry services should begin further down the river, near Sydney Olympic Park. That would give people who have a genuine need for the ferry the opportunity to catch one.

The growing community in Rhodes has long been promised a ferry wharf. The community is still waiting for construction to begin. The Government must bite the bullet and start construction immediately. It should have started yesterday. I will hold the Government to account because it must deliver on its commitment. To his credit, the new Minister for Transport has been working with me to address the matter. I call on the Government to invest in ferries, and I look forward to positive changes for my electorate.

YOUNG STREET PLAZA PROJECT

Mr TIM JAMES (Willoughby) (17:45): I am eager to bring to the attention of the Parliament a recent decision by a local council that is adverse to community amenity and the public interest, and which conflicts with the policy intent of the New South Wales Government. At the beginning of May, North Sydney Council made the shock decision not to proceed with a permanent public plaza on Young Street in Neutral Bay. The Young Street plaza project, which has been planned since 2018, involves pedestrianising a section of Young Street to provide much-needed open public space for the Neutral Bay community. In November 2020 a trial of the concept commenced. Part of the congested Young Street was closed to traffic and transformed into 700 square metres of landscaped public space. According to the design brief, the intent of the project was "to provide a recreation and entertainment space for residents and visitors, day and night, that is contemporary and creative". The plaza has certainly achieved that goal.

The trial has confirmed what visionary place-making can achieve by taking an otherwise car-choked roadway and turning it into a desirable destination for the community to enjoy. The benefits of the plaza for the local community are evident from the trial, and the community is strongly in favour of its retention. A permanent plaza would be even better. Some \$1.9 million of State Government funds are on the table to create a permanent and lasting focal point for Neutral Bay. That opportunity should not be turned down. In my view it is extraordinary and shocking that a local council would rip out vital open public space in favour of car- and truck-clogged streets. It is even more extraordinary that it would forfeit millions of dollars in doing so. In a densely populated area like the North Sydney municipality, open space for local residents is not only welcome but also essential. I concur with one of the champions of the project, Councillor Jilly Gibson, the former Mayor of North Sydney, who noted that:

We have less open space per person than any of our neighbouring councils, or than in any councils in the North Sydney region. We also have less than the City of Sydney, so every square metre of public open space is highly valued and very important to our residents.

The Willoughby City Council—also in my electorate—is likewise densely populated. I appreciate firsthand the importance of having open, green spaces for our local residents to enjoy. The benefits of retaining the Young Street plaza would be social, recreational, environmental and commercial. A large part of its appeal is outdoor

space where people can meet together and socialise, particularly our community's youth and seniors. For the numerous young families in Neutral Bay, the plaza also provides a safe and engaging place for children to sit and play. As the parent of young children, I appreciate the value of open spaces such as Young Street for our children to enjoy, as do many other families. The Young Street plaza is a safe, convenient, vibrant and sunny space, ideal for families with young children. I have seen this firsthand many times. When I visit the plaza, I am always told by those using it how much it is appreciated and loved.

Like other parks and green spaces, the plaza also has the potential to enhance the health and wellbeing of people living and working in the built-up North Sydney council area. In addition, green space in Young Street plaza is environmentally friendly. Is it better for the local environment, and sustainability more broadly, to have a public plaza with trees and plants or a local road that, in all likelihood, would be a rat run? Of course, the answer is simple. It is also a matter of pedestrian safety. The Military Road intersection has heavy traffic, particularly buses, and high pedestrian use. It is simply good policy, offering high public benefit, to return the area to pedestrians and get cars out of the way. That would also enhance the flow of public buses on Military Road. Moreover, the plaza protects the important opportunity to build a vital pedestrian walkway over Military Road.

A permanent plaza in Young Street also brings benefits to the local business community. During the plaza's trial period, the average dwell time for Young Street visitors has increased by 56 per cent. That increase in pedestrian traffic, which the plaza has attracted, has naturally led to higher patronage of local shops, cafes and catering outlets. The project is fully funded by the Government through a \$1.9 million grant from Transport for NSW. In light of that, the regrettable decision of North Sydney Council to terminate the plaza amounts to forfeiting \$1.9 million from the New South Wales Government. Surely that would be an unforgivable loss to the Neutral Bay community? I acknowledge the Neutral Bay Chamber of Commerce, which is a vocal advocate for retaining the Young Street plaza. It is essential that we keep this plaza as public space for the future.

STATE BUDGET AND BANKSTOWN ELECTORATE

Ms TANIA MIHAILUK (Bankstown) (17:50): I comment on the 2021-22 budget, in which this Government finally allocated some funds to my electorate of Bankstown. Last year, when the budget was released under then Treasurer Perrottet's stewardship, I raised concerns that it was skewed towards particular electorates—certainly not mine. I have been in that position for three terms of government. Many times I have opened up the budget papers to find big zeros instead of an allocation of funds to my electorate. Interestingly, in the last budget some of the schools in my area, which had been waiting patiently, received some funding—in particular, Bankstown North Public School, and Bankstown Girls and Bankstown Boys high schools. Those schools had been waiting patiently after years of advocacy, especially by the many principals who had worked tirelessly to demonstrate the need for upgrades to the Department of Education and the Treasurer. In contrast to the electorate of Willoughby, which received \$81 million, the Bankstown electorate was lucky to receive one-quarter of that for local schools.

After a long period of campaigning, we have finally received funding to upgrade Yagoona and Birrong train stations with easily accessible lifts. We are still waiting for funding for the installation of easy-access lifts at Villawood and Chester Hill train stations. Those suburbs have large numbers of ageing residents and people with disabilities. It is sad to see that, once again, the budget is silent on those lifts. As I have mentioned in the House on previous occasions, in March 2019 my electorate was promised \$1.3 billion for a new hospital in Bankstown. For two consecutive years, the budget has been silent, with big zeros for that project.

Finally, in the last budget we received an allocation of \$109 million. But that is nowhere near the \$1.3 billion that was promised by this Government 10 days before the March 2019 election. Our community has been sold a furphy. The hospital was a big-ticket item 10 days before the 2019 election. It was plastered all over the pamphlets of the member for East Hills and all over the pre-poll material that was provided to constituents as they arrived to vote. Yet three years later—in fact almost 3½ years—there is no mention of where the hospital will be. Certainly no sod has been turned, given we do not know the location. We certainly do not have \$1.3 billion in the budget because only \$109 million was allocated in the 2021-22 budget.

This is in stark contrast to some of the other electorates in the northern beaches and eastern and northern suburbs where funds have been allocated for hospitals, schools, and train station upgrades. It is grossly unfair that my community of Bankstown has to wait for this funding. It is given peanuts in comparison, particularly when it comes to schools, which distresses me highly, given that we have a lot of children. Chester Hill High School has one of the largest numbers of demountables in the State. Why would Chester Hill High School not be given an opportunity to upgrade? Some development has already been earmarked for the town centre at Chester Hill. An application to put a 21-storey building in a one-storey area is before the Department of Planning and Environment. If the development goes through, there will be more people in the area in future. Our community needs funding. We need to get our fair share of the resources across the State. It is important that the electorate of Bankstown is cared for.

BOWRAL AND DISTRICT HOSPITAL RENAL UNIT

Mr NATHANIEL SMITH (Wollondilly) (17:55): We all know that Wollondilly is God's country, full of natural beauty, resources, fertile land, exciting destinations and great people. That is why we are all working hard to deliver the infrastructure to keep up with our growth so that Wollondilly remains one of the best places to live and work. It is safe to say that the Liberal-Nationals Government can be proud of its record level of infrastructure investment. This is especially true when it comes to the money we have spent on rebuilding, renovating and upgrading our hospitals and medical facilities. Last year's budget delivered a record \$30.2 billion for health care in New South Wales, making good on our promise to provide world-class health services to our communities. In the past financial year, more than \$3 billion has been invested to build and redevelop hospitals and health facilities across New South Wales so that the people of New South Wales can have confidence in their healthcare system.

I am extremely pleased to see that my local community is already benefiting from the redevelopment of the Bowral and District Hospital. During stage one of the redevelopment, \$68.6 million was invested in building a dedicated clinical services building, including an emergency department, birthing suites, additional single rooms, rehabilitation space, theatres, and adult and paediatric inpatient wards. It was a significant upgrade that will improve the health outcomes for the residents of Wollondilly. Bowral and District Hospital is a busy place. The birthing suites have already seen 1,672 babies delivered since its opening. An additional \$55 million is further enhancing the Bowral and District Hospital. Importantly, the hospital now boasts a new and expanded dialysis unit, which will improve the lives of many patients requiring this treatment. Previously they had to travel far beyond the local area due to the hospital's limited capacity.

Thanks to the efforts of the Southern Highlands Renal Appeal and the \$55 million stage two redevelopment by this Government, the Bowral and District Hospital has tripled its current dialysis capacity. Patients can now receive this potentially life-saving treatment within their local area, improving their quality of life with the invaluable support of family and friends close by. The new space is a wonderful, light-filled room overlooking the hospital gardens. Dialysis patients typically spend upwards of 15 hours per week on receiving treatment, and they can now be in a warm and comfortable environment—a home away from home. One can imagine what a huge impact this will have on local dialysis patients and what relief they will feel from having this service provided nearby. Six additional chairs have been provided as part of the expansion of the renal unit, and plans are underway for more chairs to support future needs. Whilst the new space is impressive, none of this would have been possible without the dedicated staff, doctors and nurses at the hospital, who work tirelessly every day to provide the best care possible.

My electorate of Wollondilly is a fantastic place to live, and this world-class dialysis unit will create a safe and inclusive place for all, even those who require extra care. I congratulate everyone involved in delivering the project, including the planners, clinicians, designers and builders. In addition to the purpose-built dialysis unit, a range of other early works have begun, including a new pharmacy and central sterilising services department as well as landscaping works and access improvements to the existing administration building, which is soon to commence. The remainder of stage two is at the planning and consultation phase and main works are expected to start later this year.

The new service is vital, considering 50 per cent of residents in the Wingecarribee local government area are over 60. As that trend continues, more people will need safe, high-quality care, and continued investment in our health system will become paramount. The hospital is also a major employer in the region, which makes the community a great place for young families to live, work and grow. I look forward to attending the official opening of the renal unit at the hospital next week. I am proud that the New South Wales Government is delivering on its healthcare commitments. We are making rural and regional New South Wales an attractive and safe place to live with access to world-class health services.

NURSE-TO-PATIENT RATIOS

Ms YASMIN CATLEY (Swansea) (18:00): Our health system is in crisis and our nurses face many challenges. Our frontline healthcare workers, including doctors, nurses, paramedics and other hospital staff, played a critical role during the pandemic. Without them, our State would not have been able to navigate the past two years. Despite the State reopening and returning to some semblance of normality, the crisis in our health system continues. Our hospitals are understaffed and under-resourced. As a result, health workers are being pushed to breaking point. Several nurses have contacted me to discuss their personal experiences of working in our local public hospitals. It is important that those workers are given a voice in this House. I start with a team leader who had a code black patient requiring one-to-one care. No-one in the hospital could be found to care for them, so the team leader was left to care for them rather than training and managing the junior staff for whom they were responsible. The patient had already been rejected by an aged-care facility and a short-term residential accommodation service.

