



**New South Wales**

# **Legislative Assembly**

## **PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES (HANSARD)**

**Fifty-Seventh Parliament  
First Session**

**Tuesday 21 June 2022**

Authorised by the Parliament of New South Wales



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# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

**Tuesday 21 June 2022**

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

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

*Visitors*

## VISITORS

**The SPEAKER:** I extend a warm welcome to the guests of the member for Monaro: Nick Overall—the son of the member—and Mareeta Grundy, a councillor of Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council. I also acknowledge in the gallery representatives from RSPCA NSW and a number of guests of mine. I will not name them all. In particular, on this historic and special occasion for the new Treasurer, and member for Hornsby, I welcome and acknowledge in the public galleries the family and friends of the Treasurer, who are here to listen to the Treasurer's speech.

*Announcements*

## LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY PHOTOGRAPHS

**The SPEAKER:** I inform the House that a Government photographer has been authorised to take still photographs to capture the Treasurer's Budget Speech in the Chamber today as well as a media representative who will take still photographs from the Speaker's gallery on a pool basis.

## BUDGET SPEECH

**The SPEAKER:** Before I call the Treasurer to deliver the Budget Speech, I remind members to extend to the Treasurer the usual courtesy for the Budget Speech to be delivered uninterrupted.

*Bills*

## APPROPRIATION BILL 2022

## APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL 2022

## STATE REVENUE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2022

### First Reading

**Bills introduced on motion by Mr Matt Kean, read a first time and printed.**

### Second Reading Speech

**Mr MATT KEAN (Hornsby—Treasurer, and Minister for Energy) (12:03):** I move:

That these bills be now read a second time.

### Acknowledgement of country

I'd first like to acknowledge that we meet on the land of the Gadigal people of the Eora nation and pay my respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

### Introduction

This budget is about reform.

Reform to give our children the best start to life; reform to make owning your own home easier to achieve; and reform to break the barriers to women's opportunity in this State.

This Government believes there is always a better future if we choose to reach for it.

And in this budget we make that choice—we choose to invest in transformational reform to build a better, brighter future for everyone across our State.

### Supporting the New South Wales people

Over the past few years, the people of our State have written a story of strength and resilience.

A story about the determination of our farmers during drought; the courage of our firefighters; the resilience of our flood-affected communities; and the character, creativity, and care of so many during COVID—parents, business owners, frontline workers and everyone who helped keep us safe and keep us going.

Time and time again the New South Wales people rose to the challenges and showed that nothing is out of their reach.

Throughout, the New South Wales Government has stood with the people of this State. We committed \$53 billion alongside the Commonwealth, during COVID-19 to keep our people safe, our businesses open and our workers in work.

Today, we are seeing the dividends of that investment.

More people are in jobs today than before COVID-19 arrived. Unemployment is at the historically low level of 4 per cent. Gross State Product is now forecast to grow at 4.25 per cent for the next financial year, much higher than was previously forecast.

But while the State's economy has rebounded strongly from the Delta and Omicron waves, the aftershocks of the pandemic continue to challenge. And this Government is again standing with the people of New South Wales.

Inflation is high across the world because of global supply chain constraints and economic disruption caused by the pandemic. This has been exacerbated by Russia's illegal invasion of Ukraine.

We understand that rising inflation is not simply a statistic, it is something that is impacting the daily household costs of millions of Australians and reducing what they can afford.

That's why we are committing over \$7.2 billion next financial year to boost family budgets. We are providing \$520 million in new toll relief over two years, saving drivers up to \$750 a year. We are helping eligible households save up to \$600 a year on their power bills by installing roof-top solar and energy efficient appliances. We are helping families with a back to school voucher of \$150 per child to help with the costs of school supplies for term 1 next year.

We are also supporting our teachers, nurses and other public sector workers by increasing their remuneration by 3 per cent a year for the next two years; providing amongst the highest public sector wage growth anywhere in the country.

And we are recognising the special contribution of our State's Health workers during the pandemic through a \$3,000 acknowledgement payment.

These measures will help people across our State deal with the increased costs they are seeing in their lives, as a result of global inflation.

However, inflation is not the only lingering impact of the virus.

We are also experiencing the health aftershocks of the pandemic: COVID-19 presentations to our hospitals, the first real flu season in three years, and a backlog of elective surgery just to name a few.

That's why we are investing a record additional \$4.5 billion over four years into our health workforce. This is an historic commitment which will see us add an extra 10,000 health workers to bolster our health system. This will ease the pressure on staff, clear the elective surgery backlog and make sure we provide the very best quality end of life care. Every person should be treated with dignity and care, whether it is their first day or their last.

This Government also continues to stand with our flood-affected communities. Earlier this year we saw some of the worst floods in our country's history. We are partnering with the Commonwealth Government to invest \$3.5 billion to rebuild those communities and support our people as they recover.

### **Financial position**

This is a Government that believes in strong financial management, not so the people of our State can help the budget, but so the budget can help the people of our State in times of need.

But we also understand the importance of ensuring that the budget returns to surplus over the medium term, to rebuild our fiscal buffers and honour our covenant to future generations.

That is the story of this budget.

For 2021-22, we estimate a budget deficit of \$16.6 billion, improving to a deficit of \$11.3 billion in 2022-23, as we navigate the aftereffects of COVID-19 and floods.

In last year's budget, we projected a return to surplus in 2024-25. We held to that projection at the Half-Yearly Review, notwithstanding the Delta outbreak. And despite Omicron, inflation and floods, today, this Government is handing down a budget that continues to project a return to surplus in 2024-25, a surplus which grows to \$1.4 billion in 2025-26.

We project that net debt will stabilise at around 14 per cent of GSP by June 2026, and decline gradually over the second half of the decade. This is despite the worst economic shock since the Great Depression, historically high inflation, increasing costs of borrowing and record floods.

Our return to surplus over the medium term is supported by \$2 billion of budget improvement measures over four years. This includes legislation to increase the Foreign Investor Surcharge land tax and align the rates of the Betting tax and the Point of Consumption tax at 15 per cent.

The people of New South Wales know that it is only a Coalition government that understands the value of taxpayers' money and can deliver the strong economic and fiscal management needed for a strong and prosperous State.

Our covenant to future generations is about more than merely leaving them with the finances in good shape.

It is also about investing today, so that they may enjoy the returns of a more prosperous tomorrow.

### **Infrastructure**

This is something our Government has always understood. We are an infrastructure Government.

Over the past 10 years we have invested more than \$178 billion in building infrastructure to improve the lives of people in New South Wales.

We are transforming our State through roads and rail. Over the next four years we expect to invest a record \$112.7 billion in the State's infrastructure pipeline. We are building the Western Harbour Tunnel, extending the M6, upgrading the Great Western Highway, and building a Metro network for Sydney.

And in this budget we get started on Stage 2 of the Parramatta Light Rail and Faster Rail between Sydney, Newcastle and the Central Coast.

These projects, and the other nation-building projects that we are delivering, are the arteries of the nation. They will reduce travel times and support our people in spending more time at home with their families or at work applying their skills and talents.

We are also investing in our schools and hospitals, delivering in this budget 23 new and upgraded schools, 30 new ambulance stations and continuing to build or upgrade 45 hospitals.

### **Investing in the people of New South Wales**

But if our State is to reach its fullest potential, then we must invest in more than just bricks and steel. We must invest in our people as well.

The central belief of our country is that every person is entitled to the dignity of their humanity and that they are of value and have value to add. Its great promise is that every person, no matter who they are, will have the opportunity to contribute, prosper and pursue their hopes and dreams.

This should not only be the starting principle of our politics, it should also be the common sense of our commerce.

Our economy has grown from the creativity, talent and determination of our people.

It was our people who built our factories and farms.

It was our people who contributed to the wonders of modern science.

It was our people who first saw in their imaginations the cities we see before us now.

There is no better investment that we can make for the people of this State, than investing in the people of this State themselves.

### **WOMEN**

In this budget, we do just that by investing in the aspirations of women across New South Wales.

Last year, following the courageous advocacy of Brittany Higgins and Grace Tame, we saw an outpouring of frustration and calls for change from women across the country.

I've heard stories of women taking the long way home to avoid dimly lit streets when they leave work after dark.

I've heard stories of female managers getting paid less than their male colleagues who report to them.

I've heard stories of women's ideas being overlooked in the workplace only for those same ideas to be embraced when suggested by a man.

I saw women listening to Grace Tame and Brittany Higgins and the many other women who have shared their experiences since then, nodding in agreement. These are not isolated experiences; they are the everyday experience of millions of Australian women.

The women of New South Wales are some of the most highly educated anywhere in the world, yet the workforce participation rate of women is 9 per cent lower than the participation rate of men.

It is an economic imperative that we respect, hear and empower women in the workplace because their brilliance, contribution and creativity are things that we should be backing.

By lifting the workforce participation rate of women so that it is equal to that of men, we can grow our economy so that it is 8 per cent larger by 2060. This is the equivalent of increasing the average income of every household in our State by \$22,000 per year.

This is an economic opportunity we cannot ignore.

Being safe and healthy is the first step to participating in our workforce.

It is also a basic right which everyone in modern New South Wales should enjoy.

That is why in this budget we will invest around \$100 million over four years in women's safety, to help victim-survivors leave domestic and family violence and stop the harassment of women at work and on our streets.

We are also investing in women's health, with \$80 million to support women to access affordable fertility treatments, and \$40 million to improve the health care of women experiencing menopause.

However, the transformational opportunity to increase women's workforce participation is affordable and accessible child care. Even though we see similar numbers of men and women joining the workforce after completing their education, women's participation rates begin to drop below men's in their late twenties, and never recover to the same level.

For many Australian women, this is because they make the choice to leave the workforce to care for their children.

However, for too many women, that choice is made for them: many Australians cannot access child care and too many women only take home about thirty cents in each dollar they earn after taking account of the tax they pay, the loss of family tax benefits and the costs of child care.

This is why almost half of Australian women currently seeking work report that caring for children is the main reason they are unable to start a job or work more hours.

These structures are a result of a bygone era where a household was made up of a male breadwinner and a female homemaker.

In providing affordable and accessible child care, we can build a State where a person's prospects are governed not by expectations from the past, but by their hopes and dreams for their future.

Over the next 10 years, we will invest up to \$5 billion to expand access to high quality, affordable child care in those areas of the State where access to child care is the biggest barrier to parents returning to work.

We will provide competitive funding to providers to expand the number of affordable childcare places available to families in our State, saving eligible families thousands of dollars a year.

This is not just the right thing to do by the women and families of New South Wales, it is future focused economic reform also.

We estimate that these reforms, when delivered alongside the childcare commitments of the Commonwealth Government, will, within a decade, see up to 95,000 women enter the workforce or take on more hours, reduce the female participation gap by up to 14 per cent and grow our economy by up to \$17.1 billion per year.

Investing in women is an investment that this Government believes will pay off. It is an investment that we are proud to make.

### **Closing the Gap**

We are also proud in this budget to make an unparalleled investment in our First Nations people.

I started this speech by acknowledging that we are on Aboriginal land and by paying my respects to Elders past, present and emerging. Well, respect is honoured in deeds as well as words.

In this budget, we commit \$716 million to empower our First Nations people. This will fund programs designed in partnership with First Nations communities to support their children and young people, improve their health and wellbeing and to expand Aboriginal Child and Family Centres.

These programs will not just improve the lives of the people that they touch, they are also the just and right thing to do.

## **EDUCATION**

Our children are our future and a great education can set them up for life.

In this budget, we take our lead from the millions of Australian families who have transformed their prospects from one generation to the next by investing in their children's education. And I say that looking at my parents.

A great education can propel a person up the ladder of opportunity and it is through a great education that we expand our minds, see possibilities that we didn't even know existed and obtain the skills and tools that help us build a better life.

We know that the first five years of a child's life can set them up for success at school and beyond. In fact, 90 per cent of a child's brain development occurs in these years.

In this budget, we are investing an initial \$5.8 billion over 10 years to establish a year of universal pre-kindergarten in the year before school and investing over \$280 million over four years to support our workforce of early childhood educators to make this reform a reality.

We are also investing \$1.3 billion over four years to make preschool more affordable for families, including by providing \$2,000 of support per child to access preschool services in long day care from the beginning of next year.

A family's wealth should not determine the wealth of their child's opportunity.

The reality is that our children's lives—and the New South Wales our children build—will be brighter because of the once-in-a-generation investment we decide to make today.

## **HOUSING**

The largest single investment that most families make is in their home.

Our homes are where we raise our families, share time with friends and live so much of our lives.

Housing security is not only the bedrock of economic security, but also the foundation of a good life as well.

That is why we will give first home buyers the choice of paying an annual property tax instead of stamp duty. Providing our young people with this choice will cost our budget over \$729 million over the next four years, but save them years of waiting to achieve their aspirations of home ownership.

We will also invest \$780 million over two years in a shared equity scheme for our single parents, our key workers and our vulnerable older citizens who do not have a partner to share the cost with.

Our belief in the importance of these measures is grounded in an understanding that when you own your own home, you own a stake in the future of our country.

But housing security is about more than just home ownership.

It's also about ensuring that our State always has the supply of quality homes required to meet the needs of our people. Nearly \$750 million in this budget will go towards unlocking hundreds of thousands of homes across our State, including in our regional and rural communities, where they are needed most.

And it's also about ensuring that the most vulnerable people in our community have a safe place to live. We will invest more than \$550 million to maintain and grow our social housing as well as housing for our First Nations people.

We choose to make these investments because we know that ensuring that every person in New South Wales has a place to call home will make New South Wales a better home for us all.

## **REGIONAL NEW SOUTH WALES**

Your opportunities in life should not be determined by where you live. That's why we are expanding our investment in the regions, increasing the Regional Growth Fund by more than \$1.3 billion.

This year's budget includes \$230 million to support tourism in the bush and more than \$390 million to develop the Snowy Mountains Special Activation Precinct to establish a year-round tourism destination. Tourism brings the city and the bush closer together, but it also diversifies our local economies too.

We are also investing \$130 million over five years to expand our critical minerals industry, creating the jobs of the future, with the resources of the future, to help build the future.

These investments come on top of our record \$2.4 billion regional health investment to make sure our regional communities can always access quality health care. And they will be further supported by our commitment to clear the backlog of key worker housing in the bush. No community should miss out on a police officer or a teacher because there is no place for them to live.

### **FUTURE ECONOMY**

Time and time again, modern science has expanded the frontiers of what we can achieve.

We saw during the pandemic the power of medical science—we are free and safe today because our best and brightest developed vaccines in record time.

The great quest of the human mind to understand our world has unlocked opportunity after opportunity and created job after job.

The reality is that many of the jobs and industries of the future haven't even been thought of yet. But in this budget we make sure that many of them will be thought of right here in New South Wales.

We are investing \$1 billion to build the laboratories and testing-rooms where our scientists, doctors and engineers will design the blueprints of a better, more prosperous economy.

It is also why we will invest in their designs, their projects and their products. \$142 million in this budget will go towards the research and development of our most promising ideas; and \$342 million will help carry those ideas across the so-called valley of death, which so many start-ups struggle to traverse, to where they can become the goods and services which radically improve our lives.

Through these commitments we invest in the potential of our ideas to expand the potential of our people.

### **SUSTAINABILITY AND THE CLEAN ECONOMY**

New South Wales has the potential to become a renewable energy superpower.

We may be a sunburnt country, but we are also a sun-blessed country.

Our State's sun and wind can deliver us some of the cheapest, cleanest and most reliable energy anywhere in the world. This will free us from our dependency on aging power stations and from the shocks of global energy markets.

But only if we choose to realise that potential.

Climate change is an inter-generational challenge which requires a once in a generation response.

Our State, our generation, is doing just that.

We are on track to reduce our emissions by 50 per cent by 2030, on 2005 levels, and to achieve net zero emissions by 2050.

These commitments are not just about avoiding more record bushfires, droughts and floods, but also about underwriting our prosperity as our trading partners go to the green goods of the future.

This is why we will make a record \$1.2 billion investment to establish our Transmission Acceleration Facility, which will help catalyse at least \$14 billion of private investment to carry energy from our renewable energy zones—modern day power stations—to our businesses and our homes.

This investment will fast-track our Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap, the cross-party reform this Parliament passed to modernise our electricity infrastructure and ensure New South Wales can be a leader in a low-carbon world.

We have an obligation to protect our planet. We do not own our natural environment, we merely hold it from the past and for the future.

That is why we are investing \$424 million over four years to improve and protect our national parks and \$206 million over ten years to reward farmers for reducing their carbon emissions, enhancing and protecting biodiversity on their land, while improving the productivity of their farms.