I turn now to the story of another team leader, who was on leave for a fortnight and who said to me they were weighing up whether they would return to their occupation, which is very sad. This team leader was working shifts with assistants in nursing and endorsed enrolled nurses, which placed them under enormous pressure as there was no other registered nurse on the floor. The nurse-to-patient ratio on those shifts was often one registered nurse to as many as six patients. This nurse was also charged with the responsibility of training junior staff. It is no wonder health workers are burning out. Another team leader reported that their hospital often treated patients from an older age demographic who were accident prone and had very complex needs. Despite that, the team leader often worked with assistants in nursing and endorsed enrolled nurses rather than additional registered nurses, and they had to check on every medication that was dispensed. We know what that means—only registered nurses can provide medication checks, which doubles their workload and makes it difficult to look after frail patients. Too much is being asked of team leaders.

Australians take pride in their universal healthcare system, but it has been gutted and brought to its knees by the Government. In a First World healthcare system like ours, how can we hear stories of nurses working 100-hour fortnights because no other staff are available? We hear stories of patients becoming septic because no nurse is available to see them or falling because no-one is available to assist them to the toilet, which is shameful. The problem has not occurred overnight. I consistently hear stories from nurses who on night shift find that the nurse-to-patient ratio blows out to one in nine. One nurse with a young child told me that she worked her whole shift and was asked to stay after the shift for a few hours until another nurse could be found to fill the gap in the roster. She ended up working a second whole shift rather than going home to breastfeed her young child.

We have all heard the calls from nurses to implement patient ratios, particularly in our emergency departments. These calls are informed by the lived experience of our nurses. The current system of nurse hours per patient day is simply not working. In particular, a key concern is that the nurse hours per patient day is calculated by using the number of patients on the ward at midnight, not calculated throughout the average day. I note that the Government has recently announced plans to hire an additional 10,000 health staff, just as we enter an election year. But let us not sugar-coat it. This is an admission, in my view, that despite all the rhetoric our health system and workforce have been neglected over the past decade and it needs to be fixed now.

EASTERN SUBURBS CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Ms GABRIELLE UPTON (Vaucluse) (18:05): Residents frequently remind me of how much they love cycling in the Eastern Suburbs, whether it is for transport, exercise, sport or just to enjoy the natural beauty our local area has on offer. Cycling is a great environmentally sustainable solution to driving on our roads but it should be a safe way to travel. I have been working hard over my term in Parliament to make sure our local roads are the best they can be for our cyclists. We have come a long way on local cycling infrastructure but I believe we have a lot more to do. As a regular cyclist myself—I cycled to Parliament this morning—it is a priority and I know that there is a great opportunity for improvement in my local area.

In the 2018-19 budget my electorate received \$1 million in funding for a bi-directional cycleway between Norwich Road, Rose Bay, and William Street, Double Bay. Despite the COVID-19 delays, the 2.5 kilometre cycleway is almost complete. Construction is now in its third stage, focusing along the Rose Bay promenade. When it is complete it will provide a safe connection for cyclists travelling between Double Bay and Rose Bay. It will also take bikes off New South Head Road and improve traffic flows. I thank Woollahra Municipal Council for its support for the project. I am looking forward to trying it myself when it is complete, which I believe should be late next month.

In August last year I announced that cyclists would soon be able to ride safely from the Eastern Suburbs to the CBD through Queens Park. The new \$3.7 million cycleway goes along Darley Road—not far away from where I grew up—between York Road and Carrington Road, Randwick, and it joins up Queens Park and Centennial Park. Kids and parents frequent Queens Park in great numbers for weekend sport. Now they can cycle because there is an easy and safe way to avoid the morning's traffic. The upgrade will also mean wider footpaths for pedestrians along Darley Road. I acknowledge the Greater Sydney Parklands Board, which has been visionary in this respect, the Minister for Active Transport and, in particular, Chair of the Greater Sydney Parklands Board Michael Rose, AM, who supported the project and who had the commitment to complete this missing link for cyclists. I understand it is very close to completion and I will look out for it this weekend when I visit my parents.

On 17 May this year I joined Waverley Council and Minister Stokes to announce the new Bondi Junction cycleway. The cycleway is to open officially next Tuesday 14 June, when we will be in Parliament. I was there a couple of weeks ago with the Minister. It will connect Bondi Road through Bondi Junction commercial centre along Oxford Street to the north-eastern corner of Centennial Park. I understand that up to 5,000 bike riders a week have already been using this cycleway from May. It is a safe way for people from Bondi and Bondi Beach to get to Bondi Junction to do their shopping or then to find themselves down in Centennial Park and join that cycleway along Moore Park Road. An added benefit of that \$18 million project is a streetscape upgrade, which

has been delivered by the council. I personally inspected the upgrade, which features new trees, streetlights, furniture and improved asphalt. The amenity has picked up so much more positively through this project. There is also new paving and new footpaths.

The New South Wales Government through Transport for NSW also provided \$1 million to support the design and investigation of a new two-way bike path along Curlewis Street, Bondi. The upgrade will include a permanent two-way bike path from Campbell Parade, where Bondi Beach is, to Old South Head Road on the north side of Curlewis Street. I travel along that pathway quite a lot and it is not safe. It will link up with existing bike paths on O'Sullivan Road, Rose Bay, therefore serving as a connection between Bondi Beach and Rose Bay and then to the Rose Bay ferry wharf. While there are only early concept designs in circulation, the funding will bring intersection upgrades, which are welcomed, improved footpaths and new lighting—in much the same way as have improvements to the Bondi Junction cycleway.

These projects are vital. They give local residents a safe alternative and an easy way to travel. This work has always been a priority of mine. It has the strong support of my community and the backing of local residents. I acknowledge some stakeholders who have been very strong in their advocacy, such as BIKEast, which is an affiliate of Bicycle NSW. I thank the president of BIKEast, Mark Worthington, vice-president Yvonne Poon, secretary Jim Hope, treasurer Anish Bhasin and public officer Warren Salomon. I also thank the Woollahra Advocacy Coordinator, Andrew Moss. There is also Cycling Without Age Australia. I single out for praise the Sydney East Chapter and community captain Adrian Boss, who is just inimitable and is a member of BIKEast. We can enjoy the roads together in a respectful and safe way. All the initiatives I have referred to will go some way towards achieving that goal, but there is more to do. I commend my private member's statement to the House.

Bills

STATUTE LAW (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) BILL 2022

Returned

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Alex Greenwich): I report receipt of a message from the Legislative Council returning the bill without amendment.

Community Recognition Notices

BANKSTOWN SPORTS CRICKET CLUB 70TH ANNIVERSARY

Ms TANIA MIHAILUK (Bankstown)—I would like to congratulate the Bankstown Sports Cricket Club on their recent 70th Anniversary celebration held on Sunday 22 May at the Bankstown Sports Club. The Bankstown Sports Cricket Club promotes players of all levels and abilities including both seniors and juniors. Junior participants, both boys and girls from age five to under 16s, are eligible to play in the junior competition. The Club's recent 70th Anniversary celebration coincided with their annual presentation ceremony which recognised the significant achievements of each team as well as individual players. I would especially like to congratulate Shekinah Lowe, Hassaan Jamil, and Tomas Cordingley, who were each recognised for their 10 years of service to the club. Congratulations to Shekinah, Hassam, and Tomas, on such a wonderful achievement and for your service not only to the Bankstown Sports Cricket Club, but to the local Bankstown community. I would also like to thank Club President David Dancy, Club Treasurer Glen Cordingley, and Club Secretary Kirsty Cordingley, for all of your hard work and continued service to the local Bankstown community. My congratulations again to the Club and all of the very worthy award recipients.

NICOLE CHRISTODOULOU & PARAMATILDAS

Ms TANIA MIHAILUK (Bankstown)—I congratulate an incredibly inspiring Bankstown local, Nicole Christodoulou, who along with her ParaMatildas teammates has recently returned home from the International Federation of CP Football Women's World Cup in Spain with a glorious silver medal. As reported in the Canterbury-Bankstown Torch, not only are they silver medal World Cup winners, but Nicole and her team are the first team comprised of women and girls with cerebral palsy, acquired brain injury, and symptoms of strokes. At just 21, Nicole suffered two strokes in her sleep paralysing the left side of her body. Nicole then spent 10 weeks in hospital re-learning to sit up straight, stand, dress, read and write again. But remarkably, Nicole persevered through countless hours of rehabilitation and therapy to finally emerge as an Australian sporting representative competing at the global level. Nicole is also doing amazing work as an advocate for the Stroke Foundation and I am very pleased to join her in raising awareness of the Stroke Foundation's campaign to learn the signs of a stroke. I send my heartfelt congratulations to Nicole and the whole ParaMatildas team on their magnificent result at the IFCPF Women's World Cup.

TONI BARSBY & NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK

Ms TANIA MIHAILUK (Bankstown)—I acknowledge Aboriginal artist Toni Barsby who is working in partnership with Canterbury-Bankstown Council, and Vicinity Centre's Bankstown Central, to create a large artwork to recognise National Reconciliation Week. The artwork follows the theme of 'Be Brave. Make Change.', in order to foster and encourage the ideals of Reconciliation. The 14 metre artwork will appear on the hoardings in Bankstown Central centre court which will ensure maximum exposure of both the artist and the very important message of National Reconciliation Week which runs from Friday 27 May until 3 June. I note that these dates commemorate two significant milestones in the reconciliation journey—the successful 1967 referendum, and the High Court Mabo decision respectively. National Reconciliation Week is a time for all Australians to learn about our shared histories, cultures, and achievements, and to explore how each of us can contribute to achieving reconciliation in Australia. I would encourage everyone to attend a National Reconciliation Week event, especially Toni's wonderful artwork taking pride of place in the heart of Bankstown.

TAMARA CAMPBELL AND DAVE EVANS 'BIKE THE COMEDY KIAMA'

Mr GARETH WARD (Kiama)—Today the Parliament of NSW acknowledges Tamara Campbell and Dave Evans from Laughterhouse Entertainment. For many years, local residents Tamara Campbell and Dave Evans have co-ordinated the popular annual KISS Arts Festival in Kiama, which I have also supported as the Member for Kiama. Tamar and Dave are already planning their next exciting Kiama event – 'Bike the Comedy Kiama'. The concept was born during COVID and based on an event they performed in Holland where the audience moved in small groups, on their bicycles between the performance locations. Wollongong was the first to host their idea, but the pair have always had a vision to incorporate the beautiful Kiama coastline. With the assistance of funding from the NSW Office of Sport, the dream will become a reality on Sunday 3rd July 2022. 'Bike the Comedy Kiama' will begin at Black Beach and moving via shared pathways to Bonaira Reserve and back again, with five different performances along an 8km route in various natural settings.

KIAMA RED CROSS FUN RUN

Mr GARETH WARD (Kiama)—Today the Parliament of New South Wales recognises the 2022 Kiama Red Cross Fun Run. Many local walkers and runners are all ready and set to participate in this year's Kiama Red Cross Fun Run which will be held this Sunday 12th June 2022. The event has been going now for eight years and is now Kiama Red Cross' biggest annual fundraising event. Importantly, all proceeds go towards local Red Cross programs. I would like to acknowledge and thank the Club President and event organiser Judi O'Brien OAM for her significant hard work and dedication. All runners that complete the half marathon will receive a medallion. Participants can run or walk three distances: The 21.1km event starts at Coronation Park and goes through Bombo and Minnamurra to Dunmore and then coming back the same way. The 9km event starts at Carson Place near James Oates Reserve in Minnamurra. The 5km event starts at North Bombo carpark.