From the beaches on our coast to the snowy mountains in our south, from the outback to our rainforests, our natural environment defines who we are. It is in our culture, it is in our way of life, and it is one of the reasons why we choose to live where we do.

If we are truly to build a brighter future for our State we must pass our environment to the next generation in better shape than the way we found it.

And in this budget that is what we are determined to do.

### **Conclusion**

Budgets are about the choices you make.

In this budget we choose to continue to stand by our people and take on the reforms that will unleash the full potential of our State.

We choose to lift the horizon on hope.

We choose to harness the wonders of modern science, and the power of our wind and our sun.

We choose to leave a better planet for future generations.

We choose to make sure that families can continue to buy a slice of the great Australian dream.

We choose to give our children the best start in life so that they can not only reach their dreams but dream bigger in the first place.

We choose to make sure that a little girl born today has the same opportunities and liberties in life as the little boy born in the hospital room next door; because it is their contribution, and the contribution of every other person in our State, that will help us reach the highest heights of what our State can be and build a better, brighter future for everyone in New South Wales.

I commend these bills to the House.

**Debate adjourned.**

### *Documents*

## **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2022-2023**

### **Tabling**

**Mr MATT KEAN:** In accordance with Standing Order 266, I announce the electronic tabling of copies of the following papers:

- (1) Budget Statement 2022-2023 (Budget Paper No. 1)
- (2) Outcomes Statement 2022-2023 (Budget Paper No. 2)
- (3) Infrastructure Statement 2022-2023 (Budget Paper No. 3)
- (4) Agency Financial Statements 2022-2023 (Budget Paper No. 4)
- (5) Appropriations Bills (Budget Paper No. 5)
- (6) 2022-2023 NSW Budget – Overview
- (7) 2022-2023 NSW Budget – Regional NSW
- (8) 2022-2023 NSW Budget – Western Sydney
- (9) 2022-2023 NSW Budget – Women's Opportunity Statement

I move:

That the papers be printed.

### **Motion agreed to.**

**The SPEAKER:** I advise members that copies of the budget papers have been delivered to members' offices by Treasury staff and are available also at [budget.nsw.gov.au](http://budget.nsw.gov.au).

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

*Members***MEMBER FOR WAGGA WAGGA**

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Wagga Wagga celebrated his birthday during the break. I wish him a happy birthday.

*Visitors***VISITORS**

**The SPEAKER:** I acknowledge members of the Rathmines Wangi Ladies Probus Club who are watching question time from the Speaker's gallery today as guests of the member for Lake Macquarie.

*Members***REPRESENTATION OF MINISTERS ABSENT DURING QUESTIONS**

**Mr ALISTER HENSKENS:** On behalf of Mr Dominic Perrottet: I inform the House that the Minister for Infrastructure, Minister for Cities and Minister for Active Transport will be absent from question time this week, and the Minister for Transport, and Minister for Veterans will answer questions on his behalf. I also inform the House that the Attorney General will be absent from question time this week, and the Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional New South Wales, and Minister for Police will answer questions on his behalf.

*Motions***BROADCAST OF PROCEEDINGS**

**Mr ALISTER HENSKENS (Ku-ring-gai—Minister for Skills and Training, and Minister for Science, Innovation and Technology) (14:17):** By leave: I move:

That the broadcast resolution adopted by the House on 19 October 2021 be amended as follows:

- (1) In paragraph (2), insert the words "including the publication of audio captions," after "the proceedings of the House and its committees".
- (2) In paragraphs (3), (4) and (5), insert the words "(including any audio captions)" after "excerpts of sound and vision coverage".
- (3) Insert the following new paragraphs after paragraph (5):
  - (6) Despite anything else in this resolution, the House does not authorise any person to republish audio captioning of the proceedings of the House or its committees.
  - (7) For the purpose of this resolution, the terms "audio captioning" and "audio captions" refer to the "real time" transcription of words spoken in proceedings of the House and its committees.
- (4) In the heading preceding existing paragraph (7), omit the words "and rebroadcast".

**Motion agreed to.**

*Announcements***NEW SOUTH WALES PARLIAMENT LIVE CAPTIONS**

**The SPEAKER (14:19):** Given the resolution of the House, I am pleased to announce that today the New South Wales Parliament will become the first State or Territory Parliament in Australia to introduce live captioning of its proceedings. Live captions are an important step in making the Parliament more inclusive and accessible. They will also assist those in our community who are deaf or hard of hearing to participate more easily in our democratic system of government. I thank all those who have worked tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure that we can deliver this essential service. In particular, I acknowledge the hard work of Mr Scott Fuller, from the Department of Parliamentary Services, for his dedication and commitment to this project.

**Ms Felicity Wilson:** The member for Coogee had better watch her language.

**The SPEAKER:** The member for North Shore will watch her language, please.



*Bills***MOTOR ACCIDENTS AND WORKERS COMPENSATION LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2021****STATUTE LAW (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) BILL 2022****Assent**

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

**CHILDREN'S GUARDIAN AMENDMENT BILL 2022****CHILD PROTECTION (WORKING WITH CHILDREN) AMENDMENT BILL 2022****First Reading**

**Bills received from the Legislative Council, introduced and read a first time.**

**The SPEAKER:** I order that the second reading of the bills stand as an order of the day for a later time.

**DISABILITY INCLUSION AMENDMENT BILL 2022****First Reading**

**Bill received from the Legislative Council, introduced and read a first time.**

**The SPEAKER:** I order that the second reading of the bill stand as an order of the day for a later time.

*Question Time***STATE BUDGET**

**Mr CHRIS MINNS (Kogarah) (14:23):** My question is directed to the Premier. Given the State's gross debt has hit the record level of \$182 billion, meaning that interest repayments will rise at over 24 per cent a year every single year, does the budget not lock in more taxpayer money to pay the interest on debt than we currently pay in an entire year for the NSW Police Force?

**Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET (Epping—Premier) (14:23):** What a great day for the people of New South Wales. We know it is a great day when Labor is out there at press conferences, shouting into the homes of mums and dads across the State. What a great budget, delivered by the new Treasurer, setting up a brighter future for the people of New South Wales—a budget that makes record investments right across the State but ultimately in a financially responsible way; in a way that, as a percentage of debt to GSP, is half as much as Victoria but twice the build right here in New South Wales.

Under Labor there are deficits and debt, no infrastructure and a \$30 billion infrastructure backlog. What do we see from the Treasurer today? A \$112 billion infrastructure agenda over the next four years right across our State delivering record amounts in frontline health services and in school-building programs across the State, and investing in keeping down household budgets. It sets up a strong vision for the people of New South Wales. We are using our budget to help family budgets right across New South Wales. One can only do that if one manages money well. When it comes to public sector pay that is why New South Wales is leading the nation at 3 per cent and is able to invest in our frontline health services in a way that Labor never could.

Opposition members are unhappy because they know just how good this budget is for the people of our State. For the past few years the people of New South Wales have gone through an incredibly difficult time, with floods, bushfires and a global pandemic. But our people still stand strong. We have stood by them every step of the way through all those challenges. We have recovered every job that was lost. Our economy is stronger now than it was before the pandemic began. But we do not stop there. We are imagining a brighter future. We are delivering on that vision for the people of New South Wales. That is exactly what we have seen with the Treasurer's budget today.

**STATE BUDGET**

**Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore) (14:26):** My question is addressed to the Treasurer, and Minister for Energy. Will the Treasurer update the House on how the budget will secure a brighter future for New South Wales' families?

**Mr MATT KEAN (Hornsby—Treasurer, and Minister for Energy) (14:26):** I sure can. We have delivered a reforming budget that supports the families and businesses today and sets us up for a brighter future tomorrow. Who does not love this budget? I tell you what. Those opposite love it. How do I know? Because they

have been texting me, telling me, "What a great budget. What great policies. Can we borrow some?" That is what they were texting me. The only ones not happy about it were miserable Minns and moaning Mookhey, with no plans, no vision, no ideas for the people of New South Wales.

**Mr Ron Hoenig:** Point of order: My point of order is taken under Standing Order 129. The Treasurer was asked specifically—

**The SPEAKER:** The Treasurer is being relevant.

**Mr MATT KEAN:** The Leader of the Opposition told caucus, "I've got a plan." What he did not tell them was it was only a plan to take the top job.

**Mr Ron Hoenig:** Point of order—

**The SPEAKER:** I have just ruled on relevance and it is too soon for the member for Heffron to take another point of order. The Treasurer may continue.

**Mr MATT KEAN:** We have a positive plan for New South Wales. It is about supporting families dealing with the effects of COVID. We are seeing increases in cost-of-living pressures. This Government is delivering over 70 cost-of-living initiatives to support families with their household bills at this time. We are not only supporting families today but also investing in the things that will help families and build a stronger and more prosperous future for everyone tomorrow. We are investing record amounts in child care because we want to unlock the potential of every person in this State. Our plan for child care will see us increase the female participation rate in this country and grow the overall size of size of our economy by \$17.1 billion per annum. That is what Coalition governments deliver, creating opportunities for everyone to realise their hopes and aspirations, while growing the economy and delivering more prosperity for everyone.

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

**Mr MATT KEAN:** One of the things we are doing is investing in our kids because in investing in our kids we are investing in the future of New South Wales.

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

**Mr MATT KEAN:** Opposition members hate it because good news for New South Wales is bad news for the Labor Party. No wonder Minns is so miserable. No wonder Mookhey is moaning so much. Good news for the people of New South Wales is bad news for Labor. [*Extension of time*]

We are investing in our kids because we know that the more we invest in our kids under five, the greater chance we give them to thrive. That is an investment this Government is proud to make. We know that by supporting our kids in getting the best start in life, we set them up for success on their life journey. That is what this Coalition Government has always been about. We are also making it easier for people to get into the housing market, for first home owners to buy their own home. We are getting rid of one of the worst taxes that is a barrier to young people entering the housing market. Who does not like it? Who wants more tax? The Opposition, led by miserable Minns, who loves tax and loves budget deficits. We want to unlock the housing opportunities for thousands of young people across this State because we know that owning one's own home means that one is owning a stake in the future of New South Wales.

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

**Mr MATT KEAN:** That is what Coalition governments have always been about. We are investing also in the regions because we back the bush. We are unlocking the potential of everyone living in the regions because we think that everyone should be able to succeed no matter where they live—whether it be in the cities or in the bush.

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

**Mr MATT KEAN:** That is the difference between a Coalition government and those opposite. Finally, we are investing in building the energy system of the future that will keep the lights on and make sure that we are resilient against aging infrastructure and global commodity shocks.

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

**Mr MATT KEAN:** Who hates it? Those opposite.

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

**Mr MATT KEAN:** They have no ideas. They have no policies. They have no vision for this State. The contrast between us on this side of the House and those opposite could not be more stark.

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

### LAND TAX

**Ms PRUE CAR (Londonderry) (14:32):** I also direct my question to the Treasurer.

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

**Ms PRUE CAR:** Given tolls are going up 4 per cent or more, electricity bills are going up 18 per cent next month and interest rates are set to add thousands to mortgage repayments, why does the Treasurer think now is the right time to introduce a new land tax?

**Mr MATT KEAN (Hornsby—Treasurer, and Minister for Energy) (14:33):** I thought that only Government members asked Dorothy Dixers. I thank the member for Londonderry for the opportunity to respond and tell her all about our transformative reforms to ease cost-of-living pressures for families across New South Wales. But there is more than that. We are unlocking the opportunity of home ownership for everyone in New South Wales by making sure that we remove the barrier that stamp duty presents for so many young people entering the housing market. Who does not want to reduce tax for first home owners in New South Wales? It is the Leader of the Opposition. Opposition members want to lock people out of the housing market. In fact, their only policy is the one that the unions gave to them, written in crayon. What was that policy? The year of the strike.

We are very proud to be investing in making sure that first home owners can find it easier to enter the housing market. We want people to own their own slice of the great Australian dream because we know home ownership is the surest way to people building their own wealth. That is what this Government is unlocking today. In addition to that, we recognise that it is hard for people to get their first deposit. That is why we have introduced a shared equity scheme to support our nurses, to support our police and to support our teachers to enter the housing market. We are also supporting single parents because we know how hard it is to find a deposit if you are doing it alone.

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

**Mr MATT KEAN:** We are also making sure that we are supporting those vulnerable members of the community who are our senior citizens who have fallen through the cracks. Often women over 50 who end up divorced do not sleep in their family home but on a friend's couch. The policy will support them entering the housing market and will get them back on their feet. This Government puts the Coalition's values to work. We put them into action because we are creating more opportunities for young people to own their first home. We are supporting vulnerable cohorts to enter the housing market because we know owning their house is the pathway to wealth for so many people in this State.

We want to unlock opportunities for everyone in New South Wales and this budget does exactly that. We will continue to focus on our positive plans to build a better, brighter and more prosperous future for everyone in this State, whether they live in the cities or the bush, whether they are young or old or whether they are male or female. This Government believes in unlocking opportunities for everyone to fulfil their dreams and reach their potential. This is a Liberal-Nationals budget delivering for the people of this State.

### STATE BUDGET AND COST OF LIVING

**Mrs TANYA DAVIES (Mulgoa) (14:36):** My question is addressed to the Premier. Will the Premier update the House on how the budget will boost household budgets, strengthen frontline services and invest in our communities to secure a brighter future for the people of New South Wales?

**Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET (Epping—Premier) (14:36):** I can do that for the member for Mulgoa. I just do not know where to start, because this budget is so good. We could be here all week. Wherever you look, in whatever area of government service, there is a record budget across the board. I will start with the Minister for Health and our record investment in frontline health workers right across our State with 10,000 new health workers and 2,000 paramedics.

*[An Opposition member interjected.]*

It's in the budget papers—take a read. We are building 30 new ambulance stations across the State.

*[Opposition members interjected.]*

They're so triggered because it is so good. What else have we got? We are slashing elective surgery waiting times, which obviously increased over the course of COVID.

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

**Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET:** Through Alpha and Delta we invested record amounts to do just that, and we are doing it again in this budget. Then there is our record investment in palliative care services for the most vulnerable people in our community. I have not got time to mention all the hospitals, but we and the health Minister know about hospitals in every single corner of this great State.

Let's go to education and the pre-kindergarten reform, which we did in conjunction with the Victorian Government. On the weekend it was dubbed the biggest reform in our country since the Howard Government banned guns. It will ensure that our young children get the best start to life. I congratulate Minister Mitchell in the other place on her leadership on this. The childcare funds that we are setting up enable women to get back to work faster and provide people with choice. We have more innovative policies and the biggest reform budget in the history of this State—and potentially the country, if not the world.

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Canterbury will come to order. The member for Wakehurst will come to order.

**Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET:** The upgrading of schools continues. We are building more new and upgraded schools. I was in Londonderry at Jordan Springs with Minister Ayres.

**Mr Stuart Ayres:** How good is that candidate we've got?

**Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET:** That candidate in Londonderry—wow. There will be 23 new and upgraded schools across the State. It is the biggest school building investment ever, anywhere in the country. *[Extension of time]*

As to infrastructure, who thought we could keep building? But we continue to do so, with \$112 billion of infrastructure over the next four years, including the Parramatta Light Rail stage two and faster rail as part of our six cities vision. On cost of living, there is no government in this country that is putting more downward pressure on family budgets than the Liberals and The Nationals in New South Wales. Today to help parents we announced a \$150 voucher for every schoolchild. I am going to clean up under this policy! There will be \$150 for every school-age child to help mums and dads across our State with school uniforms, school shoes and all the costs that come with starting a new school year. Minister Dominello can add that to the Savings Finder, which I now know is at the top of the Service NSW website because everyone is clicking on it.

They know that it is so good. But we did not stop there on reform. Our announcement today will give first homebuyers the choice of paying up-front stamp duty or an annual amount like rates, giving them choice. At a cost of \$700 million, it will put more money in the hands of first homebuyers.

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

**Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET:** We want to help first homebuyers get the keys to their very first home. Labor wants to lock them out of home ownership.

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

**Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET:** Labor wants to lock them out of reaching the great Australian dream. These are innovative reform policies from the Liberals and The Nationals—

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

**Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET:** —who have the imagination to set a great vision for a brighter future for the people of New South Wales.

#### ASSET PRIVATISATION

**Mr RYAN PARK (Keira) (14:41):** My question is directed to the Premier. Given that the Premier privatised the power stations and now he cannot deliver network reliability or lower prices, he privatised the toll road network and now motorists pay billions of dollars a year in tolls, and he privatised the ports and blocked Newcastle from any chance of diversification, will he finally rule out any further privatisation?

**Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET (Epping—Premier) (14:42):** That is pretty rich coming from the party that sold the generators. They talk about power: Where the problem is at the moment is in the generators. Who sold the generators? Labor.

**The SPEAKER:** The Treasurer will remain silent.

**Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET:** If you follow the Leader of the Opposition on social media, one thing you will learn is that he knows absolutely nothing about energy policy. Labor sold the generators and prorogued the Parliament to do so. What did we do? We took the poles and wires to a thing called "the election", and it was backed in by the people of New South Wales. What did it do?

**Ms Prue Car:** You told people the prices would go down.

**Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET:** Network prices did go down.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The Clerk will stop the clock. I call the member for Wyong to order for the first time. I call the Treasurer to order for the first time. Members on both sides of the Chamber will cease interjecting.

**Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET:** Those opposite are as triggered today as they were when we sold the second half of the WestConnex and created WestInvest. That \$5 billion will be invested in every community in western Sydney.

**The SPEAKER:** I call the member for Rockdale to order for the third time. This is his final warning.

**Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET:** They were triggered that day and they are triggered today because they know that this Government's policies and asset recycling have unlocked capital to invest record amounts in schools, in hospitals and in public transport right across our State. What do we see from Labor? None of these projects would have existed. In fact, I was out with the Minister for Planning and the Treasurer on Sunday at Tallawong station on the Metro North West line. All that housing is coming in and all that supply is being unlocked because we invested in the infrastructure that Labor never did.

Those opposite tried but they could not because they do not manage money well whereas on the Government side of the House, we take the bold decisions—the tough decisions—to transform our State. And how much better is it now than it was under Labor, with road projects such as WestConnex? Those opposite opposed WestConnex. They talk about the sale; they opposed it. It would be a parking lot. The member for Summer Hill loves WestConnex. She does not admit it, but she loves it. They all do. NorthConnex would not exist but for the Liberals and Nationals.

The Metro North West, Sydney Metro, right across the board these are projects that we know have changed the lives of people across New South Wales that would never have happened under Labor, with its backward, conservative policies from a bygone era. On this side of the House, we have the reformists—the Liberals and Nationals—with imagination for a brighter future for the people of our State.

#### STATE BUDGET AND REGIONAL HEALTH SERVICES

**Mr GEOFF PROVEST (Tweed) (14:45):** My question is addressed to the Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional New South Wales, and Minister for Police. Will the Deputy Premier update the House on how the 2022-2023 State budget will deliver better healthcare outcomes for the people of regional New South Wales?

*[An Opposition member interjected.]*

**Mr PAUL TOOLE (Bathurst—Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional New South Wales, and Minister for Police) (14:45):** Seriously! You are seriously—

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

**Mr PAUL TOOLE:** This guy over here is kicking the guts out of the—

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

**Mr PAUL TOOLE:** —healthcare announcement that has been made today, an investment of \$2.4 billion in regional health care over the years to come.

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

**Mr PAUL TOOLE:** This is the largest investment that we have seen. I will calm down now. I thank the member for Tweed for his really good question. I also thank him for his advocacy in his community for the Tweed Hospital.

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

**Mr PAUL TOOLE:** The member for Tweed held an open day for the Tweed Hospital. Over 2,000 people attended that facility and were able to see the investment that is being made by the Government.

**The SPEAKER:** I call the member for Keira to order for the third time. The Clerk will stop the clock. I call the member for Londonderry to order for the third time. The member for Rockdale, who is on three calls to order, has removed himself from the Chamber. I remind the member for Keira that he is also on three calls to order. When I put a member on a call to order and they continue to interject, I will continue to call them to order. Members who are on three calls to order and who continue to interject will leave the Chamber. The Deputy Premier has the call. I call the member for Shellharbour to order for the second time.

**Mr PAUL TOOLE:** In the past decade we have invested billions in better health infrastructure, which is providing better health care in the regions. We have built new hospitals and upgraded hospitals in Dubbo, Lismore, Tweed, Griffith—and the list goes on. Of those 130 capital projects that are underway, more than two-thirds are in rural or regional New South Wales. I am pleased to inform the House today that the budget will ensure that this work continues over the coming financial year. Last week I also had the pleasure of announcing a \$200 million investment in the Bathurst hospital to ensure that the community gets the facility it deserves. It will have a larger emergency department and more acute inpatient beds. This gives the community the facility that it deserves. When Labor built the hospital a hearse could not get underneath it, the doors were not wide enough to fit patients' beds and people in wheelchairs could not get through. There was great fanfare about the facility but it was not what the community deserved. Sewage was coming up through the pipes in the maternity wards. This \$200 million investment will give the community the hospital that it deserves.

The member for Clarence has also been advocating for a major redevelopment of the Grafton hospital in his electorate. The budget provides \$263 million. This is a project that he championed because he knows how important it is in his local community. It is more than bricks and mortar. This Government is providing world-class care behind the walls of these facilities. That is why we have announced an additional 10,000 staff statewide. *[Extension of time]*

About 40 per cent of them will be going into the regions. We have also announced the biggest ever shake-up of the regional workforce. This allows incentives to attract nurses, doctors and specialists into regional communities. These additional staff will take up roles that are hard to fill. The incentives include things such as housing support, assistance with child care, and access to training and education. It will also provide a pipeline of health workers. I commend the Government's hardworking health Ministers for the work they have done in our health system across the State. Yesterday I joined the Minister for Regional Health and the member for Dubbo to announce additional funding for the Isolated Patients Travel and Accommodation Assistance Scheme [IPTAAS]. This is an investment of \$150 million. Patients should not be worrying about the costs of travel and accommodation when they seek treatment. This investment will almost double the existing support provided. We do not want people who have to travel hundreds of kilometres for treatment to be worried about travel or accommodation costs. The cost of travel should not be seen as a barrier to health treatment.

We know that this life-changing investment is making a difference to the lives of many people. In today's edition of *The Daily Advertiser* the manager of the Lilier Lodge accommodation facility in Wagga Wagga said it was great news and that it is making life easier for those who have to travel for treatment. John Jaspersen from Lightning Ridge said that he has to travel to Dubbo for cancer treatment and that, "All us people who live away and have to travel would be lost without the support we get from IPTAAS. When I heard the Government was going to help us with some extra money, I couldn't get over it." It is the Liberals and Nationals in government that invest in our regions. *[Time expired.]*

### NSW LGBTIQ+ HEALTH STRATEGY

**Mr ALEX GREENWICH (Sydney) (14:51):** My question is directed to the Minister for Health. How is the New South Wales Government supporting the health and wellbeing of the LGBTIQ+ community?

**Mr BRAD HAZZARD (Wakehurst—Minister for Health) (14:51):** I thank the member for Sydney for his question. I also thank him for the work that he does in the broader Sydney community, in particular the additional work that he has done with the Government—and I am sure he would also be working with the Opposition on something as inclusive as this. The LGBTIQ+ community in New South Wales is a major part of our community. As the Premier just said, our Government intends to be, and continues to be, an inclusive government, a government that cares about everybody and makes sure that everybody has a fair go. Just a few weeks ago the member for Sydney and I attended the Garvan Institute for the launch of the NSW LGBTIQ+ Health Strategy. For the interest of members, this is only the third such policy ever in Australia's history—one other State, one other Territory and now New South Wales has, under this Coalition Government, the NSW LGBTIQ+ Health Strategy.

The meeting was chaired by Associate Professor Schembri from St Vincent's Hospital. A lady called Robyn Kennedy spoke. She was one of the 78ers. Robyn told the gathering about the changes that have occurred since 1978, but also indicated the challenges if one fits within the LGBTIQ+ community category. She spoke a lot about people not understanding the particular challenges that the community has. Not everybody in the community has challenges, but a lot of people do. Many of those issues are considered in this policy document, which was developed after consultation by NSW Health with more than 1,600 people from the LQBTIQ+ community. It also involved over 750 NSW Health staff and community organisations. It was an incredible effort to make sure that the voices, the hearts, the minds and the souls of people who are LGBTIQ+ were able to be heard in development of this particular policy. Overall, what it highlights is that people in that community

experience poorer health outcomes than the general population. They suffer mental and emotional distress. It is a prevailing issue often with persistent exposure to stigma, discrimination and social isolation. [*Extension of time*]

They also face experiences of violence, abuse, neglect and harmful patterns of alcohol and other drug use as a consequence of those prejudices that have existed in our society. This strategy has four main components. It aims to deliver high quality, safe, inclusive and responsive care. It aims to give—this is a particularly important aspect—additional education and training to the entire NSW Health workforce. One of the issues that Robyn Kennedy made out to our gathering was that quite often people who are from this community are challenged in the information they have to give to medical practitioners or clinicians and often have to repeat it time and time again. She also talked about assumptions—for example, in her case, "What is your husband's name?" Well, no. She does not have a husband. She has a particular partner, but she does not have a husband.

Those assumptions are aspects that require education for our health staff to make people in this community a lot more able to deal with these everyday health issues. The strategy also aims to increase access for LGBTIQ+ people to mental health and suicide prevention services. That is a really big issue in this community. I indicate to the honourable member and give him this assurance. He knows we launched the strategy and I believe he is very supportive of the strategy. Everybody who has to do with the strategy is very supportive of this first strategy delivered by—I am very proud to say—a New South Wales Liberal-Nationals Government. It is the first LGBTIQ+ Health Strategy in the State's history. But what we are now aiming to do is to work further. We are looking at further announcements as we work with Health, particularly around mental health issues. We are hopeful that we might be able to make some of those announcements in the next few days or couple of weeks. I will be happily sharing that with the LGBTIQ+ and broader communities.

#### STATE BUDGET AND WESTERN SYDNEY

**Ms MELANIE GIBBONS (Holsworthy) (14:56):** My question is addressed to the Minister for Enterprise, Investment and Trade, Minister for Tourism and Sport, and Minister for Western Sydney. Will the Minister update the House on how the Government is securing a brighter future for children and families in western Sydney?

**Mr STUART AYRES (Penrith—Minister for Enterprise, Investment and Trade, Minister for Tourism and Sport, and Minister for Western Sydney) (14:57):** What a great day for the people of western Sydney! I know the member for Holsworthy is a very strong and passionate advocate for her community. I know she is also equally strong and passionate for making sure that families and young kids get the best possible start to life anywhere across the State but particularly in western Sydney. The budget absolutely delivers that in spades. There is no better way to start than talking about our \$5 billion WestInvest fund. We have generated that fund by recycling the value of assets so we can continue to invest in assets. The budget today is going to deliver over \$478 million in new school infrastructure under our WestInvest program. When we went out and announced this last year with the then Treasurer—now the Premier—we put right at the heart of WestInvest the concept of modernising schools. That is exactly what we are delivering.

Today's budget will deliver upgrades to schools across western Sydney through the WestInvest program. Let us go through them: Schofields Public School, stage three of Riverbank Public School at The Ponds, Rouse Hill Public School, Leppington Public School, Austral Public School, Parramatta East Public School, Telopea Public School, Condell Park Public School and Sir Joseph Banks High School in Revesby. This is all about making sure that our students have got access to modern, fantastic, contemporary teaching environments. That is exactly what we are doing through WestInvest. But it gets even better. On top of that we are also investing another \$267 million—rounded up by \$0.1 million—for new schools. There is a public school at Box Hill and The Gables. Nirimba Fields between Quakers Hill and Schofields is getting a new public school. We are also getting a new public school at Marsden Park and Melonba. We are also ensuring that Melrose Park Public School gets a redevelopment.

These are the intergenerational investments that a government that is able to manage the economy well can keep reinvesting back into communities across western Sydney. We are making sure that young children across western Sydney get access to the absolute best teaching environments. But it just gets better. In terms of infrastructure, we have also announced an intergenerational seismic reform with the addition of one year of free universal pre-kindergarten education. This is about making sure we set up every young child across New South Wales with the absolute best start to their education. We are not just a bricks-and-mortar government. [*Extension of time*]

We are about making sure we absolutely deliver the best possible start. This universal pre-kindergarten education is something that education specialists not just here in New South Wales or around the country but, indeed, around the world recognise. This is about making sure that universal pre-kindergarten will give every

child a specialised year of play-based learning, smoothing their transition to start school and solidifying their pathway to a brighter future. This \$5.8 million—

*[An Opposition member interjected.]*

Do not moan at brighter futures. We on this side of the Chamber are really committed to brighter futures. If those opposite don't want to be committed to a brighter future for young people or universal pre-kindergarten, then don't be. They have not had any ideas the entire time they have been in opposition. They have had 10 years to work out what they want to do with their education policy and they have delivered absolutely nothing. We are delivering new schools and updated and contemporary education environments. We are also making sure we deliver one year of universal pre-kindergarten education, which will mean every single student around our State starts their education from a stronger position.

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

**Mr STUART AYRES:** This is going to lead to better education outcomes every single year. I do want to call out the fantastic work that the Hon. Sarah Mitchell, our education Minister, has done. She has led wonderful consultation across New South Wales.

**The SPEAKER:** I remind the member for Rockdale that he is on three calls to order.

**Mr STUART AYRES:** I know that she is a representative of the other place, but every member in this place knows how important this pre-kindergarten education investment is for every generation that will come after this day. Those opposite have had so much time to come up with an idea. They are in the Chamber now yelling and screaming. It even sounds like they oppose the concept of pre-kindergarten education. If that is what they want to do, they should go out and tell everyone. What I do know is that they are out of ideas and we on this side of the Chamber have got plenty to make New South Wales better.

#### SENIOR TRADE AND INVESTMENT COMMISSIONER TO THE AMERICAS

**Mr ANOULACK CHANTHIVONG (Macquarie Fields) (15:02):** My question is directed to the Premier. The guidelines for all senior trade and investment commissioner positions clearly state that an offer can be made once endorsed by Cabinet. Given that all other positions did go to Cabinet, why was John Barilaro's appointment done without Cabinet approval?

**Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET (Epping—Premier) (15:02):** I will answer this very simply. This appointment was not a statutory appointment. This appointment was a public service appointment. A recruitment process was undertaken by Investment NSW with a global recruiting company that made a recommendation—as it has for all the other trade commissioners. It is not a statutory appointment; it is a public service appointment. That decision was made by the public service.

#### STATE BUDGET AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

**Mrs NICHOLE OVERALL (Monaro) (15:03):** My question is addressed to the Minister for Emergency Services and Resilience, and Minister for Flood Recovery. Will the Minister update the House on how the Government is supporting female firefighters and strengthening our emergency services in the New South Wales budget?

**Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra—Minister for Emergency Services and Resilience, and Minister for Flood Recovery) (15:04):** I thank the member for Monaro for her question, acknowledging that she is the first female member for the electorate of Monaro in its 160-year history. I thank her for her interest in securing a brighter future for all working women across our State. As the State's first female Minister for Emergency Services, it is a source of great pride to me to announce \$50 million in this budget to invest in women's toilets, change rooms and amenities at more than 100 Fire and Rescue stations. That funding over 10 years will not only improve workplace conditions all for current female firefighters but also help more women feel comfortable and supported in pursuing a career in firefighting. That investment is important because gone are the days of firefighting being a male-dominated industry. I recently had the opportunity to visit the City of Sydney fire station, which is Australia's busiest fire station and responds to more than 6,500 calls each year. Of the 108 firefighters based at that station, 34 are female. Right across the State, we are witnessing a substantial increase in the number of female firefighters in the ranks of Fire and Rescue.

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

**Ms STEPH COOKE:** I am pleased to inform the House that 14.6 per cent of all Fire and Rescue employees are women. That is an increase of 6.6 per cent in the past decade. I had the privilege of welcoming our newest firefighters at a graduation ceremony last month, and it was wonderful to see one in five new recruits are women. They join the 557 women recruited in the past five years. I hope that by modernising our fire stations we



can create an environment where both men and women feel comfortable at work, which will support all our firefighters to do what they do best, and that is to protect our communities.

Fire and Rescue NSW has a long and proud history, but that also means that nearly half of all fire stations are more than 50 years old. I am pleased to inform the House that Fire and Rescue NSW is continuing to progress its capital works program, including the creation of clean and dirty work areas, building renovations, maintenance work and technology improvements. The Government has also announced \$9 million for Fire and Rescue to purchase 16 new tankers, which is part of our response to the 2019-20 bushfire inquiry. To conclude, I thank the Premier, Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Attorney General for championing that funding for emergency services in the budget. I look forward to visiting fire stations across the State over the next few months to see some of those 100 upgrades get underway.

#### **SENIOR TRADE AND INVESTMENT COMMISSIONER TO THE AMERICAS**

**Ms JO HAYLEN (Summer Hill) (15:06):** My question is directed to the Premier. Did John Barilaro declare any conflict of interest last year when the Government and his own department abandoned the first recruitment process for the Americas Senior Trade and Investment Commissioner position?

**Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET (Epping—Premier) (15:06):** Not to my knowledge. As I said, this was a public service—

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Wakehurst will remain silent. I call the member for Wakehurst to order for the first time.

**Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET:** As I said, this was a public service process and a public service appointment. I am not aware of any issues in relation to a perceived conflict of interest or whether there was a need for one to be declared.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I call the member for Canterbury to order for the second time. I call the member for Prospect to order for the second time. I call the member for Campbelltown to order for the first time. The member for Rockdale will leave the Chamber overnight.

*[The member for Rockdale left the Chamber at 15:08 accompanied by the Deputy Serjeant-at-Arms.]*

#### **STATE BUDGET AND HOUSING**

**Mr TIM JAMES (Willoughby) (15:08):** My question is addressed to the Minister for Planning, and Minister for Homes. Will the Minister update the House on what the Government is doing to support housing supply and affordability in New South Wales?

**Mr ANTHONY ROBERTS (Lane Cove—Minister for Planning, and Minister for Homes) (15:08):** I thank the member for Willoughby for his question and for his strong advocacy in this very important area. The 2022 housing package is the biggest investment to address end-to-end housing in New South Wales history. With that package, the Government lays the foundations for an inclusive and sustainable housing sector in New South Wales for generations to come. The \$2.8 billion package is targeting home ownership, increased supply, social and Aboriginal housing, as well as key workers. It represents a whole-of-government approach to addressing the housing crisis and will supercharge housing supply in New South Wales by enabling the delivery of around 400,000 new homes across this great State. I am pleased to inform members that staff from my office are outside the Chamber and ready to hand out a copy of the package so they can share it with their constituencies, word by word. I am happy to sign it for some members opposite, just for some of their fundraisers.

It will deliver immediate help for first home buyers, people in need, essential workers and Aboriginal communities to ensure safe, secure and quality homes. As the Deputy Premier and members of the National Party will tell the House, regional New South Wales is experiencing one of the largest increases in population, attracting young families and retirees from Greater Sydney as well as people from surrounding regions, because it is a great place to live. That is why the package focuses on supporting regional New South Wales communities to meet the demand for additional housing supply. This year's budget will see a further \$33.8 million over the next four years invested into implementing more of the task force's recommendations. That will unlock the pipeline for 127,000 new homes in regional New South Wales.

The Government is investing in a range of measures to help everyone find the home they need, including shared equity, co-living, build-to-rent and rent-to-buy schemes, as well as boosting housing supply on government-owned land. Some \$732 million will go towards property tax reforms, giving people an option to choose between paying stamp duty or an annual property tax, which we envisage will allow some 6½ thousand people to buy a home that they otherwise would not necessarily have been able to purchase. A further \$780 million will go towards a two-year pilot offering some 3,000 places a year for a shared equity scheme, helping single

parents, older singles and key workers to buy a home. This year's budget, which includes an unprecedented \$2.8 billion housing package, will help towards achieving that goal. *[Extension of time]*

It includes almost \$500 million to unlock land and supercharge housing supply, delivering 400,000 new homes; \$586 million for new and improved social and Aboriginal homes, including delivering 320 new social and Aboriginal homes across New South Wales; and upgrades of some 16,000 social and Aboriginal homes. Further to that, the Government is investing some \$174 million to deliver 271 new and refurbished homes for our key workers. That is in addition to the \$75 million previously announced for health worker housing. As well as that, the Government is undertaking economic reforms to tackle affordability to help more people become home owners sooner.

The package is about not only supporting first home buyers but also putting in place the right policy framework to increase housing supply and deliver more social and affordable housing. We are pulling all the levers available to us in this Government. If we are going to make owning a home more achievable, all levels of government, industry and community need to work together to address supply, affordability and diversity across the State. Members on this side of the House know that everyone in New South Wales has the right to a home, no matter where they live or what their income is. This historical package delivers upon that priority of the Government.

#### SENIOR TRADE AND INVESTMENT COMMISSIONER TO THE AMERICAS

**Ms SOPHIE COTSIS (Canterbury) (15:13):** My question is directed to the Premier. I refer to the Premier's previous answers. Is the Premier seriously suggesting that the public service unilaterally appoints trade commissioners earning \$500,000 plus \$100,000 in expenses without recourse to a Minister or Cabinet?

**Mr Alister Henskens:** Point of order: Under Standing Order 128 (2) (b), a question cannot contain an argument. When the member says, "So are you really serious", that is clearly an argument. It infringes the standing orders. It should be ruled out of order.

**Mr Ron Hoenig:** To the point of order: First, that is not what the question said. Secondly, there is a whole range of criteria in Standing Order 128 (2); that is not the only one. The point of order relates to too many facts. The member for Ku-ring-gai does not object to the series of facts that are contained within the question. He does not say that the question infringes Standing Order 128 (2) (a). He is suggesting that the question infringes Standing Order 128 (2) (b) because it contains the word "suggestion".

**Mr Dominic Perrottet:** I am just going to answer it—I cannot bear it.

**The SPEAKER:** I have heard enough.

**Mr Dominic Perrottet:** The answer is yes.

**The SPEAKER:** I recall the use of the words "are you seriously suggesting". That is argumentative. If the member for Canterbury had said "are you suggesting", it would not be argumentative. The word "seriously" was in there. But given the Premier has indicated he is happy to answer the question—

**Mr Dominic Perrottet:** I just answered the question.

**The SPEAKER:** The Premier did not have the call. He now has the call.

**Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET (Epping—Premier) (15:15):** The answer is yes.

#### STATE BUDGET AND SCIENCE AND INNOVATION

**Ms ROBYN PRESTON (Hawkesbury) (15:16):** My question is addressed to the Minister for Skills and Training, and Minister for Science, Innovation and Technology. Will the Minister update the House on how the Government is futureproofing jobs through investment in science, innovation and technology?

**Mr ALISTER HENSKENS (Ku-ring-gai—Minister for Skills and Training, and Minister for Science, Innovation and Technology) (15:16):** I thank the member for her question. She is a great advocate for science, innovation and technology. I thank the Treasurer for a budget which has secured the future of New South Wales in a way in which very few budgets ever have. There has never been a budget that is better for jobs in this State than this budget. Whether it is a first job, a new job or a better job, this budget is backing in the workers of New South Wales. There is a record investment in science, innovation and technology in this budget. There is a record investment in skills and training of \$2.8 billion, including \$2 billion operational expenditure for TAFE and a further \$300 million capital investment in TAFE. They are eye-watering numbers from the point of view of those opposite.

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

**Mr ALISTER HENSKENS:** Taking this budget together with the past two years' budgets, that is a nearly \$800 million capital investment in TAFE.

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

**Mr ALISTER HENSKENS:** That is the sort of number that Labor can only dream of. It is an absolutely eye-watering number. In addition to that, we have a Future Economy Fund, investing \$700 million in the realisation of science, innovation and technology. That is a fund that is going to invest in the full cycle, from research to commercialisation to scale-up of new industries. Labor does not care about advanced manufacturing. Labor does not care about digital technology or things like ribonucleic acid [RNA]. They would not know what it is. Labor does not know what RNA technology is because it has no shadow Minister for science and technology. Federal Labor has Ed Husic. What do we have in this Parliament? There is a vacant chair opposite, a vacancy in the shadow Ministry.

**Mr Ron Hoenig:** Point of order: My point of order is about relevance. The answer to the question is not directly relevant. Whatever portfolios the Leader of the Opposition has allocated has nothing to do with the question that was asked.

**The SPEAKER:** The Minister will direct his answer to what the Government is doing.

**Mr ALISTER HENSKENS:** This Government is excited about the future. We are embracing the opportunities of the future. Those opposite do not care about the future. This Government wants to secure a bright future for New South Wales. Labor has no shadow Minister, no vision, no plan and, what is more, no leadership.

### HOUSING SUPPLY

**Mr ROY BUTLER (Barwon) (15:19):** My question is directed to the Minister for Planning, and Minister for Homes. Housing supply is a bottleneck for regional population growth and economic development. It is stopping regional communities from reaching their potential. What is being done to address the housing stock shortage in Aboriginal housing, social housing and private market supply?

**Mr ANTHONY ROBERTS (Lane Cove—Minister for Planning, and Minister for Homes) (15:20):** I thank the member for his question and for the extra time he has provided me to continue to talk about the Government's efforts to support housing across the State. The member for Barwon is extremely passionate about getting keys in doors to houses which will put roofs over the heads of people in his electorate—as am I. He is a passionate advocate for the people and communities in his electorate. I commend him for that and thank him for the close relationship we have had over many years in ensuring that his constituency gets a fair voice and are heard fairly in Macquarie Street.

Today's budget does exactly that—puts roofs over people's heads. I am proud of the \$2.8 billion housing package that has been announced. This is an unprecedented spend on housing in New South Wales and I am proud to say that around 30 per cent of it will be going to regional New South Wales. We have seen the trend of people migrating to regional New South Wales—as I have said before, who does not love regional New South Wales? Through this budget, the Government is acting to support that trend. Last year, the New South Wales Government set up a Regional Housing Taskforce to overcome the barriers for housing in our regions.

As a response, we established a Regional Housing Fund of \$30 million to fast track the supply of shovel-ready land for more homes. I am proud to say that this year's budget will see another \$33.8 million invested in implementing more of the task force's recommendations. As I mentioned, this will unlock some 127,000 new homes in regional New South Wales. That is critical for New South Wales communities, not just for the people who live in regional New South Wales but also for those people who potentially want to move there to provide essential services—people such as teachers, paramedics, doctors, police officers—

**Mr Brad Hazzard:** Nurses.

**Mr ANTHONY ROBERTS:** —and nurses. On top of this spending, a further \$174 million over four years will deliver 270 new refurbished homes for essential workers. This is additional to the \$75 million previously announced for health worker housing. As the member for Barwon would know, there are already around 842 key worker houses within his electorate. This will boost the support for our regional workers. Since 2018 the New South Wales Government's Aboriginal Housing Office has successfully delivered 215 new homes and almost 2,300 refurbishments. Over the next four years, the Government will be investing some \$150 million to deliver 200 new homes for Aboriginal families and 260 significant upgrades to properties across the State, including in regional areas like Menindee, Broken Hill, Coonamble and Cobar. These funds will also provide some 4,500 climate-resilient and energy saving upgrades to existing Aboriginal social homes. The delivery of these homes is expected to create some 700 construction jobs and at least 132 Aboriginal employment opportunities. [*Extension of time*]

It will create not just initial construction jobs but at least 132 Aboriginal employment opportunities across rural and remote New South Wales, particularly in communities such as those in the electorate of Barwon. Importantly, it will also help reduce overcrowding and improve the quality of life of tenants. As part of the Strong Family, Strong Communities Strategy, the Government is delivering \$67.2 million towards supporting Aboriginal families to become home owners and Aboriginal students to complete their tertiary studies. The money will help Aboriginal community housing providers with the training and operational resources they need to grow and flourish.

To support the infrastructure for these growing communities, we are investing some \$32 million in the Roads to Home program, delivering roads and other supporting infrastructure to improve services, like emergency and community transport, postal delivery and rubbish collection. The Roads to Home program will benefit towns like Goodooga, Walgett, Wilcannia and Condobolin. The member will be pleased that this additional infrastructure will see a total of 44 Aboriginal communities supported through the program since I announced it in 2019. The New South Wales Government has grown the social housing portfolio from some \$30 billion to \$51 billion over the past 10 years. In the past five years we have invested some \$9.3 billion in social housing—32 per cent of the national total of \$29 billion.

Our \$2.8 billion housing package includes creating an additional 120 new social homes and supporting almost 16,000 social homes across New South Wales. We will continue to work with rural and regional New South Wales in particular to deliver those homes, improve the prosperity and health of people and their ability to own their own homes. I say again that this budget is about building a better and brighter future for everyone in New South Wales.

#### STATE BUDGET AND TRANSPORT

**Mr MARK TAYLOR (Seven Hills) (15:25):** My question is addressed to the Minister for Transport, and Minister for Veterans. Will the Minister update the House on how this budget is delivering transport infrastructure projects that will create a brighter future for western Sydney?

**Mr DAVID ELLIOTT (Baulkham Hills—Minister for Transport, and Minister for Veterans) (15:25):** What a coincidence! As a matter of fact, I can do that. I thank the member for Seven Hills for his question. Like all of us here in the Coalition Government, he knows that the budget once again reaffirms our commitment to projects that will make our city and State just that much better—whether it be the Sydney Metro, the light rail or my pet project, the zero-emissions buses. That technology is being rolled out. Mr Speaker, do you know the difference between zero-emissions buses and the Labor Party? At least we are getting rid of the hot air! I am available for parties and bar mitzvahs.

Today the Government delivers on its four-year \$76 billion budget. That includes \$23 billion in capital expenditure in the next financial year alone. When we consider that under Premier Keneally those opposite blew \$1 billion on a project they never delivered, this is a good spend. This is good coin. The budget will continue to underwrite the transformation of major projects. For many years to come people will look at this Government and say, "That's the textbook government," because we deliver. Of course, stage two of the Parramatta Light Rail will change lives. It will change the lives of not only my constituents and those of the member for Seven Hills and the member for Parramatta—and I hear the member for Granville saying, "Dave, thank you"—but also of those involved in the construction: the sparkies, the fabricators and the welders. Some 6½ thousand of my people from western Sydney will get jobs and, like the member for Granville, they are saying, "Dave, thank you." It will change the lives of small business owners. Whether someone is getting a kebab in Eat Street or a hamburger in Westmead or some KFC after the races at Rosehill—

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

**Mr DAVID ELLIOTT:** —this is a government that is building to complement the cultural experiences western Sydney has to offer like CommBank Stadium, the Powerhouse Museum and Sydney Olympic Park. The list goes on.

**Mr Anthony Roberts:** Better than the eastern suburbs.

**Mr DAVID ELLIOTT:** Much better than the eastern suburbs. The member for Lane Cove highlights the difference between the eastern suburbs and the western suburbs. Earlier this year I was delighted to announce that Australian manufacturing will be mandatory. That is not something the Opposition ever thought about when it was in government. There will be a mandatory requirement for Australian manufacturing in stage two of the Parramatta Light Rail because on this side of the House we believe in Australia. This is a great victory for those in western Sydney and will confirm Parramatta as the capital of New South Wales.

*Documents***INSPECTOR OF CUSTODIAL SERVICES****Reports**

**The SPEAKER:** In accordance with section 16 of the Inspector of Custodial Services Act 2012, I announce receipt of the report of the Inspector of Custodial Services entitled *Inspection of Parklea Correctional Centre*, dated 21 June 2022 and received this day. I order that the report be printed.

**AUDITOR-GENERAL****Reports**

**The CLERK:** In accordance with section 38 of the Government Sector Audit Act 1983, I announce receipt of the Performance Audit Report of the Auditor-General entitled *NSW Planning Portal*, dated 21 June 2022 and received this day.

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

**Mr DAVID LAYZELL:** As Chair: I table the report of the Legislation Review Committee entitled *Legislation Review Digest No. 45/57*, dated 21 June 2022. I move:

That the report be printed.

**Motion agreed to.**

**Mr DAVID LAYZELL:** I also table the minutes of the committee meeting regarding *Legislation Review Digest No. 44/57*.

*Petitions***RESPONSES TO PETITIONS**

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

The Hon. Paul Toole—Lismore Floods Reconstruction—lodged 10 May 2022 (Ms Janelle Saffin)

The Hon. Paul Toole—International Students' Work Rights—lodged 10 May 2022 (Ms Lynda Voltz)

The Hon. Bronnie Taylor—Northern New South Wales Perinatal Care—lodged 10 May (Mr Christopher Gulaptis)

The Hon. Natasha Maclaren-Jones—Blue Mountains Aboriginal Culture and Resource Centre—lodged 10 May (Ms Trish Doyle)

[*Notices of motions given.*]

*Bills***TREASURY LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (MISCELLANEOUS) BILL 2022****Second Reading Debate****Debate resumed from 8 June 2022.**

**Mr ANOULACK CHANTHIVONG (Macquarie Fields) (15:46):** I lead for the Opposition on the Treasury Legislation Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2022. From the outset I state that Labor will not be opposing the bill in its currently proposed draft. In the last few minutes I have been advised that another amendment will be made by the Government to require compliance with the grants administration guide. I understand that the member for North Sydney will move that amendment at the end of this debate.