ON THANKING OUR DEDICATED LOCAL SES VOLUNTEERS

Mr GARETH WARD (Kiama)—Today the Parliament of NSW acknowledges our dedicated SES volunteers across the Kiama Electorate. Recent heavy rain and wind storms have impacted on areas around Kiama, Gerroa and Gerringong. In Kiama, I acknowledge the Local Kiama SES Unit Controller Chris Warren, Andrew McCullough and all of our dedicated and hard-working SES volunteers right across our region who are assisting local residents in the current challenging weather conditions. A fallen power pole recently closed Crooked River Road and which blacked out a number of local Gerroa residents. The SES is encouraging residents to undertake some very important preparation work now such as trimming overgrown trees and shrubs and clearing out household gutters. Please contact the NSW SES on 132 500 in any cases of emergency and always please stay well clear of any fallen power lines for your own safety.

BRAD AND WILL MILLAR

Mr PETER SIDGREAVES (Camden)—A simple fishing outing in Picton turned into a memorable occasion for Harrington Grove residents Brad and Will Miller. Brad and Will were dropping their lines into the Nepean River when his son Will caught a rare eel-tailed catfish, not usually found in shire waters, especially after the recent flooding. Eel-tailed catfish are usually found in the Murray-Darling Basin in clear, sluggish or still waters. Population over the years has declined and become threatened due to invasive species, habitat degradation, cold water pollution and fishing pressures and are considered endangered in NSW. Brad and Will's capture will help with scientific research into the conservation of the endangered species, population distribution and evolution. Congratulations Brad and Will on a very memorable catch.

ELIZABETH MACARTHUR HIGH SCHOOL

Mr PETER SIDGREAVES (Camden)—Congratulations to the Elizabeth Macarthur High School Open Girls Basketball Team and Girls Volleyball Team on their results in the Sydney South West [SSW] Competition. The Open Girls Basketball Team came in a very close second place in the SSW competition. Their only loss was in the final match. Overall, this is an outstanding achievement from the team. Great work. The Girls Volleyball Team produced a very impressive record of coming through undefeated and have now progressed to the next round of the State Knockout. Once again, I congratulate these students and I wish the Girls Volleyball Team the best of luck at the State Knockout.

NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK 2022

Mr PETER SIDGREAVES (Camden)—Reconciliation is about strengthening relationships between First Nations people and Non-Indigenous people, for the benefit of all Australians. A reconciled Australia is one where the rights of the First Nations people are not just respected but championed in all the places that matter. The theme for Reconciliation Week 2022 is "Be Brave. Make Change". It is a challenge to all Australians—individuals, families, communities and organisations to Be Brave and tackle reconciliation so we Make Change for the benefit of all Australians. Last year, Reconciliation Australia encouraged all Australia's to take to action, not just in Reconciliation Week but every week of the year. This year everyone is asked to make change beginning with brave action in their daily lives where they live, work, play and socialise.

GAMBUNI A PAESANA NIGHT

Mr GUY ZANGARI (Fairfield)—On Friday 3 June 2022, the Association of Maria S.S. Delle Grazie and San Vittorio Martire hosted the annual "Gambuni a Paesana" night at The Manor on Elizabeth. The night is a festival dedicated to the home cooking of pork shanks using the traditional cooking methods of the town of Roccella Jonica, Calabria, Italy. The association volunteers prepared 280 lower legs of pork for the cooking stage. The "gambuni" are a delicacy that must be tried. The delicacy was accompanied by a full four course meal to complement the main dish. I would like to thank association President Mr Frank Furfaro, Secretary Mrs Tina Furfaro and the entire committee for hosting the marvellous event. I also wish to congratulate the Youth Sub-committee for becoming involved in the preservation and promotion of their regional culture.

WESTERN SYDNEY CYCLING NETWORK INC.

Mr GUY ZANGARI (Fairfield)—It was my pleasure to visit the Western Sydney Cycling Network Inc. [WSCN] club house at the Fairfield Showground, Prairiewood. The WSCN is run by local resident Mr Joe Farrugia along with the team of dedicated committee members who all believe in encouraging people to take up the healthy lifestyle option of cycling. The WSCN is deeply immersed in the community with its bicycle recycling and donation program. I along with many locals have donated old family bikes which are then reconstructed and either sold or donated to disadvantaged members of the community. In the past two years the WSCN has donated bikes to residents impacted by bush fires and floods. The network also donates hundreds of bikes each year to indigenous children and parents in remote communities across the state. The WSCN considers the safety of riders as a top priority, with each bicycle sold or donated the rider receives a brand new helmet courtesy of the network. The WSCN is an integral part of the Fairfield community. I thank them for their efforts and wish them well in their future endeavours.

NORMA BOUTOUBIA – FAIRFIELD COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD 2022

Mr GUY ZANGARI (Fairfield)—I wish to congratulate Ms Norma Boutoubia of Helping Hands NSW who was recently awarded the Fairfield Electorate Community Service Award 2022. Helping Hands NSW provides free hampers to many local families per week and provided crucial assistance to local residents throughout the pandemic. Norma has been instrumental in organising volunteers, organising delivery services and in securing partnerships with various providers who donate items for the hampers. Norma is an advocate for the most vulnerable members of the community and I acknowledge her dedication and hard work. I thank her for her continuing work in the community and I congratulate her once again on receiving this award.

IAN LOWE

Mr GREG PIPER (Lake Macquarie)—I would like to acknowledge and thank Ian Lowe from Cooranbong. Ian is a remarkable man who served 30 years as an SES operator, including a lengthy stint as captain of the SES Cooranbong Unit. Over the years his superiors called on his skills, knowledge, experience and leadership qualities to provide training and guidance to crew members on a weekly basis. He and his crew also undertook additional training provided by Newcastle Police Rescue Squad. Ian has also been heavily involved in the Rural Fire Service, serving as Captain of the Cooranbong Volunteer Bushfire Brigade for 20 years. He also played an active role in the creation of Cooranbong's Fire Station and SES facilities. Now aged 90, Ian remains

dedicated to church and community activities and maintains an extensive community network. Until recently he was still cutting and splitting firewood and distributing it to the elderly. Last month I had the privilege of presenting Ian with the Premier's Community Service Award while he was surrounded by his family, friends, colleagues and local police representatives. I congratulate and thank Ian for all he has done for the Lake Macquarie community.

LIVERPOOL ANNUAL SORRY DAY EVENT

Mr PAUL LYNCH (Liverpool)—I wish to acknowledge the Liverpool Annual Sorry Day Event held in 2022 on 26 May at the Liverpool Regional Museum. Members of Gandangara Local Aboriginal Land Council and members of the local community were present at the event. A representative of Gandangara LALC provided a Welcome to Country. There was also a display of Aboriginal dancing. Twenty five years after State Parliament's apology and 14 years after Prime Minister Rudd's Apology (which I attended in the Commonwealth Parliament Chamber) there's still a great deal of pain and hurt – and of concrete consequences – resulting from the forcible removal of children from their families. Ongoing high rates of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in out-of-home-care in Australia means that these are simply not historical issues. Over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the justice system is another stain upon contemporary Australia.

SOUTHERN NSW LOCAL HEALTH DISTRICT MIDWIFERY TEAM

Dr MICHAEL HOLLAND (Bega)—On behalf of the Bega electorate, I offer my congratulations to the Southern NSW Local Health District midwifery team for winning the 2021 NSW Health Patient Safety First category at the NSW Health Awards. Team members Claudia Stevenson, Amanda Gear and Hannah Bird were present on the day to receive with the award for their project, Keeping pregnant women safe and close to home which was streamed live across the state on May 19. I thank all who were involved with the award-winning project including Rebecca Bowman, Julie Mooney, Celine Conrad, Sarah Anderson, Erin Petty, Wendy Pryke, Jennifer Flaherty, Amanda Sibley, Gemma O'Sullivan, Maree Hatton and Brett Delahunty. As a professional in the field for many decades, I would like to recognise and thank all the midwives, nurses and health professionals in the Southern NSW LHD for their dedication and excellence of care provided to their patients during such challenging times.

PETER COUNSELL

Dr MICHAEL HOLLAND (Bega)—I would like to recognise the hard work and determination of one of my constituents, Mr Peter Counsell on his achievement in completing the 2022 Everest Marathon, the highest marathon in the world. Mr Counsell at 65-years -old crossed the line in 71st place with over 140 runners in the event. Making up his 26th marathon, Mr Counsell finished the race with an inspiring time of 8 hours and 40 minutes. Held on May 29 each year, the marathon starts from the Mt. Everest Base Camp with the gruelling run crisscrossing the perilous Sherpa trails of the Khumbu valley. A place Peter is somewhat comfortable with after his 40 years travelling to Nepal to guide treks through the high-altitude terrain. Mr Counsell is also raising much needed funds for the Australian Himalayan Foundation to help rebuild the country following the 2015 earthquake and the COVID-19 pandemic I congratulate Mr Peter Counsell on his stellar performance on the international stage and thank him for being a true inspiration for the Bega Electorate.

JEREMY LARDNER & SOUTH COAST YARNS PODCAST

Dr MICHAEL HOLLAND (Bega)—On behalf of the Bega electorate, I would like to acknowledge the work of Narooma resident Jeremy Lardner on his new podcast helping to capture incredible stories from people across the south coast. A resident originally from Sydney, Mr Lardner has spent many hours listening to yarns from locals and customers at Club Narooma where he works. Realising the incredible passion and history in our region, Mr Lardner decided to take the plunge and begin his own podcasting project with his first interview with Eric Blue from Maltman Brewing in Bodalla. The series currently has three episodes available with Mr Lardner wanting to continue to grow the venture into the future. I wish Jeremy all the success in his endeavour and I thank him for providing a platform for all the unique and wonderful stories showcasing the amazing people, organisations, and events on NSW's south coast.

CASSILIS WAR MEMORIAL IMPROVEMENTS

Mr DAVID LAYZELL (Upper Hunter)—On Tuesday 31 May 2022 I had the great privilege to officially open improvements at Memorial Park, Cassilis. I thank the Cassilis District Development Group for the invitation and congratulate the community for what has been achieved. The development group applied to the NSW Government's Stronger Country Communities Fund for assistance and received \$52,952 for the upgrade. It allowed new seating and upgraded shade structures to be installed and a landscape design for the local War Memorial. The park is the hub of the community and provides recreational space for the health and wellbeing of all Cassilis residents. It also accommodates visitors and is the location for major events which provide income for

various community groups. I want to acknowledge the enthusiasm of the Cassilis District Development Group chaired by Jane Hegarty, which includes Kirsten Taylor, Bernie Aquilina, Kristen Hegarty and Erika Murphy. They ensured it was a memorable day marked by wonderful country hospitality despite cold, wintery weather. The group has a great vision for the future of Cassilis and district with lots of interesting plans for the area. I wish Cassilis District Development Group all the best with its future endeavours.

GIANT PARRAMATTA GRASS COMMUNITY ROUNDTABLE

Mr DAVID LAYZELL (Upper Hunter)—I want to thank Dungog district farmers, Jim Tickle and Josh Evans, for their leadership in bringing the community together to discuss concerns about Giant Parramatta Grass. Jim and Josh raised the problem with me and Hunter Local Land Services answered the call for a community meeting held at Tocal College, Paterson in late May. The level of concern amongst landholders saw a huge turnout keen to hear about the aggressive, invasive weed and the next steps to control it. Giant Parramatta Grass is a declared noxious weed which already has a foothold in the Williams and Paterson Valleys. As welcome as the wet spring and autumn have been after drought, unfortunately, the weed has spread at an alarming rate. Landholders appreciated having an up to date scientific briefing on Giant Parramatta Grass control methods from NSW Department of Primary Industries expert David Officer. Hunter Local Land Services also had awesome presentations by Sarah Giblin and Albert Mullin with technical support and management from Matt Kennedy. I now encourage landholders to have management plans with multiple strategies to challenge the weed with experts advising chemical control alone is not the silver bullet.