The bill will make a series of amendments to ensure compliance with Commissioner Hayne's Royal Commission into Misconduct in the Banking, Superannuation and Financial Services Industry, and the Australian accounting standards, and preparation of compliance statements as part of the audit process. Given the uncontroversial nature of the bill, my remarks will be relatively modest. There are amendments covering six Acts in total, in addition to amendments to Acts and regulations that relate to the change from "First State

Superannuation Fund" to "Aware Super Fund". The list of legislation to be amended is detailed in the bill's explanatory notes. It is not necessary for me to repeat them for the sake of adding a few words to my remarks.

The motive for this bill is to ensure that Government legislation remains contemporary and compliant within the different operating environments. For example, the proposed changes to the Coal and Oil Shale Mine Workers (Superannuation) Act 1941 are in response to the Hayne royal commission. The proposed amendments seek to construct a revised corporate structure through a trustee arrangement that is in line with Commonwealth legislation. Schedule 1.1. outlines all these changes. Similarly, schedules 1.2 to 1.5 are amendments to the various pieces of government finance administration legislation to ensure that they comply with the Australian accounting standards. Further, schedules 1.3 and 1.4 are aimed at improving the preparation and reporting process of government sector finance compliance statements. Schedules 1.4 (2) and (3) require the Treasurer to provide compliance statements prior to the Auditor General preparing her audit reports and that certain statements and reports be tabled in the Legislatively Assembly.

I made further enquiries, particularly about schedule 1.6, which relates to the Parliamentary Contributory Superannuation Act 1971. I understand that the proposed changes are also administrative in nature because of the changing circumstances and declining number of MPs who are eligible to be trustees of the parliamentary contributory superannuation fund, given the fund has been closed to new members since 2007. The proposed amendments are aimed at allowing the Treasurer to appoint trustees to and remove trustees from the board. I am advised that the appointed trustees do not receive any remuneration for their services, which I suspect to be valuable public information. There appears to be nothing controversial in the bill and the proposed amendments. I understand that part 4, regarding compliance with the grants administration guide, will be amended by the member for North Shore. That concludes my remarks on the bill.

**Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore) (15:49):** On behalf of Mr Matt Kean: In reply: I thank the Opposition for its contribution to the debate. This is an important bill and makes much-needed administrative changes to a number of Acts administered by the Treasurer and the finance Minister. Its expedient passage through this Chamber is important to ensure that the necessary changes are given effect before the critical date of 30 June. I foreshadow that the Government will be moving an amendment to the bill in the Consideration in Detail stage. The amendment will establish a duty for the Government to comply with any mandatory requirements contained in the grants administration guide, which arose following the recently completed review of grants administration in New South Wales. I foreshadow also that the Government is committed to "follow the dollar" reforms as per its response to the Public Accountability Committee's inquiry into the integrity, efficacy and value for money of New South Wales Government grant programs, which will be worked through by Treasury in a consultative process. I commend the bill to the House.

**TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Lee Evans):** The question is that this bill be now read a second time.

**Motion agreed to.**

**Consideration in detail requested by Ms Felicity Wilson.**

#### **Consideration in Detail**

**TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Lee Evans):** By leave: I will deal with the bill in one group of clauses and schedules. The question is that clauses 1 to 3 and schedules 1 and 2 be agreed to.

**Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore) (15:51):** I move Government amendment No. 1 on sheet c2022-116D:

#### **No. 1 Grants Administration Guide**

Page 6, Schedule 1.4. Insert after line 29—

#### **[4] Schedule 1 Savings, transitional and other provisions**

Insert at the end of the Schedule—

#### **Part 4 Provision consequent on enactment of Treasury Legislation Amendment (Miscellaneous) Act 2022**

#### **31 Duty to comply with Grants Administration Guide**

- (1) The following persons must not knowingly breach a mandatory requirement contained in a Grants Administration Guide—

- (a) a Minister,
- (b) a person employed by a Minister under the *Members of Parliament Staff Act 2013*,

- (c) an employee of a government sector agency within the meaning of the *Government Sector Employment Act 2013*, other than a person employed in or by a State owned corporation.
- (2) In this section—

**Grants Administration Guide** means a Grants Administration Guide issued from time to time by the Premier and published in the Gazette.

**mandatory requirement**, of a Grants Administration Guide, means a requirement contained in the Guide that is expressly identified by the Guide to be a mandatory requirement.

The amendments to the Treasury Legislation Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2022 will amend the Government Sector Finance Act 2018 to provide that a person must not knowingly breach a mandatory requirement of the grants administration guide issued by the Premier from time to time. The section will apply to employees of government sector agencies within the meaning of the Government Sector Employment Act 2013, Ministers, and persons employed under the Members of Parliament Staff Act 2013 by a Minister as a member of the Minister's staff. The section does not apply to persons employed by State-owned corporations.

The amendments will implement a recommendation of the recently completed review of grants administration in New South Wales. On 3 November 2021, the Premier announced the review of grants administration in New South Wales, led by the Department of Premier and Cabinet, in partnership with the Productivity Commissioner, Mr Peter Achterstraat, AM. The purpose of the review was to deliver value for money by ensuring that the administration, assessment and assurance of grants programs in New South Wales is in line with best practice.

A key objective of the review was to produce an updated *Good Practice Guide to Grants Administration*. The review report was published on 7 May 2022, with the draft grants administration guide set out as appendix A of that report. The grants administration guide provides guidance based on the principles set out in the Commonwealth Grants Rules and Guidelines 2017 and reflects the government sector core values of integrity, trust, service and accountability as provided in the Government Sector Employment Act 2013. The grants administration guide also includes mandatory requirements for officials, Ministers and ministerial staff. On 7 June the New South Wales Government announced its support or support in principle for all of the recommendations of the review.

One of the recommendations of the review was to issue the Grants Administration Guide under a Premier's Memorandum, which is binding on officials, Ministers and ministerial staff, and can be readily updated in line with evolving best practice. A further recommendation was to make compliance with the Grants Administration Guide a legislative requirement. As indicated, the Premier will be issuing the Grants Administration Guide under a Premier's Memorandum, which will require compliance with the guide by Ministers, ministerial staff and officials. "Officials" are employees of a government sector agency within the meaning of the Government Sector Employment Act, excluding employees of State-owned corporations. An official's failure to comply with a Premier's Memorandum may result in disciplinary action under the Government Sector Employment Act. Premier's Memoranda are also binding on Ministers, with any sanctions for a breach to be determined by the Premier.

In addition, failure to comply with some requirements of the guide may, depending on the circumstances, amount to corrupt conduct, maladministration under the Ombudsman Act 1974 or misconduct in public office, or warrant an audit or investigation by the Audit Office or another oversight body. The Government has considered carefully the recommendations of the review. In its report, the review considered whether the substance of the draft guide, or certain requirements of the draft guide, should be codified in an Act or subordinate legislation. The review noted that this was an inflexible option and was not the review's preferred approach. The review considered that converting the entirety of the draft guide into legislation would be impractical, noting that many aspects of the guide would not be amenable to codification. The review also considered that doing so would make the draft guide an inflexible document that could not be adapted without legislative amendment.

As for the option of codifying only certain aspects of the draft guide, the review considered that this would similarly hamper the ability of the draft guide to be responsive to change and adaptable over time, albeit to a lesser degree. Instead, the review concluded that the best option would be to elevate the guide by issuing it under a Premier's Memorandum. The review considered that a significant benefit of this approach is that any necessary updates to the guide, which might arise from changed practices or new developments in the grants landscape, could be facilitated smoothly and easily, without requiring, for example, the passage of a bill. The review also recommended that, in addition to issuing the Grants Administration Guide under a Premier's Memorandum, the Government should also make compliance with the guide a legislative requirement.

The Government in its response to the review supported that recommendation in principle, noting that it would explore legislative options to make compliance with the guide a legislative requirement. The Government has considered the form of legislative amendment appropriate to achieve this end and now puts forward this amendment to the Government Sector Finance Act for that purpose. The amendment will ensure that, in addition to compliance with the guide being a requirement under the Premier's Memorandum, it will also be a legislative requirement to comply with the mandatory requirements of the guide. A particular advantage of this approach is that, should the amendment be passed, a knowing breach of a mandatory requirement of the guide will amount to a breach of the NSW Ministerial Code of Conduct, which may be investigated by the ICAC.

The Ministerial Code of Conduct sets out the standards of ethical behaviour required of Ministers. Importantly, the ministerial code is prescribed by the Independent Commission Against Corruption Regulation 2017 for the purposes of section 9 of the Independent Commission Against Corruption Act 1988. The effect of this is that a substantial breach of the ministerial code could amount to corrupt conduct under the Independent Commission Against Corruption Act. A suspected breach of the code may be investigated by the ICAC and, if substantiated, give rise to a finding of corrupt conduct. Relevantly, section 3 of the Ministerial Code of Conduct provides that a Minister must not knowingly breach the law. The amendment I move today will provide that a person must not knowingly breach a mandatory requirement of the grants administration guide. Accordingly, a knowing breach of the guide would constitute a knowing breach of the law, and therefore a relevant breach of the Ministerial Code of Conduct.

The Government in its response to the recommendations of the review is responding to concerns expressed by stakeholders that, because the current *Good Practice Guide to Grants Administration* is not a legislative instrument or otherwise mandated under legislation, it is treated as optional guidance. The amendment will make clear the enforceable nature of the grants administration guide, once it is issued by the Premier, and emphasise the importance the Government places on ensuring that officials, Ministers and ministerial staff involved in grants administration operate in accordance with best practice and administer grants fairly, effectively and transparently. I commend the amendment to the House.

**TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Lee Evans):** The question is that Government amendment No. 1 on sheet c2022-116D be agreed to.

**Amendment agreed to.**

**TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Lee Evans):** The question is that clauses 1 to 3 and schedules 1 and 2 as amended be agreed to.

**Clauses 1 to 3 and schedules 1 and 2 as amended agreed to.**

### **Third Reading**

**Ms FELICITY WILSON:** On behalf of Mr Matt Kean: I move:

That this bill be now read a third time.

**Motion agreed to.**

## **ICAC AND LECC LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2022**

### **Second Reading Debate**

**Debate resumed from 8 June 2022.**

**Mr MICHAEL DALEY (Maroubra) (15:59):** I lead for the Opposition in debate on the ICAC and LECC Legislation Amendment Bill 2022. At the outset, as is my wont, I indicate to the House that the Opposition will not be opposing the bill. The New South Wales Independent Commission Against Corruption was established in 1989. Its principal functions, set out in the Independent Commission Against Corruption Act—the ICAC Act—are, firstly, to investigate and expose corrupt conduct in the New South Wales public sector; secondly, to actively prevent corruption through advice and assistance; and, thirdly, to educate the New South Wales community and public sector about corruption and its effects. Its jurisdiction extends across almost all New South Wales public sector agencies and their employees and other New South Wales public officials, except for the NSW Police Force and the New South Wales Crime Commission. Its structure and powers are set out in the ICAC Act 1988. The commission is headed by a chief commissioner and two part-time commissioners.

The Law Enforcement Conduct Commission, or LECC as it is known, was established in 2017 as a replacement for the Police Integrity Commission. Its purpose is to detect and investigate misconduct and corruption in the NSW Police Force and the New South Wales Crime Commission, and oversee complaints handling. The LECC's key activities include preventing misconduct and maladministration by individual officers and agencies, overseeing the NSW Police Force's investigation of critical incidents and oversight of the NSW



Police Force's and New South Wales Crime Commission's investigations of alleged misconduct within these agencies. The LECC is headed by a chief commissioner and a part-time commissioner.

The Inspector of the ICAC is an independent statutory officer whose role is to oversee operations and conduct of the ICAC to ensure that it complies with the law and does not abuse the considerable powers that Parliament has vested in it. The inspector's key roles are outlined in the ICAC Act. They include auditing the operations of ICAC, dealing with complaints relating to abuse of power and misconduct within the ICAC, dealing with maladministration within ICAC, and assessing the effectiveness and appropriateness of ICAC's procedures. The inspector has extensive powers, which are outlined in section 57C of the ICAC Act. These include powers relating to investigation, access to documentation and actions against certain members. The Inspector of the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission is an independent statutory officer whose primary role is to provide oversight of the LECC and its officers in the manner in which it carries out functions. The Inspector of the LECC operates in similar manner to the Inspector of the ICAC in their functions and powers to audit, investigate and assess the effectiveness of the LECC. These functions are set out in part 9 of the LECC Act.

When these bodies were established, in order to attract the best candidates and senior judicial officers in New South Wales, particularly in respect of those who were still sitting, certain privileges or entitlements, if I might term them as that, were extended to judges of the Supreme Court to entice them—or, probably more accurately, not to penalise them—if they were appointed to any of these roles, given that they had to resign from the court before doing so. The regime that was extended to them says that a judge who resigns immediately before taking up an appointment in a statutory role of a commissioner of the ICAC, the Inspector or Assistant Inspector of the ICAC, a member or Assistant Commissioner of the LECC, or the LECC inspector is permitted to return to their position as a judge of the Supreme Court immediately after they cease to hold such statutory office. In addition, the Judges' Pensions Act 1953 provides that time served by the judge in the statutory role is taken to be time served as a judge of the Supreme Court. Historically those provisions were not extended to a judge appointed as inspector or assistant inspector of the ICAC and, more to the point of this bill, were not extended to a judge of the District Court who was appointed to one of the roles. However, the bill seeks to rectify the law in respect of these classes of persons.

The bill amends the Independent Commission Against Corruption Act 1988, the Independent Commission Against Corruption (Commissioner) Act 1994 and the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission Act 2016 to permit a person who was a judge of the Supreme Court or District Court before being appointed as a commissioner of the ICAC, inspector or assistant inspector of the ICAC, a member or assistant commissioner of the LECC, the LECC inspector or inspector of the ICAC, and who resigned immediately before their appointment to an above role, to return to their position as a judge of the same court at the end of the person's tenure in an above role. I still have a question—and I would like the Attorney General or his representative to address this in reply if they might—as to whether these provisions do in fact extend that privilege or regime to the chief commissioner of the LECC. On my reading of the bill it is not clear that it does.

In addition, the person's entitlements in relation to a judicial pension also continue while the person holds such a role and service is to be taken as service as a judge of the court from which they were appointed. The salient point of the bill is to effectively allow District Court judges to be appointed to any of the aforementioned statutory roles. Importantly, the qualification requirements in New South Wales for appointment to the Supreme Court and the District Court are broadly the same, that is, to be an Australian lawyer of not less than seven years' standing. I quote from the Attorney General's second reading speech where he made the following points:

The purpose of the bill is to address these discrepancies and ensure that the provisions apply consistently to Supreme Court and District Court judges who may be appointed to the statutory roles. Meritorious applicants may be discouraged from accepting an appointment without legislative amendment to extend the benefit of the existing provisions in the ICAC commissioner Act to judges of the District Court. This is of particular significance in circumstances where the holder of a judicial office is not eligible to be appointed as a commissioner of the ICAC, requiring judicial officers to resign from their judicial office prior to being appointed as a commissioner of the ICAC. There is no compelling reason to exclude judges of the District Court from the benefit of these provisions.

...

Senior members of the bar and highly experienced legal practitioners are frequently appointed to the District Court. Judges of the District Court have varied expertise and experience that would be of benefit to the ICAC and the LECC in performing their statutory functions. I note that a comparable Western Australian commission reviving provision for former judicial officers appointed to statutory offices extends to judges of its Supreme Court and District Court. For these reasons, the Government proposes to amend the ICAC commissioner Act to extend the existing provisions relating to a judge of the Supreme Court to a judge of the District Court. The bill also proposes equivalent amendments to the ICAC Act and the LECC Act to ensure consistency between relevant provisions.

I cannot find any compelling reason to disagree with the contentions of the Attorney General in that regard. Presently, there are 73 Supreme Court judges and 106 District Court judges in New South Wales. In my view the amendments would allow applicants to be drawn from a larger pool. It should also be noted—and members of either House might take some comfort here—that, apart from the fact that a highly credentialed panel has been

appointed to oversee the reappointments to these bodies, given that some vacancies are about to come up, the joint parliamentary Committee on the ICAC and the joint parliamentary Committee on the Ombudsman, the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission and the Crime Commission respectively have a power of veto over proposed appointments to the statutory office. So Parliament does have the power to exert some control over the proposed appointments. As I said at the outset of my contribution, the Opposition does not oppose the bill.