GEOFFREY ALDERDICE

Ms YASMIN CATLEY (Swansea)—Today I acknowledge Geoffrey Alderdice who received the Long Service Medal for completing 13 years of service as a member of the NSW Rural Fire Service Wyong Creek and Lake Munmorah Brigades. The NSW Rural Fire Service is that largest volunteer fire service in the world. For over a century, their volunteers have worked and trained to mitigate fire risks through comprehensive risk management programs and the development of regulations for bush fire prone areas. Geoffrey was awarded the medal at the Central Coast Volunteer Appreciation Day and District Medals Presentation last month, which was held to recognise the region's hard working firefighters who go above and beyond to ensure that the local community is protected against fire dangers and other hazards. I had the privilege of attending the award ceremony and it was great to see NSW Rural Fire Service volunteers, including Geoffrey being honoured in this way. I congratulate Geoffrey on receiving the Long Service Medal and thank him for his efforts to keep the people of the Central Coast safe.

MAL INGRAM AND ZAC GAY

Ms YASMIN CATLEY (Swansea)—Today I acknowledge Mal Ingram and Zac Gay of Caves Beach Surf Life Saving Club for the assistance they provided during the March flood crisis. Mal and Zac are members of Caves Beach Surf Life Saving Club's IRB crew who undertook rescue work in Singleton, Muswellbrook and Maitland during the floods. From talking with members of Caves Beach Surf Life Saving Club I am also aware that Zac's volunteer work during the crisis was a repeat of his great grandfather Ron Ekert. Ron was a member of the Caves Beach Surf Life Saving Club surf boat crews that also completed rescues during the 1955 Maitland floods. Mal and Zac's efforts demonstrate their commitment to helping others, especially in difficult circumstances. I thank Mal and Zac for the rescues they completed during the March flood crisis, as well as for all the volunteering they do as members of Caves Beach Surf Life Saving Club.

ZAC WILLIAMS

Ms YASMIN CATLEY (Swansea)—Today I acknowledge Zac Williams who received the Long Service Medal for completing 13 years of service as a member of the NSW Rural Fire Service Lake Munmorah, Charmhaven, Wyong Communications, Wallarah and Gwandalan Brigades. The NSW Rural Fire Service is that largest volunteer fire service in the world. For over a century, their volunteers have worked and trained to mitigate fire risks through comprehensive risk management programs and the development of regulations for bush fire prone areas. Zac was awarded the medal at the Central Coast Volunteer Appreciation Day and District Medals Presentation last month, which was held to recognise the region's hard working firefighters who go above and beyond to ensure that the local community is protected against fire dangers and other hazards. I had the privilege of attending the award ceremony and it was great to see NSW Rural Fire Service volunteers, including Zac being honoured in this way. I congratulate Zac on receiving the Long Service Medal and thank him for his efforts to keep the people of the Central Coast safe.

WALLSEND DISTRICT CRICKET CLUB AWARDS

Ms SONIA HORNER (Wallsend)—I recently had the pleasure of attending the Wallsend District Cricket Club Awards for the 2021-2022 season. Congratulations to Jack Starr who took home the most unwanted

award, Most Ducks in the season. Well done to Best Fielding for 1st Grade, Joe Clarke, for 2nd Grade, Josh Pettigrew, for 4th Grade, Ashton Richards and SD Div3 Riaz Mohammed. Congratulation to Players Player for 1st Grade, Pat Magann, for 3rd Grade, Zubair Awan, for 4th Grade, Chris Bushell, and for SD Div3, Benjamin Levi. Well done to Best Bowler in 1st Grade, Joe Clarke, in 2nd Grade, Ben Herring, in 3rd Grade, Zubair Awan, in 4th Grade, Will Kirby, in SD Div1 Grade, Mohammad Umar, and in SD Div3 Grade, Sachin Gupta. Congratulation to Best Batting in 3rd Grade, Neil Brooks, in 4th Grade, Chris Bushell, in SD Div1 Grade, Varun Sharma and in SD Div3 Grade, Sagar Verma. Finally, well done to Joe Clarke who took home the Best Fielding Catches award. Well done to all the award winners on a great season. A huge thank you to all the volunteers in the Club for their tireless efforts. Go Tigers.

WALLSEND DISTRICT CRICKET CLUB AWARDS

Ms SONIA HORNER (Wallsend)—I recently had the pleasure of attending the Wallsend District Cricket Club Awards for the 2021-2022 season. Congratulations to Ryan Brooks who took out the Statisticians Award, Most Consistent 1st Grader, 1st Grade Batting and Wicket Keeping awards. Well done to Jason Varoxis who took out Club Champion, most Consistent Over 30s Player, 2nd Grade Batting and Players Player 2nd Grade. Congratulation to Club Person of the Year, Jake Montgomery. Well done to Brooklyn Kilsby who took home the Encouragement Award, 2nd Grade Batting and Fielding 3rd Grade awards. Congratulations to Jye Clark who was named Most Improved Player, and Ethan Jekot who took out the Young Cricketer Award. Well done to all the award winners on a great season. A huge thank you to all the volunteers in the Club for their tireless efforts. Go Tigers.

NEWCASTLE HERALD SHORT STORY COMPETITION

Ms SONIA HORNER (Wallsend)—The annual Newcastle Herald Short Story competition is always a hotly contested event with hundreds of entries from all across the region. This year's contest was no different, and the recent announcement of the winners has sparked excitement among the community. The Wallsend electorate boasted five winners. Stephanie Ayres from Cardiff claimed the top prize with *The Elephant in the Room*, an introspective piece about domestic violence told from a child's perspective. Dakota Tate, from Shortland, was highly commended by judges for *The Circle*, a piece driven by its eerie atmosphere. The Reader's Choice Award was claimed by Kendall Dieleman of Waratah West. George Chambers of Waratah and Sally Davies of Glendale also made it into the shortlist of 23 finalists. I would like to congratulate the winners and finalists of the competition on their achievement. Their work stood out from the many other entrants, and each should be proud of their results.

ALBURY'S DREW BRNDUSIC AIMS FOR RUGBY WORLD CUP 2027

Mr JUSTIN CLANCY (Albury)—I would like to congratulate Drew Brndusic of Trinity Anglican College, who has been selected for the ACT Brumbies under-18's squad, one of Australia's leading professional rugby union teams. Drew is currently with the Steamers playing prop for its first-grade team. He is regularly noted as 'best on the field' for the quality of his performance. His commitment and years of training in rugby union are being recognised. He was the only one selected from Albury by the Southern Inland coaches and will have to commit to travelling to Canberra two days a week. His ultimate goal for the future, is to play for the Wallabies at the Rugby World Cup in 2027 on home soil. As Drew said on his selection for the Brumbies U18s: "this is the first step and hopefully it's one of many". Well done Drew!

NAT'S NAILED IT WITH PAINTING

Mr JUSTIN CLANCY (Albury)—I would like to congratulate Nat Ward from Albury who has been selected as a finalist in 'The Hadley Art Prize', a prestigious landscape art competition. Her painting 'Chocolate lily buds on Nail Can Hill' has taken her into a select group of 30 finalists out of the more than 500 entrants who were participating in this competition. The awards night, to be held in Hobart on the 22 July, will give finalists a chance to meet accomplished artists such as Ken Done, and a time to share this stage of their journey as artists. Nat's artwork will also be displayed at the Melbourne art exhibition centre 'Wattles and Wildflowers'. Wishing you all the very best Nat at the awards night in Hobart and with your exhibit in Melbourne.

ALBURY'S REBECCA BRYANT RECEIVES PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD

Mr JUSTIN CLANCY (Albury)—I would like to congratulate Rebecca Bryant who has been awarded a People's Choice Award and Smooth Operator Award in recognition of her outstanding work as a Tenancy Advocate. Rebecca is a consultant for Verto (Tenancy Advice Service) a not-for-profit organisation and employment services provider based at the Yes Unlimited Hub in Albury. Ms Bryant's role plays a very important part in our community, connecting those in need of support services and those facing financial hardship. Rebecca's passion is to improve rental outcomes and assist in relieving homelessness, and her work supports people

struggling with the increasing cost of living and higher rentals. Well done Rebecca for your outstanding contribution to the Albury community's most vulnerable.

SOUTH WEST SYDNEY ACADEMY OF SPORT

Mr PAUL LYNCH (Liverpool)—I recognise the South West Sydney Academy of Sport [SWSAS] which is now celebrating its 25th Anniversary. SWSAS, over its history, can boast 6 Olympians and 2 Paralympians. On Wednesday 1 June a Civic Reception was held at the Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre Theatre for SWSAS athletes, coaches, and supporters. The Reception was addressed by SWSAS Deputy Chairperson Michelle Caruso, CEO Gerry Knights, and several athletes. Daniel Currinckx and Stephen Craig from the Academy should also be acknowledged. SWSAS has done important and useful work particularly in the development and support of talented junior athletes in the region. They have provided athletes with access to specialised sports, skills, and education services. They are an important institution in our area.

NSW SES SHELLHARBOUR & DAPTO UNITS

Ms ANNA WATSON (Shellharbour)—Since 1 March, with the unprecedented rain and flooding in our community, NSW SES Shellharbour City Unit has attended to over 170 requests for assistance. This included 103 requests for assistance with storm damage, 33 calls for help due to flooding, 4 flood rescues and 1 evacuation request. During the same period, SES Dapto Unit responded to 91 calls for assistance, 4 flood rescues, and 1 evacuation. The SES relies on volunteers to give up their time to support the community, both day and night. Particularly in large scale events, the SES manages a vast logistical task to ensure engagement and assistance in the community. There are so many people who work behind the scenes so that the SES can function properly. From the field teams to the incident management team, the duty managers, the flood technicians, the logistics officers, and the social media team. The families and employers of volunteers also have to make significant sacrifices during these times, to ensure the SES can fulfil its duties. To everyone involved with SES operations in our community, thank you. You have my continuous support and gratitude.

ILLAWARRA WOMEN'S TRAUMA RECOVERY CENTRE

Ms ANNA WATSON (Shellharbour)—I would like to congratulate the Illawarra Women's Health Centre, along with their general manager Sally Stevenson, and Chairwoman Judy Daunt, in leading a successful campaign to secure \$25 million from the Federal Government to establish Australia's first women's trauma recovery centre, here in the Illawarra. In March, 2020 I helped to secure \$50,000 from the NSW government to develop a business case for the centre, which was completed last July, thanks to a partnership between the Illawarra Women's Health Centre and UNSW researchers. The recovery centre will provide free holistic primary and mental health care, legal, housing, and financial support services for women and children who are experiencing trauma from domestic, family or sexual violence. Sally, Judy and the other women at the health centre are truly inspirational and I am proud of our collaborative efforts to ensure women and children experiencing trauma have access to the best resources and care that can be provided. It's been a long time coming, but this is a great win for our region. I'm beyond thrilled to see this centre finally get the funding it needs, and look forward to seeing this project come to fruition.

BYRON BAY PUBLIC SCHOOL

Ms TAMARA SMITH (Ballina)—Today I congratulate the Senior Girls Relay Team at Byron Bay Public School who won a bronze medal at the NSW Primary Schools Sports Association State Swimming Championships earlier this year. The four girls from Years five and six at the school who won the medal in the 4X50m freestyle relay – Mali Stewart, Delilah Warton, Lily Purtell and Ivy Gilbert – exemplify the focus and determination that is needed to swim competitively. All four girls have been part of the Byron Bay Nippers squad since the age of six, and compete at carnivals representing the club. At the Sydney Aquatic Centre they shaved four seconds off their heat time in the final and competed in a wide range of other events at the PSSA championships. Their grit and teamwork are inspirational and I wish them every success in the future. Congratulations to the Principal Linda Trigg and all staff at Byron Bay Public School for their support of students' success.

DAHLSFORD GROVE LIFESTYLE VILLAGE

Mrs LESLIE WILLIAMS (Port Macquarie)—Today I recognise the residents of Dahlsford Grove Lifestyle Village Port Macquarie who recently hosted a Morning Tea to raise valuable funds for cancer support services in our community. It is that time of the year when Australians from across the country put their baking skills to the test to gather with friends over morning tea and to raise money for cancer care and research. Dahlsford resident Margaret Gowans coordinated the annual event with all proceeds donated to the Mid North Coast Cancer Institute in Port Macquarie. By all accounts the morning tea was a huge success with Margaret presenting Acting Nurse Unit Manager Kirsty with a cheque for \$1,400 thanks to the delicious home cooking baked by our master chef's at Dahlsford Village. Attendance also exceeded all expectations with over 120 residence enjoying the sweet

and savory delicacies. The Australian Biggest Morning Tea is held in the month of May and June with all funds donated to the Cancer Council. All up 19,441 morning teas have been registered and a whopping \$6,196,433 donated. I congratulate Margaret and her marvellous team of volunteers for championing this wonderful event to support those living with a cancer prognosis.

DR GURPAL SINGH – 45 YEARS OF RURAL GP SERVICES

Mrs LESLIE WILLIAMS (Port Macquarie)—Today I acknowledge Dr Gurpal Singh for accomplishing an impressive milestone in his life and his career as a General Practitioner since moving to Harrington in 1977. Dr Gurpal Singh celebrates an extraordinary 45 years of service as a General Practitioner supporting patients from the communities of Harrington, Coopernook and beyond. Recruited by the Country Women's Association nearly half a century ago, Dr Singh arrived in the small fishing town of Harrington and quickly set up his own practice and medicine distribution as there was no local open. During the early days Dr Singh was on call 24 hours, 7 days a week providing medical support across the landscape from the coastline to the outlying villages and the hinterland. Dr Singh attended all forms of urgent medical emergencies, day or night, until help arrived. Dr Singh has been honoured with many accolades over his illustrious career but the standouts include the NSW Rural Medical Services Award recognising 35 years of service and the 2020 Senior Citizen of the Year. A legacy of service unmatched by many in the medical profession, I thank Dr Gurpal for his longstanding contribution to rural medicine.

BOWLS NSW STATE CHAMPIONS

Mrs LESLIE WILLIAMS (Port Macquarie)—Today I am excited to inform the House that the Men's and Women's Bowls NSW State Champions have been decided on the greens with well-deserved wins to the Port City Bowling Club. Our Port City Women's team were standout performers recently at the State Championship Titles held at the South Tamworth Bowling Club, defeating a formidable Cabramatta in the Semi Finals before reigning victorious against Adaminaby 26-14. I extend my congratulations to Lead Jeanice Schiemer, Second Sonny Willis, Third Karen McFarlane and Skip Kylie Hardy. Making the final of the State Open Pairs and achieving a commendable runner up placing against powerhouse Engadine were Lead Kylie Hardy and Skip Carol White. Both women played exceptionally well but were unlucky on the day. The Port City Men's team were just as jubilant recently after breaking a 26-year State Title drought at Ettalong on 22nd May. Claiming the victory were Matthew Carter, Jake Waterhouse, Phil Baker and Jai Whelan. Juniors of the game with the eldest 27 years of age, the men defeated Kurri Kurri in the semi-finals and defeating Narrandera in the final. Congratulations and best wishes to everyone involved in the Australian titles in October.

BAYSIDE STUDENT EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER (Rockdale)—In March this year Rockdale Town Hall, in my electorate, hosted the COVID-delayed 2021 Bayside Student Excellence Awards. A celebration and recognition of outstanding students from across the Bayside Council area, the evening brought together nominees from local primary and secondary schools who have displayed exceptional leadership qualities or have excelled in academic studies, sports or the arts. During the event the 72 winners of the different categories were finally able to be presented with their awards and a gift voucher by the Mayor of Bayside, Dr Christina Curry. I join with Mayor Curry in her congratulations to the students that evening. They are an outstanding group of young people who deserve the recognition of their leadership and achievement across many different fields of endeavour. I also join with Mayor Curry in thanking the teachers and parents of the students for their efforts and hard work during the difficult learning interruptions of the pandemic. The students, their teachers and their families can all be equally proud of the awards. Well done, and I look forward to seeing the future achievements of these fine young citizens.

CANOWINDRA SOLDIERS MEMORIAL HOSPITAL CENTENARY

Mr PHILIP DONATO (Orange)—I wish to recognise Canowindra Soldiers Memorial Hospital's 100 years of delivering health care to the Canowindra district. June 28th marks the Hospital's centenary, with the occasion being celebrated on the day with a free morning tea at the hospital, with presentations from speakers who will enlighten participants with history of the Hospital. On Saturday 2nd of July, a Centenary dinner dance celebration will be held at the Canowindra Services and Citizens Club, including a three-course dinner and live entertainment from local band. This celebration honours the history of the Hospital, and those who have contributed to it over the past 100 years, replicating the 1922 Grand Ball celebration event which marked the Hospital's opening. The Canowindra Soldiers Memorial Hospital is so named as it was constructed with a World War One memorial tower, and honour boards erected in the foyer to remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice in the conflict for our freedom. I congratulate the Hospital's committee, Canowindra's community groups, health care professionals, support staff and volunteers – past, present and future for their efforts in delivering health care and support to the community of Canowindra.

MONA VALE SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB

Mr ROB STOKES (Pittwater—Minister for Infrastructure, Minister for Cities, and Minister for Active Transport)—I recognise the incredible team effort that has been the renewal of the Mona Vale Surf Life Saving Club building. On Saturday I was delighted to attend the official opening of the new building with Club members, local residents, Northern Beaches Mayor Michael Regan, and Surf Life Saving NSW CEO Steve Pearce. Mona Vale's volunteer surf lifesavers perform an invaluable role in keeping beachgoers safe, and the Club supports the physical, social and mental wellbeing of the Pittwater community. This major project – including new training facilities, equipment storage, dining and function space – has also delivered surrounding improvements in pedestrian access, bicycle infrastructure, and new public amenities. This incredible outcome could not have been achieved without passionate advocacy over a number of years and partnership between the Club, the NSW Government, and Northern Beaches Council. Thank you to Club President Paula Tocquer, former Presidents Bryce Munro, David Sinclair, Alan Mason and George Cooper, and amazing volunteers including Andrew Hjorth, Ralph Stonell, Dave Moreton, Jon Dibbs, Michelle Fry and all the surf life savers who will be using this building to better serve our community.

FRANCES REFALO

Mrs TANYA DAVIES (Mulgoa)—Today I want to recognise Frances Refalo, Glenmore Park local and President of the Nepean Football Association. Last month, Western Sydney Wanderers FC gathered for their annual Medal Dinner and Frances was honoured with the Chairman's Award. The award is given annually to a Western Sydney person who goes above and beyond for their services to the club and to football in Western Sydney. Ms Refalo has been involved in football in Western Sydney for 26 years and I would like to thank her for her amazing and outstanding contribution to the sport over such a significant period. Congratulations on your award Frances.

BLACK LILY IMAGES

Mrs TANYA DAVIES (Mulgoa)—Today I want to recognise and congratulate Black Lily Images, a small business from Mulgoa which was recently picked to be promoted in Telstra's Big Plugs for small Business. Many small businesses bore the brunt of COVID-19 and its economic impacts over the past two years and I am proud of the many small businesses in my community such as Black Lily Images that have remained resilient and never gave up. Black Lily Images was promoted and showcased during Round 9 of the 2022 NRL Telstra Premiership between Penrith Panthers and Parramatta Eels at Panther's Stadium. Congratulations to Black Lily Images on this achievement.

STEVE ANYON-SMITH

Ms ELENi PETINOS (Miranda—Minister for Small Business, and Minister for Fair Trading)—I recognise the exceptional Steve Anyon-Smith of Jannali for his commitment to our local environment. Steve along with fellow Sutherland Shire resident Tom Kristensen last year located a previously undiscovered koala colony within the Heathcote National Park. The initial discovery was made when the two men went for a walk in the western part of the Heathcote National Park which is home to plenty of food trees and a consistent supply of drinking water. They found a koala in the very first tree and went on to find an additional four of five koalas during their initial searches. Since then, the two have photographed and named 80 previously undocumented koalas. In addition to this recent discovery, Steve has written a birdwatching guide titled Birdwatching in Royal & Heathcote National Parks and offers private tours of the Royal National Park. He is also one of the longest serving members of Sutherland Shire Bushcare, often working in reserves seven days a week. I commend Steve Anyon-Smith for his interest in our local biodiversity.

SUTHERLAND SHIRE NETBALL ASSOCIATION

Ms ELENi PETINOS (Miranda—Minister for Small Business, and Minister for Fair Trading)—I acknowledge the Sutherland Shire Netball Association who are the successful recipients of \$1,600 from the NSW Government's 2022 Local Sport Grant Program. Established in 1960, the Sutherland Shire Netball Association is home to 25 Clubs and does an incredible job promoting a love of netball within our community. In recent years, the Association has seen significant success at a representative level. Through this grant funding, the Sutherland Shire Netball Association will subsidise the cost of training for coaches and umpires who dedicate their time to supporting local players. I acknowledge that often the cost of these courses can place a financial burden on volunteers and volunteer organisations, which is why I am pleased that this funding will invest in the people that support community sport. Of course, none of this could be possible without the hardworking team behind the Sutherland Shire Netball Association. I acknowledge the outstanding committee members including Karen Salter, Lisa Woodham, Jenny Rees, Sue Woods, Shirley Way, Prue Haberecht, Kerry Phillips, Nerida

Noble, Vicki Kerr and Aynsley Dryden. I commend the Sutherland Shire Netball Association for investing in the skills of their volunteers.

TARALGA APH ASSOCIATION ANNUAL SHOW

Mrs WENDY TUCKERMAN (Goulburn—Minister for Local Government)—Today I recognise the work of the Taralga AP & H Society Show on the planning, preparation and hosting of the 100th Taralga Show. The Taralga AP & H Society Show was awarded the Taralga Event of the Year Award at the 2022 Australia Day Awards.