**Mr PAUL LYNCH (Liverpool) (16:09):** I make a contribution to debate on the ICAC and LECC Legislation Amendment Bill 2022. I note the Labor Opposition does not oppose the bill. The object of the bill is to amend the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission Act, the Independent Commission Against Corruption (Commissioner) Act and the Independent Commission Against Corruption Act. The amendments aim to do two things. One is to allow a District Court or Supreme Court judge who resigned to take up a position as LECC chief commissioner, commissioner, assistant commissioner, or inspector, or a position as ICAC commissioner, inspector, or assistant inspector, to return to their position as a judge of the same court immediately after they stop holding their LECC or ICAC position. The second aim of the amendments is to provide that, for the purposes of the Judges' Pensions Act, time spent by the person in the ICAC or LECC positions referred to is time served as a judge of the status they had before appointment to that position.

I have a long-term interest in those institutions. When I was in practice as a lawyer I appeared at ICAC professionally, unlike some members of this place who have been there as persons of interest. I am currently a member of the Committee on the Ombudsman, the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission and the Crime Commission. With only one four-year gap I have been a member of that committee and its predecessors since 1995, including two terms as chair. There are currently various provisions applying to Supreme Court judges that do the things proposed in the bill. However, they do not currently apply to judges of the District Court or to a Supreme Court judge appointed as inspector of the ICAC.

The provisions are important because without them the only judges of the Supreme Court or District Court who would take up these positions would be people who are at the end of their careers. It would be economically suicidal to resign midway through your term as a judge, take up one of these positions, then have to go back. In practical terms that means that without these provisions the range of potential appointees is dramatically narrow because the only people who would take up the positions would be judges at the end of their career, rather than judges in the middle of their career. At that level it is entirely sensible.

The Government presents the bill as removing discrepancies. It points to the context of upcoming appointments of an ICAC chief commissioner, two ICAC commissioners, an ICAC inspector, and a LECC inspector. It makes sense to have the changes in place prior to those appointments—although the provisions will not be applicable to all of those appointees. The absence of provisions covering District Court judges, especially in relation to the LECC chief commissioner, is interesting and was, of course, no oversight. The origins of the LECC lie in a report dated 31 August 2015, prepared by Andrew Tink for the Government. The report delivered on the long-held hostility by some sections of the police for the Police Integrity Commission [PIC]. That is, Tink's report recommended the abolition of the PIC.

The Tink report recommended, in its proposed model, that the chief commissioner be a serving or retired superior court judge, and that was what was included in the legislation. District Court judges could not previously have been included in a provision such as the one now before the House because they were not eligible to be appointed as chief commissioner—that is, the Tink model and the legislation that flowed from it meant that a District Court judge was not eligible to be LECC chief commissioner. That changed with the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission Amendment Bill 2020, which unceremoniously dumped Tink's recommendation and simply required a chief commissioner have special legal qualifications—that is, have at least five years' standing as an Australian lawyer. LECC Inspector McClintock had suggested that the requirements be changed and perhaps be extended to District Court judges as well as Supreme Court judges. The Government went well beyond Mr McClintock's suggestion and simply said that they have to be an Australian lawyer.

When I spoke in the second reading debate on that bill in 2020, I made the point that there was a widespread perception that the Government was having trouble locating a replacement for Chief Commissioner Adams, and that serving or retired Supreme Court judges were disinclined to accept appointment. That was ascribed by many to the way that the Government had treated various Supreme Court judges, including the pretty appalling defenestration of then ICAC Commissioner Megan Latham and the way the Government dealt with Chief Commissioner Adams. That seems to have been the reason that those changes were made. In any event, the changes were made, although the subsequent appointment of Chief Commissioner Blanch would have satisfied the original criteria in any event. Granted, with the current qualifications, it seems to me the provisions in the bill are entirely unobjectionable. As I noted, the Labor Opposition does not oppose the bill.

**Mr RON HOENIG (Heffron) (16:14):** I support the ICAC and LECC Legislation Amendment Bill 2022. I also support and endorse the remarks made by the member for Maroubra. Nothing I say should be seen to be

either directly or indirectly inconsistent with the views he expressed. I have no objection to judges being utilised as appointments to inspectors, commissioners or chief commissioners. Nor do I have any objection to their terms as judges effectively continuing for the purposes of the Judges' Pension Act at the conclusion of their appointment. However, if a serving judge is appointed as the Chief Commissioner of the Independent Commission Against Corruption and is able to continue their appointment as a judicial officer when their term expires and their judicial pension continues at the judicial rate, then my view is that they should be paid their judicial salary, or at least equivalent to the highest judicial salary at the time of their service.

For example, if a Supreme Court judge is appointed to serve as the Chief Commissioner of the Independent Commission Against Corruption, then he or she should be paid their Supreme Court judge's salary. Also, I probably do not have any objection to a District Court judge being paid a Supreme Court judge's salary for that period. What I do have issue with though is a serving judge being appointed to the office of Chief Commissioner of the Independent Commission Against Corruption and receiving a salary increase of at least a quarter of a million dollars a year. Currently the salary of the chief commissioner is \$780,000 a year, which is a quarter of a million dollars more than the salary of either the Governor of New South Wales or the Chief Justice of New South Wales.

I understand clearly that if a member of the bar is appointed to that office—a senior member of the bar, for example—and if that person leaves the bar and their practice for five years, to ensure the appointment of the best person available, paying a high level of remuneration, as determined by a tribunal, would be appropriate, noting they will not receive a pension at the end of their time. They are giving up their practice, which may well be more lucrative than the salary that is paid to someone who holds the office of chief commissioner.

However, it seems to me that if a serving judge wants to occupy that office for four or five years and is the appropriate person to be appointed to that office, they should continue their judge's salary. They should not be beholden to a decision of the Executive Government for a salary increase of over \$300,000 a year. For a District Court judge, it is probably an increase in salary of \$350,000 a year. They should not be beholden to a decision of the Executive Government, nor should they receive a salary at that level. One would hardly think that any judge who is to be appointed to that office for a period of five years would be doing it because of the salary conditions. The other issue, of course, is that a judicial pension is effectively a non-contributory pension for life. Judges are entitled to this non-contributory pension. Again, I take no issue with that; it is a long historic matter. It is not for the Legislature or Executive to interfere with judges' entitlements. However, consideration needs to be given as to whether the increase in salary is appropriate.

The only other matter that I put on record in this House relates to the appointments of the chief commissioner and commissioners which expire on 7 August. When the current chief commissioner, Commissioner Peter Hall, QC, who was then Justice Hall, and the former inspector of the Independent Commission Against Corruption, Bruce McClintock, SC, were appointed, the Government gave members of the ICAC statutory committee the courtesy of confidentially indicating to us the people it desired to appoint to those offices, bearing in mind the ICAC oversight committee has the statutory power to veto any appointment. The Government, through the chair of the committee—who is now a Minister—very early in the piece advised members of that committee confidentially who it was contemplating approaching for the purposes of appointment. Of course, there was no secret it was Justice Hall, whom many of us knew and who had written a book on commissions of inquiry. It was a most eminent appointment. The Government was told privately there was no objection to that appointment. Of course, the committee well knew Bruce McClintock, who was part author of a number of reviews of ICAC, and we clearly thought that was an appropriate appointment. That also was conveyed to the Government privately.

In respect of the other two part-time commissioners, some committee members took the opportunity of checking with members of the judiciary and the bar—as one often does with judicial appointments—as to the suitability of their appointments. At least I conveyed privately to the Government that I had no objection to their appointments and would certainly not support a veto of their appointments. The Government was ensuring that occurred because it is most important that appointments to those important offices are not made other than on a bipartisan basis. The last thing the commission needs—for its chief commissioner, commissioners or inspectors—is for there to be a dispute about whether or not those appointed positions should be vetoed or for there to even be a split vote within the ICAC oversight committee. In fact, I even assisted the Government at the time when it enacted a regulation to appoint the commissioners by ensuring a mechanism for them to be properly appointed, lest any earlier decisions be set aside.

I must say I have found breathtaking the lack of courtesy for consultation in regard to the recently appointed inspector and certainly the lack of courtesy as to who is proposed to be appointed as chief commissioner and commissioners. I hear rumours as to who is being looked at. You do not have to be Houdini to expose that the bill before the House is to enable the appointment of a District Court judge. Clearly the Government is looking at a District Court judge. If the Government has been canvassing with a District Court judge whom it proposes to

appoint, it should follow the proper protocol. It should have been at least canvassing the name of the proposed appointee with members of the committee prior to even approaching the judge. I raise two issues. Firstly, if the Government appoints a serving judge who is going to be on a judicial pension for life, then that judge should receive a judicial salary and not the bonus that an appointee who is not a serving judicial officer receives. Secondly, I find breathtaking the Government's lack of courtesy towards the oversight committee, which has the power of veto of appointment.

**Ms JODIE HARRISON (Charlestown) (16:23):** The Independent Commission Against Corruption is a vitally important part of New South Wales' civil society, and so too is the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission [LECC]. When ICAC looks into allegations of misuse of public office or when the LECC looks into allegations of law enforcement misconduct, both organisations are performing a role of incredible value in our society: They are holding the powerful to account. Any effort to strengthen the ICAC and the LECC should be welcomed, and any effort to broaden the pool of potential applicants and attract the best and brightest to either organisation should also be encouraged.

I am taking the opportunity to contribute to debate on the ICAC and LECC Legislation Amendment Bill 2022 because stopping corruption, and the role of the ICAC in that regard in particular, is a matter of great personal importance to me, as the Charlestown electorate has experienced the scourge of corruption firsthand. I note that the bill before the House amends the Independent Commission Against Corruption Act 1988 and the Independent Commission Against Corruption (Commissioner) Act 1994, as well as the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission Act 2016. The proposed amendments will permit someone who has previously served as a judge of the Supreme Court or District Court to be appointed as a commissioner of the ICAC, as an inspector or assistant inspector of the ICAC, as a member or assistant commissioner of the LECC, or as a LECC inspector or inspector of the ICAC.

Far from being a kangaroo court, as it has been called, the ICAC is a forum through which the interests of the public can be maintained. Rooting out corruption is not a niche issue, as has been recently suggested. Standing against corruption should be at the heart of our efforts as elected representatives because corruption goes against everything we should stand for—fairness, equality and justice. Anyone in this place who thinks that the public is not paying attention to the way members in this place approach corruption should look at what happened on 21 May this year. As Serena Lillywhite, CEO of Transparency International Australia, summed up in *The Guardian*:

The public is entitled to have confidence in the integrity of its public officials and expect the highest standards of integrity from our elected representatives. We expect them to avoid or otherwise appropriately manage conflicts of interest to ensure the maintenance of both real and perceived ministerial integrity. Without that, we lose trust and confidence in our politicians.

My electorate knows how damaging corruption is and how corruption undermines our very system of government. Democracy cannot function unless the people can trust their elected representatives to represent their interests. The people of this State have entrusted us, their representatives, with the awesome responsibility and privilege of making their laws, and the least we can do to repay that trust is to ensure that we act ethically and that we empower our public watchdog. We cannot legislate morality; we cannot make laws to tell people how to think or decide for them what is right or wrong. But we can reinforce our system to prevent the kind of unethical behaviour that further undermines faith in our institutions.

It is important that we strengthen the ICAC's ability to recruit sharp legal minds—people of the highest integrity and professionalism. We owe it to our electorates, to the State and to our higher ideals to ensure that the ICAC and the LECC are properly resourced and staffed. The bill allows for a person serving in the District Courts or Supreme Courts who resigned immediately before their appointment to one of those roles to return to their position as a judge of the same court at the end of their time with the ICAC or the LECC. Their service with those important bodies is taken to be service as a judge of the court in which they previously served, thereby maintaining their entitlement to a judicial pension.

At the present time, there are 73 Supreme Court judges and 106 District Court judges in New South Wales. They each have met the same qualification requirements, which is to be an Australian lawyer of not less than seven years' standing. They bring with them diverse experience and expertise that could potentially be of great benefit to the ICAC and the LECC. Of course, as senior members of the bar and legal practitioners, they are among the finest legal minds in the State. The amendments in the bill would allow applicants for those important positions to be drawn from a larger pool. By protecting the entitlements of the applicants, it would make the proposition of taking on one of those roles less onerous and ideally attract a higher level of commitment and talent. That is crucial. Never has it been more important that the Independent Commission Against Corruption and the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission be equipped and empowered to do their jobs.

I reiterate the experience my electorate has had with corruption. My predecessor as member for Charlestown resigned in 2014 when details about his fundraising arrangements with a local property developer

came to light. He was not the only politician to be caught up in the scandal, of course. Several Government MPs moved to the crossbench at that time, and we have seen similar events occur over and over again with this Government. I am proud to be a member of an Opposition that has continually held the Government to account for its ethical lapses. I am proud to be a member of an Opposition that successfully put forward amendments to the Government's Statute Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2020 requiring that a Minister must not accept or seek payment of a commission from a property developer, either directly or through a third party. Ethical standards under the O'Farrell-Baird-Berejiklian-Perrottet Government continue to slip. This Government seems to have learnt nothing from the corruption scandals that have plagued it.

**Mrs Tanya Davies:** Point of order: My point of order is relevance. I ask that the member for Charlestown be directed to the substance of the legislation and not use her contribution to the debate as an opportunity to throw mud at the other side. It is quite obvious that Labor Party members are actually in jail, having been convicted of corruption. To keep the debate civilised, it is important that members stick to the legislation before us and not veer off into rabbit holes to suit their political objectives.

**TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Lee Evans):** I uphold the point of order. The member for Charlestown will come to the leave of the bill.

**Ms JODIE HARRISON:** If the Government has achieved anything since coming to power, it is in demonstrating how truly important the ICAC is. As politicians, how often do we hear that we are all corrupt or that we all have our snouts in the trough? The vast majority of us here in this Parliament are ethically upstanding, but this is politics and optics matter. At a forum examining the legality of pork-barrelling in politics, Peter Hall, QC, said:

... if you get a decision, let's take the Stronger Communities grants fund case ... there is in fact, as the Auditor-General's report discovered in that case, a document, which is a briefing note to the Premier's office and that briefing note was to the effect 'we've got the money out the door and it's hitting the political target'.

... you'd almost say the sole motive [or] the sole purpose of that exercise was political or electoral and that's clearly on the other side of the line.

I note that the joint parliamentary committee on the ICAC and the joint parliamentary committee on the Ombudsman, the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission and the Crime Commission maintain a power of veto over proposed appointments to the statutory offices covered by the bill, and that is a good thing. The Parliament has the power to exert some control, and members must ensure we use that power to maintain the integrity and independence of the ICAC and the LECC. I say again: How will we ever work with the public if they do not trust us? How will we achieve anything if this Parliament and this system are seen as inherently untrustworthy, unethical or corrupt? I join with my colleagues, led by the shadow Attorney General and member for Maroubra, in not opposing the bill. This State's anti-corruption apparatus needs all the talent and skill we can secure for it.

**Ms GABRIELLE UPTON (Vaucluse) (16:32):** On behalf of Mr Mark Speakman: In reply: I thank the members representing the electorates of Maroubra, Liverpool, Heffron and Charlestown for their contributions to the debate on the ICAC and LECC Legislation Amendment Bill 2022. Existing provisions of the Independent Commission Against Corruption (Commissioner) Act 1994 and the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission Act 2016 enable, if certain conditions are complied with, the commission of a judge of the Supreme Court who has resigned immediately prior to their appointment as a commissioner of the ICAC or Law Enforcement Conduct Commission, or as inspector of the LECC, to have their commission as a judge revived when the person ceases to hold office, causing the person to become a judge of the Supreme Court again. The existing provisions allow for continuity of service under the Judges' Pensions Act 1953.

The purpose of the bill before the House is to extend the benefit of those provisions to District Court judges, and also to Supreme Court and District Court judges appointed as inspector of the ICAC, to ensure consistency between the relevant provisions. There is simply no compelling reason to exclude judges of the District Court from the benefit of the provisions. Judges of the District Court are eligible to apply to be appointed as commissioner or inspector. Further, the qualification requirements for appointment to both the Supreme Court and the District Court are broadly the same—namely, to be an Australian lawyer of at least seven years' standing or a person who holds or has held a judicial office. Senior members of the bar and highly experienced legal practitioners are frequently appointed to District Court judge, as I saw when I served as the Attorney General. Judges of the District Court have varied expertise and experience that the Government believes would be of benefit to the ICAC and the LECC in performing their statutory functions.