2021 was indeed a very special year for the Taralga AP & H Society Show celebrating its 100th show, this in itself is a remarkable achievement, along with the extraordinary challenges of planning and holding such an event through the COVID pandemic. The Taralga community and visitors were able to come together in person, which they had not been able to do for some time, which in itself was a marvellous achievement. Those attending were able to participate in a wide breadth of activities and exhibitions that catered for the different generations and interests within the community. I sincerely congratulate the many volunteers that make up the Taralga AP&H Society Show for their ongoing contribution to the Upper Lachlan Shire region. The sense of community and dedication to this event is to be commended. I congratulate you on this wonderful achievement.

GOULBURN SHOW

Mrs WENDY TUCKERMAN (Goulburn—Minister for Local Government)—Today I recognise the work of the Goulburn AP & H Society Show. Despite lockdowns and the many other issues surrounding the additional planning to ensure the Show was COVID safe the Show Committee rose to the challenge and staged a safe and enjoyable 3-Day Show. It was one of the only full size country shows held in NSW in 2021. Still the community was able to come together in person, which they had not been able to do for some time, which in itself was a marvellous achievement. Those attending were able to participate in a wide breadth of activities and exhibitions that catered for the different generations and interests within the community. The Goulburn AP & H Society Show was awarded Goulburn Mulwaree's Community Event of the Year Award at the 2022 Australia Day Awards. The Goulburn AP&H Society Show again held a very successful Show between 5th & 6th March 2022 and have again been able to appeal to the community interests, whilst continuing to recognise community safety. I sincerely congratulate the many volunteers that make up the Goulburn AP&H Society Show for their ongoing contribution to the Goulburn region.

KYOGLE ROTARY CLUB MOTHERS DAY HAMPER FLOOD FUNDRAISER

Ms JANELLE SAFFIN (Lismore)—I congratulate the Kyogle Rotary Club on their roaring success in their annual Mothers Day Hamper flood fundraiser. It was a wonderful coming together at the Kyogle Bazaar to celebrate our local mothers, the Kyogle community and local creatives. Artists at the Bazaar donated their works and artisan goods to make up the hamper. Ticket sales were conducted online and at Clay Corner on Fridays. I wish to thank Wendy who lent the space to the Rotary Club. Peter Constable from Kyogle Rotary drew the raffle at the Kyogle Farmers Market and Maggie May was fortunate enough to take home the hamper. The ticket sales raised \$859.55 which will be donated to Arts Northern Rivers which suffered significant damage in our recent catastrophic flood events. This will go a long way to supporting our local creatives recover. This is important because our creatives are such an important part of what makes our community special. I once again thank Rotary and everyone involved.

MOMENTUM COLLECTIVE RECONCILIATION WEEK EVENT

Ms JANELLE SAFFIN (Lismore)—It was great to join with many locals today at Momentum Collective for their Reconciliation Week Event. I thank Aunty Ros Sten for her Welcome to Country and her moving words. Ros talked about the importance of education particularly for young Indigenous women and shared with us how it has changed her life and her family's life. It was an inspiring address and I thank Aunty Ros for sharing her experiences with us and for her continued work in our community. I also acknowledge and thank Jenny Smith for conducting the smoking ceremony and leading us through the ceremony. We all had the opportunity to be cleansed by the smoke. It was a great opportunity to talk about our shared future together and recommit our support for the Uluru Statement from the Heart. I'd also like to thank Johnny Dawson for organising this wonderful event, Momentum CEO Tracey Mackie and all the staff for being involved.

TAYLAH MITTEN BACK TO TENTERFIELD HOSPITAL

Ms JANELLE SAFFIN (Lismore)—It was lovely to read in the Tenterfield Star this week the story of Taylah Mitten who was born in Tenterfield Hospital and in April has returned to work at the hospital she was born in as a nurse. It is a wonderful story and shows the pulling power of Tenterfield to bring people home. Taylah moved to Newcastle in 2007 to complete her schooling and hasn't lived in Tenterfield since. She says she decided

to move back home for more than her career with her Grandparents Peter and Denise living in the area. It was also wonderful to hear about her Mum and brother moving back to the area as well. Mum working in admin at the hospital means the family will be even closer together. On the halls of the hospital there is photo of Taylah with her cousins Mariah Mooney and Ellie Griffiths from when they were babies. It is so nice that it still hangs there today. Taylah says that the best part of nursing is spending quality time with the patient and providing personalised care. I know the people of Tenterfield will be well served by Taylah coming back.

ST VINNIES - HAY

Mrs HELEN DALTON (Murray)—Today I would like to recognise the volunteers of St Vincent De Paul in Hay for all the work they do in our community. Fr Paul Fellow, Judy Callaghan, Tracey Headon, Christine Sullivan, Sue Parslow and Jo Schade are all volunteers for St Vinnies in Hay, helping and protecting those most vulnerable in our community. Thanks to their work the local St Vinnies retail store remains open and people in need have someone to approach for help and listen. Without people like this, our community would be poorer for it. I would again like to thank Fr Paul, Judy, Tracey, Christine, Sue and Jo for volunteering their time to ensure the betterment of the Hay community.

JUSTIN GRIFFITHS - BALRANALD

Mrs HELEN DALTON (Murray)—Today I would like to recognise the work of Justin Griffiths, a local to Balranald and an avid contributor to local community groups and clubs. Justin is the President of the Balranald Motorcycle club, a position he has held for several years. In this role Justin spends countless hours ensuring the track and club are in fit condition for weekend races, spending 7 nights a week preparing the course before a weekend race. Justin is a committee member for the Balranald Football Club, where he also serves as the Junior Auskick coordinator. He is also on the Balranald Swimming Club committee, and is a regular volunteer for the St Josephs Primary School P&F. I would again like to thank Justin for all the work he does, and I look forward to seeing what his future contributions will bring to the Balranald community.

MR & MRS SARTI'S 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Mr LEE EVANS (Heathcote)—Today I wish to congratulate two of my Menai constituents, Eddie and his wife Chris as they celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on 10th June 2022. I hope they have a wonderful day and enjoy all the beautiful memories that come with the celebration of a golden wedding anniversary. I am sure they will be accompanied by their closest family and friends as they mark this special milestone. I take this opportunity to wish Eddie and Chris many more years of fun, enjoyment, happiness and good health together.

MR & MRS WILLIAMS' 60TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Mr LEE EVANS (Heathcote)—I take this opportunity to congratulate Mr Benjamin and Mrs Marie Williams as they celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary on 16 June 2022. Reaching 60 years of marriage is an impressive milestone. I hope they have a wonderful day commemorating this special occasion accompanied with their closest family and friends. I extend my best wishes for a happy diamond anniversary to Mr and Mrs Williams and wish them many more happy years together full of happiness and good health.

MICHAEL DAVIS

Mr JAMIE PARKER (Balmain)—Today I bring to the attention of the House the work of Michael Davis, a long-time community activist and unionist who has made significant contributions to the Balmain area. Michael has participated local campaigns to protect public parking in Balmain East, save Callan Park from unwanted commercial development and gain shore to ship power at the White Bay Cruise Terminal. He has also engaged in extensive humanitarian and refugee work. This has included raising money to build a primary school in Chisapani Nepal and fund the care and education of Nepali orphans. He has also worked with the Refugee Action Coalition, particularly to support Rohingya asylum seekers. Michael's work as a teacher has seen him establish student and teacher exchange programs between Newington College and the Hermann Gmeiner School in Kathmandu. As Independent Education Union representative and council member, he has fought to protect and improve teacher's working conditions. The Balmain community is richer for all of Michael's hard work serving the causes of education, justice and environmentalism.

MONARO PANTHERS FC

Mrs NICHOLE OVERALL (Monaro)—I send my heartiest congratulations to the entire Monaro Panthers community, following the team's historic win on the football field last Saturday night. Monaro Panthers will now take their place in the Australia Cup Round of 32 for the first time, following a dramatic conclusion to the qualifying final at Deakin Stadium, where they tore the heart out of a valiant West Canberra Wanderers, winning 3-1 in a remarkable finish to the contest. In its ninth season, the 2022 Australia Cup is the main National soccer knockout cup competition. With the qualifying rounds now completed, 32 teams will contest the

competition proper – the Monaro Panthers being one of them. The winner of the 2022 Australia Cup will be the first team to qualify for the Asian Football Confederation's pinnacle event, The AFC Cup. The Monaro Panthers players are: Darren Bailey, Ben Bassier-Silk, Jordan Cachia, Josh Calabria, Andre Carle, Gabe Cole, Kofi Danning, Adam De Franceschi, David Jenkins, Nikos Kalfas, Evan Keeble, Amilio Kista, Zac McLaren, Patrick Mitchell, Adam Neou, Michael Pochi, Jai Selden, Kyle Senior, Jordan Thurtell, James Wilson, Seb Woods. Head Coach: Frank Cachia. Assistant Coaches: Ian Worthington, Matt Cachia

TERRY O'CALLAGHAN

Mrs NICHOLE OVERALL (Monaro)—I want to recognise the life of local Queanbeyan identity, Terry O'Callaghan who recently passed away at his home. Originally from New Zealand, Terry made Queanbeyan his home in the early 1990s and quickly cemented himself in the community. A true 'character' and widely known he was often lovingly referred to as "the cowboy" due to his signature hat and clothing. Terry suffered great heartache during his life, losing his beloved fiancée, but he was still able to see the best in life. He particularly enjoyed nature and the outdoors having grown up on a farm in rural New Zealand. Terry was much loved by the Queanbeyan community and this has been reflected in the outpouring of grief and memories of their interaction with him since his passing. The joy that Terry brought to the community through his iconic fashion sense, his love of a chat and his friendly nature is something that will be truly missed by many of Queanbeyanites. Terry may have been from across "the Ditch", but he will always be remembered for his connection and fondness for the place he called home for close to three decades.

ROSELANDS FOOTBALL CLUB 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr JIHAD DIB (Lakemba)—On Friday 3 June, I was honoured to join Roselands Football Club, commonly known as the Roselands Raptors, for its 50th year Anniversary at Conca D'oro, Riverwood. Since 1972, Roselands FC has provided high quality soccer training for youth seeking to be active and healthy. I have admired their very strong sense of family and community spirit since I first met the Roselands Raptors family. Roselands Football Club was founded by Mrs Grace Martin and her late husband Tony. I had the pleasure of meeting Mrs Martin, affectionately known as mum by the club. Through the years the club has had many teams make it to semi-finals, finals and grand finals. In 2001, the club's most successful junior team U13 won the competition and earned the prestige of going to the champion of champions. Roselands Raptors have one of the most successful women's teams in NSW. They have won the NSW State League Competition where Jinny May and Angela Treglia were awarded NSW Players of the Year. Congratulations on turning 50 and thank you to President Luca Circelli and all volunteers over those years for helping the club thrive.

MAGISTRATE MICHAEL HOLMES OAM – RETIREMENT

Mr ADAM MARSHALL (Northern Tablelands)—I recognise His Honour Michael Holmes OAM, a highly regarded and respected Magistrate who today retires from the NSW Local Court, having served the New England and North West districts for two decades. His final posting was at Armidale Local Court. His retirement punctuates a stellar career of more than 50 years in the legal sphere; including as a police officer in prosecution, general law, internationally based investigative and judicial roles, before being appointed as a Magistrate. His Honour has worked very hard on the travelling court circuit across this region. He also worked to develop a strong relationship with the University of New England mentoring law students, as well as working with aboriginal communities by developing innovative programs within the judicial system. I congratulate His Honour on his distinguished and important career in law and for his fairness and practical common sense which defined his tenure as a Magistrate. I wish he and his wife Nola a happy and fulfilling retirement in the coming years and thank them both for the many sacrifices they made to ensure fair justice for the many people relying on the courts. Thank you and all the best, Sir.