Before I deal with the matters raised during the debate, I update the House on one development since the Attorney General delivered his second reading speech on the bill on 8 June. On 16 June 2022 the Governor appointed Gail Furness, SC, as Inspector of the ICAC and Bruce McClintock, SC, as Inspector of the LECC, on and from 1 July 2022. I congratulate the incoming inspectors and thank them for agreeing to perform those

immensely important roles for our communities in New South Wales. In response to the comments by the member for Heffron, I acknowledge the joint parliamentary committee on the ICAC and the joint parliamentary committee on the Ombudsman, the LECC and the New South Wales Crime Commission for their consideration of those appointments. I also thank Professor Terry Buddin, SC, the outgoing Inspector of the LECC, for his outstanding commitment for the duration of his term, and Mr Bruce McClintock, SC, the outgoing Inspector of the ICAC, for his continued efforts as he transitions across into his new position with the LECC. We are indeed fortunate to have people of such high standing to take up those important roles.

I confirm that the amendments proposed in the bill are not relevant to the incoming inspectors of the ICAC and the LECC. However, the Government is introducing the bill because there is no reason in principle why the benefits of the current provisions should not be extended to District Court judges who may be appointed in the future and across all commissioner and inspector roles. The recruitment process with respect to commissioners of the ICAC is ongoing. I confirm that any proposed appointments arising from that recruitment process will also be considered by the joint parliamentary committee on the ICAC, so that it may consider exercising its power of veto. That is my response to the comments made by the member for Heffron in this debate. I turn now to the queries raised by the member for Maroubra. I thank him for his questions. I confirm that the provisions apply to a member of the commission—namely, the ICAC or the LECC—and that includes a chief commissioner.

I note the comments by the member for Heffron regarding remuneration for commissioners of the ICAC and the LECC. I confirm that the remuneration of the Chief Commissioner of the LECC is determined by the Statutory and Other Offices Remuneration Tribunal. I note the member's comments and confirm that the bill does not deal with matters of remuneration. In summary, the bill will ensure that suitably qualified and experienced judges of the District Court are not discouraged from accepting an appointment as a commissioner or inspector of the ICAC or the LECC, and that judges appointed as a commissioner or inspector of the ICAC or the LECC have security of tenure and are able to return to their relevant court at the conclusion of their statutory appointment without being reappointed by the government of the day. The bill will also ensure consistency in provisions relating to the revival of judicial commissions after a person who is a judge of the Supreme Court or the District Court ceases to hold office as a commissioner or inspector of the ICAC or the LECC. I commend the bill to the House.

**TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Lee Evans):** The question is that this bill be now read a second time.

**Motion agreed to.**

### **Third Reading**

**Ms GABRIELLE UPTON:** On behalf of Mr Mark Speakman: I move:

That this bill be now read a third time.

**Motion agreed to.**

## **BAIL AMENDMENT BILL 2022**

### **First Reading**

**Bill introduced on motion by Ms Melinda Pavey, on behalf of Mr Mark Speakman, read a first time and printed.**

### **Second Reading Speech**

**Mrs MELINDA PAVEY (Oxley) (16:40):** On behalf of Mr Mark Speakman: I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

The Government is pleased to introduce the Bail Amendment Bill 2022. The bill gives effect to the Government's commitment last week to further strengthen the Bail Act 2013 in two respects. In a national first, the bill will (1) insert a provision to require that any electronic monitoring imposed as a bail condition must meet any minimum standards prescribed in the regulations and (2) insert a requirement that bail must be refused following conviction and prior to sentencing where the offender will be sentenced to full-time detention, unless special or exceptional circumstances can be established. Those amendments are in response to three recent bail matters that were out of step with community expectations. The New South Wales Government is committed to keeping the community safe and to ensuring that our bail laws remain among the toughest in the country.

Turning to the first amendment proposed, schedule 1 to the bill introduces new section 22B of the Bail Act, which will provide that a court is not to grant bail or dispense with bail, including in the course of considering a detention application, during the period following conviction and before sentencing for an offence for which an offender will be sentenced to full-time detention, unless it is established that special or exceptional circumstances

exist that justify that bail decision. For the purposes of the provision, "conviction" is defined in subsection (5) to include a plea of guilty. As its preamble states, the Bail Act balances the need to ensure the safety of victims of crime, individuals and the community; the need to ensure the integrity of the justice system; and the common law presumption of innocence and the general right to be at liberty.

Bail exists to keep victims and our communities safe before and during a trial and to protect every person's right to the presumption of innocence and the general right to be at liberty until they can have their day in court and their matter determined. Bail is not intended to be a prejudgement of someone's guilt or punishment before conviction. However, that does not mean that criminals who have been convicted or plead guilty and who the court is confident will be sentenced to imprisonment by full-time detention should be permitted to walk free in our community while they are waiting to be sentenced. The presumption of innocence does not apply after a conviction or guilty plea. Currently, when an accused person is found guilty of an offence and the matter is adjourned for sentencing to a later date, a bail decision-maker must, under section 18 (1) (i1) of the Bail Act, already have regard to "the likelihood of a custodial sentence being imposed".

The provision will go one step further to provide that serious offenders who will be sentenced to imprisonment to be served by full-time detention must not be granted bail post-conviction prior to sentencing. Offenders will not be taken into remand under the provision in circumstances where they will later be sentenced to a lesser penalty and released, or, for example, be considered for an intensive corrections order or an order under section 11 of the Crimes (Sentencing Procedure) Act 1999 because by very definition those are not circumstances where the offender "will be sentenced" to full-time detention. This is not intended to be a pseudo or abridged sentencing hearing. A full sentencing hearing will still occur before a judge, as per the usual processes, at a later date determined by the court, with the usual opportunities for parties to make submissions. The defence will still have the opportunity to put forward evidence and arguments about what the precise sentence should be. However, this reform will ensure that those offenders who will be receiving full-time detention are not granted bail to be released back into the community in the interim before that sentencing hearing can occur.

This is not about increasing the number of people going to prison. It is about offenders who have already been found guilty beyond a reasonable doubt or pled guilty and are heading to prison getting there quicker and not being out in the community while awaiting sentence. The New South Wales Government will carefully monitor the impact of this reform in practice to ensure that it does not adversely impact on the Government's early guilty plea reforms, although it is difficult to envisage how this could occur. If a person pleads guilty under the early guilty plea scheme, they will already have a very good idea of the type of sentence they can expect to receive. If that sentence is imprisonment by way of full-time detention, it should come as no surprise if the new section 22B is enlivened in the course of a bail decision ahead of sentencing.

The provision does acknowledge that special or exceptional circumstances may arise from time to time that justify the granting of bail even in these circumstances, consistent with the approach taken in the existing section 22 of the Bail Act. Section 22 overrides other sections of the Bail Act by providing that in certain situations bail cannot be granted, except in special or exceptional circumstances. The courts have declined to set out an exhaustive list of factors that may constitute "special or exceptional". For example, in *El-Hilli and Melville v R* [2015] NSWCCA 146 at [29], Justice Hamill said, their Honours Simpson and Davies agreeing:

"Special or exceptional circumstances" may exist in the combination of factors or in "the coincidence of a number of features ... It is not possible to determine or predict in advance what those features may be."

What is clear is that it is a high bar to be met, and similarly will be a high bar under new section 22B. There could, for example, be circumstances where a person argues that special or exceptional circumstances exist as they are required to make arrangements before commencing their prison sentence to avoid hardship on third parties, such as a person for whom they are a carer. However, this is a high bar. It would be for the court to determine the circumstances of the case whether the test was satisfied. Even if special or exceptional circumstances were able to be proven in a case, subsection (3) of the new provision provides:

(3) Subject to subsection (1), Division 2 applies to a bail decision made by a court under this section.

This means that the other stringent existing tests in the Bail Act would also need to be applied in determining whether bail should be granted and what bail conditions may be required. I turn now to the electronic monitoring amendment. Schedule 1 [2] to the bill introduces a new section 30A of the Bail Act to provide that if bail conditions impose a requirement for an accused person to be subject to electronic monitoring, the electronic monitoring must be of a standard that at least meets any minimum standards prescribed in the regulations. The bail condition must also require the electronic monitoring to be of a standard that meets any standards prescribed in the regulations. The standards themselves will be contained in subordinate legislation so they can be updated as electronic monitoring technology improves and in line with industry best practice.

Bail is authority for a person to be at liberty for an alleged offence. The Bail Act sets out the circumstances under which bail can be granted and bail conditions imposed. In determining whether to grant bail, the decision-maker must follow the strict tests in the Bail Act. If the accused has been charged with a "show cause" offence, the decision-maker must refuse bail unless the accused shows why their detention is not justified. If the person does show cause as to why their detention is not justified or the offence is not a show cause offence, the decision-maker must apply the "unacceptable risk test". Bail must be refused if the decision-maker is satisfied that there is an unacceptable risk that an accused will, if released from custody, fail to appear at any proceedings for the offence; commit a serious offence; endanger the safety of victims, individuals or the community; or interfere with witnesses or evidence. The decision-maker is to consider more than 20 matters in making this assessment.

If there are no unacceptable risks, the decision-maker must grant bail, with or without bail conditions; release the person without bail; or dispense with bail. Bail conditions can be imposed only if considered reasonably necessary, proportionate and appropriate, amongst other factors. Bail conditions may include a requirement that the accused do or refrain from doing anything, that security be provided and that a character acknowledgement be given, and can amount to effective home arrest. There are currently no minimum standards for electronic monitoring as a bail condition. Electronic monitoring imposed as a bail condition is directly arranged with a private electronic monitoring provider, funded by the accused. This is different from the use of electronic monitoring as a condition of parole or sentence, which is arranged and supervised by Corrective Services NSW.

Currently courts must assess the suitability of an electronic monitoring condition based on the evidence put before them. That ordinarily includes evidence from the electronic monitoring provider explaining its equipment and monitoring services. Courts assess the reliability and quality of the services but without reference to any standards. An accused proposing a bail condition of electronic monitoring must convince the decision-maker, often over the prosecutor's opposition, that such an arrangement mitigates the risks. Electronic monitoring can be a useful tool to ensure that a person complies with their bail conditions or other court orders. These amendments will ensure it is subject to important safeguards. The bill will introduce, in a national first, minimum standards for electronic monitoring imposed as a bail condition.

New South Wales courts have imposed electronic monitoring as a bail condition since at least 2010. The Bail Act, rather than narrowly prescribing what conditions courts may impose, provides courts with discretion to impose conditions that are tailored to the circumstances of particular cases, ensuring that courts are able to address the particular bail concerns posed by individual accused persons. Currently there are no jurisdictions in Australia that have legislated prescribed minimum standards for use of electronic monitoring as a bail condition for an accused person. In New South Wales there are no minimum standards in legislation or elsewhere for the use of electronic monitoring as a condition of bail. New South Wales will become the first jurisdiction in Australia to identify minimum standards for electronic monitoring as a bail condition. Establishing minimum standards will make it clear to electronic monitoring providers, the courts and the community the quality of electronic monitoring and service delivery that the Parliament expects if electronic monitoring is imposed as a bail condition.

Implementing minimum standards will also contribute to improved public confidence in electronic monitoring conditions by supporting improved accountability, transparency and consistency in the quality of services. The police or the courts, as bail authorities, would still be required to consider the evidence of the electronic monitoring provider in each bail application and make an assessment as to whether that evidence meets the specified statutory standards. No regulatory scheme can remove entirely the possibility of an accused trying to remove or interfere with their electronic monitoring device. However, minimum standards will ensure an appropriate standard of service delivery, notification and prompt response expected of providers if an accused does so.

In drafting both amendments, the New South Wales Government has consulted with stakeholders, including Corrective Services NSW, the NSW Police Force, the Law Society of New South Wales, the New South Wales Bar Association, Legal Aid NSW, the Director of Public Prosecutions, and the heads of jurisdiction in the Supreme Court, District Court and Local Court. We thank those stakeholders for contributing to this important and urgent work. Bail reflects an important tenet of our justice system. Getting our bail laws right is a delicate balancing exercise. Where there are opportunities for improvement, the New South Wales Government is committed to acting swiftly and decisively to realise those to protect our community and support our frontline services in keeping our community safe, as we have done this week. I commend the bill to the House.

**Debate adjourned.**



**CRIMES AMENDMENT (PROHIBITION ON DISPLAY OF NAZI SYMBOLS) BILL 2022****First Reading**

**Bill introduced on motion by Ms Gabrielle Upton, on behalf of Mr Mark Speakman, read a first time and printed.**

**Second Reading Speech**

**Ms GABRIELLE UPTON (Vaucluse) (16:52):** On behalf of Mr Mark Speakman: I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

The Government is pleased to introduce the Crimes Amendment (Prohibition on Display of Nazi Symbols) Bill 2022. The events that occurred under the Nazi regime represent one of the darkest periods of recorded human history. The atrocities committed during that period are almost unimaginable, and the intergenerational trauma they have caused continues to be felt by many people today—in particular, by many of the residents in my electorate of Vaucluse, where most of the Jewish community in New South Wales reside. New South Wales enjoys a vibrant and inclusive multicultural community. It is based on values of acceptance and tolerance, social cohesion and a common humanity between all of the many people who call this State home. The hateful ideology that is represented by Nazi symbols has no place in our community. The display of those symbols causes harm, especially to our Jewish community, who are frequently targeted by these acts, but also to other groups who were persecuted under the Nazi regime, including other diverse cultural groups, the LGBTIQ community and people with disabilities. As an attack on our fundamental social values, these actions harm our community as a whole.

The display of the Nazi Hakenkreuz also has a particular impact on members of the Hindu, Buddhist and Jain communities. For those groups, the swastika has been a symbol of peace, prosperity and auspiciousness for centuries. However, the Nazi Party appropriated the swastika and corrupted its form to become a symbol of its evil regime. As a result, the corrupted form of the swastika—properly known by its German name, the Hakenkreuz or "hooked cross"—became one of the world's most prominent and potent symbols of hatred and genocide. These actions have caused harm beyond the Jewish community to the Hindu, Buddhist and Jain communities. Members of those communities report feeling unable to display the symbol for fear that people will mistake it for the Nazi Hakenkreuz. The continued display of this symbol in connection with Nazi ideologies perpetuates this hate and harm.

In March 2022 I was so gratified that the New South Wales Government committed to introduce a bill to criminalise the public display of Nazi symbols without a reasonable excuse. I wrote to the Attorney General, Mr Mark Speakman, to make the point that we needed legislation along the lines of that which the Government is now introducing to this House. I am so proud that the bill gives effect to the commitment the Government has given to the New South Wales community. The bill will insert new division 9 into part 3A of the Crimes Act 1900. Part 3A will contain one provision, section 93ZA, titled "Offence of displaying Nazi symbols". Under that section, a person who knowingly displays, by public act and without a reasonable excuse, a Nazi symbol commits an offence. The offence is punishable by 12 months imprisonment or a fine of 100 penalty units, or both, for an individual, or a fine of 500 penalty units for a corporation.

Interestingly, the bill does not define the term "Nazi symbol". The words are to be given their ordinary, well-understood meaning. The term "Nazi" encompasses the membership of the National Socialist German Workers' Party, which held government in Germany under Adolf Hitler between 1933 and 1945; and the ideologies of fascism, racism and antisemitism, and the belief in the supremacy of Hitler as Führer, which characterised that regime; as well as those individuals who support or sympathise with the ideology of that regime, including modern neo-Nazis, who shamefully embrace those ideologies. Similarly, the word "symbol" takes its ordinary meaning, which includes anything used or regarded as standing for or representing something else, or an emblem, token or sign. It is a broad definition that would capture not only the more well-known symbols such as the Hakenkreuz or the Nazi flag but also a range of other, lesser-known Nazi symbols.

A person will be guilty of an offence only where they knowingly display a Nazi symbol. While any display of a Nazi symbol has the potential to cause harm and distress to others, it is not the intention of the bill to punish people who are unaware of their actions. Whilst knowledge may be difficult to prove in those cases, this is a necessary consequence of ensuring that the bill is appropriately balanced in its objectives of targeting harmful and culpable conduct while not punishing unintentional conduct. Section 93ZA (3) provides a non-exhaustive list of what may constitute a reasonable excuse for the display of a Nazi symbol. There are exceptions for academic, artistic or educational purposes, which would also encompass any material intended to promote those purposes, such as a poster for a film or a flyer for an art gallery that falls within the exception, providing the display of that material is done reasonably and in good faith.