JAMES WARREN – AUSTRALIAN POETRY HALL OF FAME

Mr ADAM MARSHALL (Northern Tablelands)—I recognise James Warren, founder of the Australian Poetry Hall of Fame located in Guyra's historic Arcadia Theatre, built in 1929. James continues to bring poetry events and readings to Guyra, most recently, an Easter Sunday performance of the Piano Man. The Australian Poetry Hall of Fame offers more than performances. The poetry library houses a large collection of Australian poetry books, publications, and unpublished works giving recognition to Australian authors and unknown poets. Space is available for workshops, there is a book store, art supplies and stationary available at the venue and even Tibetan breathing and yoga classes. The Saturday Guyra Farmers and Craft Market gives exposure to local producers and artisans, and rounding out James' personal talents, the Seahorse Medicine Café showcases his knowledge and experience in nutrition, herbal healing and healthy lifestyles. I congratulate James on the success of his enterprise, bringing inspirational experiences to Guyra. I commend James for providing an art centre through his ingenuity and perseverance, making the Australian Poetry Hall of Fame a popular venue of unique entertainment and education for the village.

GUYRA MEN'S SHED

Mr ADAM MARSHALL (Northern Tablelands)—I recognise the members of the Guyra Men's Shed for initiating funding to expand their workplace, making it more accessible and viable for their many projects serving the community. Their "shed" has grown from the former Guyra SES building to providing additional storage space and accessible amenities together with an additional shed with connecting pathways and disabled compliant railings. These improved facilities will support the health and wellbeing of an increasing attendance. In addition, the Guyra community knows they can go to the Men's Shed if they want a job done and word has spread farther afield. Recently they were approached by an entity in Lismore to make plywood hearts to bear encouraging words to hang around the town after the recent devastating floods. I congratulate President John Jackson, David Mackay, Peter Brazier, Richard Navin, Steve Mephram, Geoff Kendall, Phil Williams, Peter King and those who attend the Guyra Men's Shed making it the vital organisation it has become. I commend those who attend the Guyra Men's Shed for taking responsibility for their own health and well-being which extends to the service they provide.

PRAKASH CHHETRI

Mr MARK COURE (Oatley—Minister for Multiculturalism, and Minister for Seniors)—I congratulate and to thank a member of my local area, Prakash Chhetri, for his fantastic contributions to our sporting community. Prakash provides martial arts training to children throughout our local area, working alongside them to improve their discipline in school and at home. Prakash was awarded a 2021 St George Community Group Award for these fantastic efforts. Prakash now runs three Taekwondo training centres in Sydney, which is an excellent achievement by any merit, and a fantastic contribution to our local sporting community. During the recent COVID-19 lockdown, Mr Chhetri continued to serve our community by providing online sessions for both adults and children. This was in order to maintain fitness levels and improve mental health during a period which was so difficult for all of us. I commend him on his high-spirits and commitment during this time. Speaker, I believe that local sport has always truly been the backbone of the St George region, and it is wonderful to see such a talented role model training the next generation of Taekwondo players within our area. I once again congratulate Prakash for receiving this award, and wish him all the best in his future endeavours.

BRENDAN MCNALLY

Mr MARK COURE (Oatley—Minister for Multiculturalism, and Minister for Seniors)—Today I thank and congratulate a member of my local community, Brendan McNally, who has recently been awarded with a 2021 St George Community Group Award for his volunteering efforts at the St George Men's Shed. I am so proud of the enormous efforts that the Men's Shed goes to within our community to assist people with disabilities as well as community organisations like hospitals, schools and nursing homes. The St George Men's Shed in particular is open five days a week from 8:00am to 12:00pm, which allows members such as Brendan McNally to work in various capacities alongside the community. Brendan has taken part in fee generating projects such as building toys for sale at fairs, alongside assisting with general repair work and day-to-day operations at the shed. Brendan regularly attends Men's Shed meetings and remains a long-term member, even in his nineties. He is always up for a chat or a joke, and is a highly respected member of the Men's Shed. I would like to congratulate Brendan McNally for receiving this award, and wish him all the best in his future endeavours.

ADRIAN PRAKASH

Mr MARK COURE (Oatley—Minister for Multiculturalism, and Minister for Seniors)—I congratulate a member of my local community and the General Manager of Share, Adrian Prakash, for his important contributions to the community during the COVID-19 lockdown. Adrian recently received a 2021 St George Community Award for assisting Share during a time of great difficulty for our State. Share is a community organisation that aims to enhance the wellbeing of those over 55 through exercise and personal development. During the COVID-19 lockdown last year, Adrian displayed creativity and innovation in running a range of Share's programs online. This was achieved through the use of YouTube videos for those who only had access to a mobile phone, as well as a range of online Zoom classes. I would like to commend Adrian on his efforts during this period. The COVID-19 lockdown was certainly not an easy time for any of us, and it is fantastic that local heroes like Adrian continued to care for the wider community during this time. I would like to again congratulate Adrian for receiving this award, and wish him all the best in his future endeavours.

TYRA TOWNEY

Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS (Dubbo—Minister for Agriculture, and Minister for Western New South Wales)—At just 13 years of age, Dubbo local Tyra Towney has made it to the second tier of girl's football in the state, the National Premier League's Girls' Youth League Two competition. Back in 2021, Tyra was selected to try out for Football NSW's girls youth league under-12s, where her performance earned her a spot with Blacktown

City Football Club. She currently plays for their under-14 girl's squad in Sydney! Tyra is also the only Indigenous player in her squad. With a 30-round season, the team will play a game every weekend until September, with Tyra's family traveling five hours every weekend from Dubbo to Sydney for training and matches. Tyra has also held a community scholarship with John Moriarty Football [JMF] in Dubbo since she was 9 years old. Bryce Deaton, head coach at JMF Dubbo, praises Tyra for her dedication to training and commitment to the game, and says her skills and technique have grown exponentially. Congratulations Tyra on your achievements, and good luck with the rest of the season!

WE CARE MUDGEES

Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS (Dubbo—Minister for Agriculture, and Minister for Western New South Wales)—For five years, We Care Community Shop has been a place of support for Mudgee locals in need. In that time, they've delivered 5000 food hampers, made sure 640 local kids had presents under the tree and put \$500,000 back into the community by way of support programs. The volunteer-run shop is a true pillar of the Mudgee community, but in 2021 it almost all came crashing down. We Care manager Donna Collins organised to get vital call alarm systems installed in three seniors units, knowing the money would be recouped through sales at the shop. But the region went into lockdown and Donna faced the very real possibility of having to close the store. The Mudgee community rallied in support, donating enough money to cover the shop's rent until restrictions eased and they could resume trading. Without the entire community, We Care would not have made it to this milestone of turning 5! I want to commend Donna, and all the volunteers who have generously given their time and effort in support of this initiative that is truly run by Mudgee locals, for Mudgee locals!

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS BRANCH

Mr NATHANIEL SMITH (Wollondilly)—Thank you to the men and women of the Southern Highlands Branch of Justice of the Peace for your important contribution to the community. The Southern Highlands branch was established in 2011, and since that time has served the community by providing quality JP services across the highlands. A very welcome return to face-to-face services now means that folk in the Southern Highlands will be well served by the more than 40 volunteers at our local branch operating out of Springetts Arcade in Bowral. The Southern Highlands Branch members are passionate about looking after the Southern Highlands community and are always ready to support individuals and businesses with their Justice of the Peace needs. I thank the Southern Highlands Branch for their dedication and service to our community.

COLIN HERBERT

Mr NATHANIEL SMITH (Wollondilly)—A founding member of the Warradale Men's Shed, Colin Herbert, celebrated his 99th birthday in March. The Warradale Men's Shed threw a party for Mr Herbert, to thank him for his contributions and to celebrate this significant milestone birthday. Colin helped build the Warradale Men's Shed back in the early days, and members say that Colin's extensive knowledge in woodworking particularly was invaluable to them, as he was always ready and willing to share his expertise. Colin is a veteran, who served in the military for more than 6 years, and was posted with the 123rd Motor Transport Platoon as a driver in Darwin when the bombings occurred. He served with the 1st Battalion Paratroopers, and later as part of the Japanese Occupational Forces. Colin later worked in woodwork and in the building industry. He is a life member of two woodturning groups and even built the house he now lives in in Wallacia. I wish Colin a belated happy birthday and thank him for being a supportive and hardworking part of our community for so many years.

ANNA SCHINDLER- QUEEN'S GUIDE AWARD

Mr NATHANIEL SMITH (Wollondilly)—I wish to offer my congratulations to Anna Schindler from Mittagong Girl Guides who received the Queen's Guide Award, a high honour that is only awarded to 25-30 girls every year. The criteria for the Queen's Guide Award are twofold, firstly focussing on each of the seven fundamentals of Guiding, and then on the interest activities of the individual. Anna completed more than 30 hours of community service over a 3-month period, volunteering with the Samaritans Purse on their Operations Christmas Child. She also worked to develop her leadership skills working with Scouts and Junior Guides. Other interests and achievements that contributed to Anna receiving the award include her completing a 60km five-day canoe trek on the Flambeau River in the USA, playing tenor drum in the Hume Scouts Pipes and Drums Band, taking aerobics flying lessons, learning Latin, and taking personal development courses. Anna joins only 20 other girls from Mittagong Girl Guides who have won the award since 1970 and I congratulate Anna on her outstanding efforts and the wonderful example she has set for the younger Guides.

IAN MILLER

Mr PAUL TOOLE (Bathurst—Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional New South Wales, and Minister for Police)—I would like to acknowledge the contribution to the wider Bathurst community of local RSL Club board president Ian Miller. Ian has been a member of the club for more than 45 years and served on its

board for 18 years. In recognition of his dedication, Ian was made a Life Member of the Bathurst RSL Club in 2016. One of the major changes to the club during Ian's tenure on the board has been the purchase of the club's building from its RSL Sub-Branch. He has also overseen the extensive renovations in recent times and is the first non RSL sub-branch member to become president of the club. However, Ian is at present helping the club play a role in one of the most important initiatives in the history of the city. There are moves to build a \$70 million Integrated Medical Centre in the central business district and a crucial part of this development is the proposed adjoining car park catering for about 900 spaces. The Bathurst RSL is committing \$4.2 million towards the car park and I know Ian is a key driver in this wonderful gesture for the community's future.

NEUTRAL BAY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Mr TIM JAMES (Willoughby)—I recognise and commend the Neutral Bay Chamber of Commerce for their important work in promoting the interests of local businesses and of the community of Neutral Bay. Neutral Bay is a vibrant part of the Willoughby electorate and its town centre surrounding Military Road has come to life in recent years. This is in no small part due to the Chamber's tireless advocacy and workable ideas to improve and enhance the area. The Chamber's direct contributions to improving the streetscape of Neutral Bay is an approach to be celebrated and emulated. The substantial improvement and reimagining of Grosvenor and Young Lanes are one legacy of which they can be proud. Their support of visionary placemaking by activating Young Street with an open public plaza is a testament to their drive to improve the area for not only businesses, but for all residents and visitors to Neutral Bay. I thank its co-presidents Richard O'Grady and Rick Doran, the executive, members and the many other volunteers who strive to serve their local community.

WILLOUGHBY FIRE STATION

Mr TIM JAMES (Willoughby)—I would like to pay special mention to the men and women of the Willoughby Fire Station, or NSW Station 040 as they're known, who are the local front line for fire and rescue for the people of Willoughby. I had the privilege of visiting the station's open day several weeks ago with my daughters and again visited last weekend to discuss the needs of the station. We are so fortunate to live in a country with the best emergency services, including our fire fighters. The dedication, warmth and commitment of the men and women of station 040 showed the community at their open day, and every day, is a true reminder how much of a community asset our fire and rescue services and personnel are. The Willoughby station was established in 1915 at the time when it was horse and cart that served emergency circumstances. It has of course come a long way since then but more is needed to modernise the station. I would like to thank Bryce, Philip and the whole Willoughby fire station staff and all those in NSW Fire & Rescue for their service to our State.

MIKE WALSH AM OBE

Mr TIM JAMES (Willoughby)—I would like to commend Mr Mike Walsh AM OBE for his services to the arts, and specifically for his passion and commitment to the revival, preservation, enterprise and protection of the Hayden Orpheum Theatre, Cremorne. An Art Deco icon in my electorate, the Hayden Orpheum was restored to its former glory through the tireless pursuits of Mike Walsh, saving the theatre from a fate of decay and risk of undue development on this precious site. Staying true to the original vision, he installed a Wurlitzer organ and expanded the building's footprint through digging into bedrock and delivering an additional five new cinemas. A pioneer of heritage conservation, Mike Walsh recognised that cinemas such as the Orpheum ought to be preserved for future generations as an auditorium housing the dramatic world of films. Mike Walsh's dedication to restoration reminds us of the importance of valuing the beauty, history, culture and ongoing contribution of this local icon, and for this the Willoughby community is in his debt.

BARRY REEVES

Mr CHRISTOPHER GULAPTIS (Clarence)—I offer my congratulations to Barry Reeves for his dedication and support within the poultry breeding community for more than 40 years.

Barry recently decided to retire and sell his beloved poultry. Barry has been a stalwart of the Grafton Poultry Club where he has been an exhibitor for over 40 years, has been President of the Club for more than 30 years and is a Life Member. Barry has also been a Member of the Clarence Pastoral and Agricultural Society, and is currently a Senior Vice President of the Society. In addition he has been a member of the Maclean Show Society and the Maclean Poultry Club for approximately 40 years and to top it all off, Barry has been an Official at the Sydney Royal Easter Show for a number of years. Barry will still be available to up and coming exhibitors to pass on his knowledge and to continue his involvement with the Grafton Poultry Club, just not to be an exhibitor himself. Sincere thanks to Barry for everything he has done to ensure that there have been poultry exhibits at our local Shows for such a long time.

JEFF JACKSON (NSW RFS)

Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland)—I congratulate Lower Hunter's Jeff Jackson on his two decades of service with the NSW Rural Fire Service [NSW RFS]. He has been an active member of the Lochinvar Brigade since March 2002. Jeff was Deputy Captain for 16 years and, in 2021, became the Senior Deputy Captain. He has attended many incidents during his time, not only bushfires but also AFAs, MVAs and assisted with flood works. One of the brigade's most reliable members, Jeff has also been present at numerous out of area deployments throughout the state and interstate. Over the years, he's assisted with many community fundraising events such as the Lovedale Long Lunch, Maitland Show and Groovin' the Moo. He is a founding member, president and walker of the Firefighters Walk for Life Charity, which has raised tens of thousands of dollars for the Cancer Council, too. Jeff's a worthy recipient of the National Medal.

DAVID JERRETT (NSW RFS)

Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland)—David Jerrett is a worthy recipient of the NSW Rural Fire Service [NSW RFS] National Medal following 19 years of service. He joined the Dungog Brigade in 2002 before transferring to Louth Park, which later became known as the East Maitland Brigade. David has held the roles of permit issuing officer, brigade training officer and the rank of Deputy Captain, Senior Deputy Captain and Captain. Over the years, he's had many opportunities to assist the community and the NSW RFS. This has included operational incidents within the Lower Hunter District as well as neighbouring areas, across the state and interstate as a firefighter, strike team leader, in divisional commander and logistical positions. David was also a member of the Lower Hunter BA/ASF Instructor Group as well as the State Structural Fire Instructor Group. In 2020, he was voted in as Deputy Group Officer for Group 7. I congratulate David on his latest honour.

IAN POWELL (NSW RFS)

Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland)—I would like to acknowledge Ian Powell, who recently received a National Medal with the NSW Rural Fire Service [NSW RFS], following 19 years of service with the Lower Hunter organisation. A member of the Bolwarra-Largs Brigade, Ian has assisted at major incidents both locally and with strike teams for bushfires, flood and storm damage throughout the state. His contribution has also helped the brigade in maintaining a current level of activity. Ian is a dedicated member who assists not only at an operational level, but with fundraising and community events as well. He has held positions of vice-president, assistant secretary and first aid officer. Previously, he served our country with the Royal Australian Air Force [RAAF] for nine years from 1977. Ian is a worthy recipient of the NSW RFS National Medal.

FRIENDS OF THE YOUNG REGIONAL CONSERVATORIUM AND TEMORA TOWN BAND

Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra—Minister for Emergency Services and Resilience, and Minister for Flood Recovery)—I would like to thank and congratulate the Friends of the Young Regional Conservatorium and Temora Town Band for showcasing their musical talents during a recent event to welcome my colleague from the other place, The Hon. Ben Franklin MLC, in his capacity as Minister for the Arts to Temora. Guests and representatives from the broader Temora community were able to join us on this wonderful evening filled with music and conversation. It was a delight to be able to witness the Temora Town band and The Young Regional Conservatorium Choir perform. The Temora Town band greeted everyone for the evening with a wonderful ensemble, and the Choir treated us to not one, but two songs, sung with joy and heart. The ages of performers ranged in both groups, and I am so pleased to see young men and women taking up musical pursuits and endeavours. Thank you to these wonderful performers for flying the flag for the arts scene high in our local communities and showcasing we have plenty to offer in that space in our regional towns and villages and inspiring the next generation of artists.

SERGEANT, SCOTT DOMINISH

Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra—Minister for Emergency Services and Resilience, and Minister for Flood Recovery)—I take this opportunity to officially welcome the new Sergeant in Charge of West Wyalong Police Station, Sergeant Scott Dominish. Sergeant Dominish is the 2nd Generation Police Officer with his father and brother also heavily active in the Police Force. Having relocated to regional NSW after spending the last 20 years as a General Duties Police Officer in the Newcastle area. I am sure Sergeant Dominish will enjoy the serenity of the beautiful Bland Shire and be welcomed by the public with open arms. Sergeant Dominish is replacing Sergeant Mark Griffith who after serving the community of the Bland Shire for the past 3 years has decided to return to Port Macquarie. I look forward to meeting Sergeant Scott Dominish in the coming weeks to discuss with him his future plans and aspirations for the West Wyalong Police District. I wish Sergeant Dominish all the very best in his new role and look forward to working with him for years to come.

LAMBING FLATS FELLOWSHIP OF AUSTRALIAN WRITERS

Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra—Minister for Emergency Services and Resilience, and Minister for Flood Recovery)—I would congratulate the Lambing Flats branch of the Australian Fellowship of Writers [FAW] NSW Inc on the milestone anniversary of 40 years since its first meeting. As part of their celebrations, they have had the wonderful initiative of holding a writing competition. The 'Burrangong Gold' Writing Competition is inviting people to create a fictional short story or memoir. President of the branch, Jennifer Haynes, and the other members of the group hope to spark interest in the written word, regardless of age with this competition. Contributions are open from adults, high school students and students in year 4 to year 6, with students who attend school within the region, also invited to write a piece of fiction or non-fiction on the history of the Burrangong Goldfields. Other activities planned to celebrate this milestone anniversary include the launch of an Anthology book with contributions from past winners of the national FAW competition. I would like to once again congratulate the Lambing Flats branch of the Australian Fellowship of Writers on the celebration of this milestone, and the creation of this wonderful competition.

REBECCA (BEC) HEALY – BOXHEAD PLASTICS

Mr MATT KEAN (Hornsby—Treasurer, and Minister for Energy)—A fabulous new business was recently established in my local area to help protect our environment through a wonderful new initiative. Bec Healy has transitioned her career from over 15 years working in government administration to start up a successful non-profit social enterprise business. Bec founded Boxhead Plastics in 2020, and with her team she collects waste plastic car bumper bars from around the Hornsby area from smash repair businesses. From there she recycles them back into plastic products sold in both the national and international marketplace. Boxhead Plastics is a not-for-profit Social Enterprise. Headquartered in Berowra, Boxhead Plastics directly supports the Australian automotive industry divert more of its plastic waste from landfill. Bec has pioneered her innovative process that successfully repurposes polypropylene car bumper bars into clever, useful products such as golf tees and drink coasters, closing the loop on Hornsby's car bumper bar plastic waste problem.

GALLIPOLI TURKISH CULTURAL FOUNDATION ANNUAL RAMADAN IFTAR

Ms JULIA FINN (Granville)—On 22 April 2022 I was delighted to attend the Gallipoli Turkish Cultural Foundation's Annual Iftar Dinner at Auburn Gallipoli Mosque. The Foundation is responsible for the care and maintenance of the Auburn Gallipoli Mosque. The mosque is not only a local landmark but a place of national significance. The name, Gallipoli, reminds us all of the shared legacy of ANZAC and the partnership of Australian society and the Australian Turkish Muslim community, who have been integral in creating and maintaining this beautiful building. 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 participants as they broke their fast at the time of the call to prayer (adhan). It was a great honour to join with friends, mosque and community leaders at this special occasion. My thanks go especially to the Foundation's members for their kind invitation.

STEP UP PROFESSION RAMADAN IFTAR

Ms JULIA FINN (Granville)—On 6 April 2022 I was delighted to attend the Step Up Profession iftar dinner held at Auburn Town Hall. Step Up Profession provides advice, guidance and assistance to potential and present students and migrants who seek higher education and visa in Australia. 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 my NSW and Federal parliamentary colleagues, Ambassadors, Consuls-General from three subcontinent nations, around 200 students and so many friends and attendees at this special occasion. My thanks go especially to CEO Haris Hussain Muhammad; and Director and Co-Founder Muzammil Rizwan Khan, for the kind invitation.

NAJEEBA WAZEFADOST

Ms JULIA FINN (Granville)—On 30 May 2022 I was delighted to present a NSW Community Service Award to Najeeba Wazefadost. At the age of 10 years old she fled Afghanistan to seek asylum in Australia. Arriving with no knowledge of English, by the age of 14, she quickly learnt English and won a national essay-writing competition. She is Founder and President of Hazara Women of Australia –which helps newly arrived refugee women learn English and more quickly settle into their new communities. She is also involved with Asia Pacific Network of Refugees, Cofounder of the Global Refugee Led Network and Global Independent Refugee Women Leaders. Following the Taliban entering Kabul on 14 August 2021, she has continued helping

people in need in our local community. I have come to know Ms Wazefadost well and admire her advocacy for new migrants to our area. The NSW Government Community Service Award recognises individuals throughout NSW who have substantially contributed to the improvement of the quality of life of members of their community, beyond that expected in their usual occupation. Najeeba Wazefadost is a worthy recipient of the award and I congratulate for her achievements and ongoing support to our community.

**The House adjourned, pursuant to standing and sessional orders, at 18:12 until
Tuesday 21 June 2022 at 12:00.**