There may be occasions where promotional material would not be covered; for example, where material promoting a legitimate artwork is appropriated by a neo-Nazi group in order to display the symbol in an attempt to circumvent the legislation. In that case, the act would not be reasonable and in good faith, or in the public interest, and would rightly not be protected by this exception. Finally, section 93ZA (4) provides that "public act" has the same meaning as provided in the Crimes Act under section 93Z. In conclusion, the bill is a clear, intentional statement from the Government on behalf of the community that the display of Nazi symbols, and the hatred and bigotry they invoke and inspire, has absolutely no place in our society in New South Wales. Their display will simply not be tolerated. I commend the bill to the House.

**Debate adjourned.**

*Public Interest Debate*

## **STATE BUDGET**

**Ms GABRIELLE UPTON (Vaucluse) (16:59):** I move:

That this House acknowledges that the NSW Budget 2022-23 secures a brighter future for New South Wales.

What a couple of challenging years it has been through COVID for the whole of our community! But New South Wales, more than any other State, has got the balance right between protecting our community's health and keeping the economy moving. As a result, New South Wales has record low unemployment. We have recovered the jobs lost through COVID and we are, indeed, growing our economy. There is a flip side; choppy headwinds are being felt across the world and in New South Wales, and that includes labour shortages and interest rate rises. Consumer confidence is down. With the energy shocks that we have had, the regional wars and inflation, it is starting to feel like the 1970s again. All of this gives us the opportunity for transformation and reform, and that is what the New South Wales Government has done today.

We are seizing that opportunity with both hands. We are building a brighter future for New South Wales. That is how you do it: You seize the opportunity, and you build a brighter future for the community of New South Wales, which we govern. I say to the Labor Party: Just watch and learn how we do this. The New South Wales Government is creating a brighter future for everyone in New South Wales. We are transforming our economy through major economic reforms that set our State up for success today, but also for long-term success. As good governments do—and we are a good Government—we are doing this notwithstanding all the challenges that have been thrown at our State, including the Delta and Omicron waves of COVID; the unprecedented floods; before that, bushfires; and before that, drought. We are doing this fiscally responsibly. We are going to stay on track to return to a surplus in 2024-25, and we are delivering on a commitment in last year's budget to do that. To members of the Opposition, I say: This is how you do it. Just watch and learn how we build a bright future for everyone in New South Wales.

We can grow our economy in New South Wales through lifting productivity, and women can help us do that. Women who want to work often have a hard time getting back into the workforce. The New South Wales Government is giving women a better option to return to work if they choose, and they are going to help us lift productivity in New South Wales and build our economy even stronger. One of the biggest challenges that women and families have is the cost of child care, which can often take up most of their post-tax pay. This is something that is very close to my heart. When I went back to work after my second child, most of my post-tax dollars were going to child care. That led me to set up a task force on the cost of care with a colleague of mine, Juliet Bourke, in 2010, before I came into Parliament.

The work of the Taskforce on Care Costs focused on changing the tax incentives and providing tax deductibility for child care, but tax reform of that nature is not within the hands of the Government. However, we are doing all we possibly can to do some of the heavy lifting. I am so proud because I know how hard it is to provide the incentives to work within a system, with the constraints we have around the leaders of government, to be able to reduce the cost of child care and enable more women to go back to work. Part of that commitment is \$1.5 billion for improving access to child care by making it more affordable, \$281 million to train more early childhood teachers and carers, and \$5,000 grants. They are small amounts of money, but they allow some women in our community to have the right outfit to go to work in or to get the IT support that they need. Those little amounts of money can make all the difference to them feeling confident to return to the workforce.

I am really proud that we are also making our community a safer and brighter place for women and girls so that they feel safe in our open spaces. Many women—and I can speak from my own experience—when walking home from work, from the train station, feel unsafe in large, public, dark spaces. They look over their shoulder; they look out for a threat to their safety. I will carry my keys in my hand and turn on my phone's light. I know other women do too because they feel unsafe in that public space. I am so thrilled that our Treasurer and our Government have made a commitment to the statement and to the action flowing from it to make women feel safe

in public open spaces. I look forward to suggesting areas in my electorate where that kind of initiative can make a big difference.

There is so much to talk about in this budget, which is building a brighter future for New South Wales, but with the minute and a half I have left I will talk about the future economy. My colleagues will talk about the many other elements of this budget, which provides a brighter future. Three years ago, with the support of Gladys Berejiklian, I kickstarted the work to create a future economy in this State. We now have a Minister for Science, Innovation and Technology, which I am really gratified about. He is doing a great job. The idea was about translating and commercialising more of our ideas and our research so that we could create new industry and jobs. It will mean better health in our community and better business solutions and will help us do everyday things.

The Government committed \$62 million to that action plan, Turning Ideas Into Jobs, which the former Premier and I launched a year ago. Now we have an investment five times that amount going into new economy initiatives. I am so proud of that. There is \$730 million over four years into a future economy fund for New South Wales to target the end-to-end stages of business growth, from research and development [R and D] to commercialisation; \$72 million in capital expenditure for the pilot RNA manufacturing facility; and just recently, \$119 million to accelerate the translation of R and D into new products, services and jobs in research activity. I am so proud of that. That will deliver future therapeutics for the health of our community. There is so much to talk about, such as \$143 million for the biomedical accelerator project at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital and the University of Sydney and the viral vector at Westmead. *[Time expired.]*

**Mr GUY ZANGARI (Fairfield) (17:06):** I speak in the public interest debate [PID] about securing a brighter future for New South Wales. It really makes me wonder when a member of the Government, who is proposing the PID today, has to go to the table to access the PID document and read it—not understanding that it is their own motion. What hope do the people in the electorates we represent have—in western Sydney, south-western Sydney, Port Stephens and down in the Illawarra—when members of the Government do not even know what their PID is?

**Ms Gabrielle Upton:** Is that the best you have?

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Vaucluse has had her chance to speak to the motion.

**Mr GUY ZANGARI:** No, it is not the best I have. Madam Speaker, I will speak to you. I will not contravene standing orders by speaking across the table. At the moment, we have a situation where families cannot afford to put basic food—fresh fruit and vegetables—on the table. When you have a constituent coming into your office and saying that across the road a lettuce costs \$12, Lebanese cucumbers cost \$12.99 and tomatoes cost \$9, and they are ditching that and the cheapest thing they can buy to feed their family is just chicken, you know you have a problem. This is a Government that cuts services, sacks workers and privatises and sells assets. This has been their mantra for 12 years. Then Government members come in here and say, "This is a great day. We're securing the future for New South Wales." Guess what? They are not because goods and services are going up.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Hawkesbury will have an opportunity to contribute to the debate.

**Mr GUY ZANGARI:** Letters have hit letterboxes and inboxes of constituents stating that from 1 July electricity and gas prices are going up. That impacts on the family budget. People are impacted when they travel on motorways that previously did not have tolls on them, such as the M5 East. I note that the member for Oatley is here. He knows exactly what I am talking about. The M5 East did not have a toll on it before, but it does now. Constituents in other electorates have to pay a toll on the M4. It was removed in 2010 by the former Labor Government, only to be reintroduced by this Government. Tolls are going up, taxes are going up, and, let's face it, fines are going up. We know that wages growth—

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I will place the member for Oakley and the member for Hawkesbury on a call to order if they continue to interject.

**Mr GUY ZANGARI:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I ask that Government members be called to order. Wages are stagnant. Public sector wages have not grown under this Government. Teachers and healthcare workers are finding it difficult. All public sector workers are finding difficulty in making ends meet. Actually, the entire workforce is finding it very difficult. I want to touch on the tax on the home. It is hard enough for people as it is, but this Government had a bright-spark idea: "Let's tax people for their entire life. Let's tax them more than they actually are taxed right now." It is not us, it is them; they are the ones in Government. The Perrottet-Kean Government is taxing people harder. There are certain things that are sacred and one of them is your home. Those people over there will take it away from you, there is no doubt about it. Nothing is sacred under this lot.

I want to touch on education. Teachers are struggling, as we know. There are 2,383 vacancies in term one this year. That means 2,383 vacant jobs in education. Yet this Government wants to introduce pre-kindy. That is fantastic; education, we all love it. But there is a real problem when the education system itself is struggling to put teachers into classrooms. Teachers right across New South Wales are looking after combined classes of 60 to 80 students, which previously was unheard of. These types of practices used to occur in the fifties, when my family came to Australia. I thought we had fixed this problem, but not under this lot. Our local schools are bursting at the seams and the infrastructure is crumbling. Yet the budget paper, which I have here, shows once again, for the tenth year running, the Fairfield electorate, program funding statement, zero. [*Time expired.*]

**Ms ROBYN PRESTON (Hawkesbury) (17:12):** I acknowledge and commend the New South Wales Government for delivering the 2022-23 budget today, which will secure for our State a brighter and better future. I thank the member for Vaucluse for bringing this public interest debate to us today. I welcome the many commitments the New South Wales Government has made today. This year's budget is focused on reform and will support families, facilitate growth for everyone across our State and give New South Wales families more choices. I note in particular the New South Wales Government's commitment to women across New South Wales. I know that the Government's previous speaker, the member for Vaucluse, talked about this but it is such good news I must reiterate it.

The first economic reform in the budget this year is to break down barriers and give women more opportunity to enter or re-enter the workforce, further invest in their careers and pursue their dreams whilst having peace of mind, knowing that their children are being well cared for and educated. This year's budget will see a \$5.6 billion investment over the next 10 years to make this State the best place for women to live, work and raise a family. As Treasurer Kean stated when handing down the budget, providing affordable and accessible child care is a key tool to increasing women's participation in the workforce. Committing \$5 billion over the next decade to provide quality care for children removes one of the primary barriers to parents, particularly mothers, returning to the workplace. This mammoth investment will provide excellent educational and social opportunities for children in their developmental years and will reassure families that their children will be spending time in a safe and healthy environment.

I was pleased to note that because of the New South Wales Government's investment in early childhood education and care reforms, up to 95,000 more women are expected to join the workforce or take on additional hours. Alongside the Federal Government's proposed childcare reforms, this will grow our economy by up to \$17.1 billion within the 10 years it is delivered. Also in this budget, the New South Wales Government unveiled a \$5.8 billion investment over the next 10 years in early childhood education, which sees the introduction of universal pre-kindergarten. I commend the State Government for this generous commitment, which will not only benefit New South Wales children but also support families. I applaud education Minister Sarah Mitchell in the other place for driving this initiative.

As a woman in the workforce pursuing my dreams, I have experienced firsthand how empowering it can be to earn a wage, support my family and contribute to the household budget. It is an exciting time to be a woman in New South Wales under this Government. Never before have women been so supported in pursuing their career goals and achieving their professional dreams while also having a child or children and caring for a family. So I strongly welcome this year's budget for the choices it gives women. Those opposite will please not sneer at me. As a woman with three children, I never had this opportunity so I am really disappointed that they would sit there and make faces as I speak on this important review.

Changing the standard for paid parental leave also changes the game for men and women hoping to build up their careers. From October 2022 there will no longer be a distinction between a primary carer and secondary carer, meaning that every mum and dad working in the public sector will be entitled to 14 weeks' paid parental leave after their child is born. This means parents will be able to take time off and spend it with their baby in their first few months of life, which we know is a very precious and special time for every family. It was never done before. The Labor Party had the opportunity to do this. Nothing was put on the table. I saw no plan from the other side. This announcement by the New South Wales Government also shows an understanding that women and men should be given equal opportunities to take time off work to care for their children or to remain at work and have their partner, whether male or female, choose to remain at home.

I further note that the New South Wales Government is taking care of women's health as they move forward in their professional lives. More than \$150 million will be invested in women's health to ensure IVF is a more affordable option and also support women across New South Wales who are struggling with menopause. There are a few other significant announcements that I want to add. Firstly, \$69.6 million is committed to support women and children experiencing domestic and family violence. The funding is directed to services designed to support victims and survivors of domestic violence. There will also be a \$743 million boost over the next five years for investment in palliative care. I commend the budget.

**Ms KATE WASHINGTON (Port Stephens) (17:17):** I contribute to the public interest debate and I am quite perplexed by Government members' contributions. It is almost as though they have not been in government for 12 years. The member for Hawkesbury was upset about things that were not available to her and to other women. They have not been available because her Government has been in office for 12 years.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The member for Hawkesbury will come to order. She has made her contribution.

**Ms KATE WASHINGTON:** The Government has not talked about women or child care and suddenly it is trying to pretend that it is a new government. It has been in office for 12 years and it has ignored half of the voters in this State. It is only because it has been through a Federal election that it has come to the realisation that women care about these issues and that they voted in the Federal election based on those issues. It is only because of those issues that it has been frightened into mentioning them in its twelfth budget. There is a huge disconnect between members here today and the budget and what is happening on the ground. The member for Fairfield mentioned it. Families are being hit hard by cost-of-living pressures. They are having to tighten their belts and think about what they cannot spend money on—the heater that they cannot turn on and the lettuce, fruit and vegetables that they cannot buy for their children.

Today the Treasurer stood in this Chamber and threw money around like confetti. Mr "Debt and Deficit" Dom Perrottet plunged New South Wales into the deepest debt in the State's history. Interest repayments on that debt will cost taxpayers more than the Government spends on the entire NSW Police Force. It will spend more money repaying that debt than it spends on TAFE. After 12 long years of the Premier's pet project of privatisations, the people of New South Wales are paying the price. Cost-of-living pressures are hitting families hard. Everything costs more—the price of fruit and veg. Fuel prices are astronomical. Energy bills are becoming impossible. During this cold winter families and aging folks are deciding not to turn on their heaters in their homes because they just cannot afford to pay their bills. This out-of-touch Government's plan to ease cost-of-living pressures is a new tax on the family home, payable year after year, long after families have repaid what the stamp duty may have been.

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

**Ms KATE WASHINGTON:** Worse still, the Government is spruiking this as a solution to a housing crisis, but the Government's new forever tax on the family home will mean that house prices will rise even further. It will hurt not only home owners but also renters. If ever there was a sign that this Government was in its dying days it was the appointment of John Barilaro to his new role as US trade commissioner at a cost of \$500,000 a year. That role was created by John Barilaro himself when he was trade Minister. In fact it was one of his last acts as a Minister before he retired. Media reports today reveal that at least two preferred candidates were identified but that short list was thrown out the window. Who knows what the Government was waiting for. But then John Barilaro resigned and, lo and behold, he was appointed. There was no Cabinet approval, just a Premier's pick, and it stinks.

I look forward to the inquiry that reveals what actually happened because hardworking nurses in New South Wales will earn less than John Barilaro's \$100,000 expenses budget, not to mention his \$400,000 pay packet. Appointing jobs for the boys are not the actions of a responsible, transparent government; they are the actions of a desperate government in its dying days. It is much like today's budget where, after 12 years, the Government has realised that there are other people that vote—like women. The Treasurer is a master at getting a headline but not delivering, and not delivering is a hallmark of this Government. I will use some local examples. Nelson Bay Road duplication was first promised in 2015 for completion in 2019 with a smaller section being done by 2021. In today's budget only part of the money promised was trickled out for a project that was meant to have been completed last year.

That is what this Government does. It does not deliver. Worse still, local priorities have been completely ignored. There is no funding in this budget for Port Stephens' only hospital—Tomaree Hospital. There is no funding for Medowie's public high school and funding for that school continues to be missing. This Government is so out of touch and so old that the only brighter future we will ever have is when we get rid of it. [*Time expired.*]

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Oatley will come to order. The member for Port Stephens will resume her seat.

**Mr DAVID LAYZELL (Upper Hunter) (17:22):** It is very a bright day when we see a budget like the one we have seen today and hear the announcements that we have heard over the past few weeks. The excitement has been building leading up to today; it feels like grand final day. Many people are wearing their lucky socks. It is a lucky day for regional New South Wales. There have been many great announcements for regional New South Wales but the greatest announcement by far has been the one about education. What a great thing for education.

I think the people of New South Wales will be very excited about universal free preschools—pre-kindergarten. In fact the only disappointment I have is that my kids are already at school and they will not benefit from it.

But a lot of families in regional New South Wales will be loving this major reform of our education system. We will be growing the workforce in the early childhood education sector and building up the skills that we need. I refer to the digital devices program. Some of the most underprivileged kids who live in regional New South Wales will now be receiving digital devices. I do not want any of this to be missed. I want everyone here to realise how good this is for some of our kids in regional New South Wales. Then at the end of school they go to TAFE. We are offering 70,000 fee-free TAFE places. They have all the opportunity in the world to make a go of it.

We are making massive investment in infrastructure—the facilities, the bricks and mortar—but we are also investing in people. We have challenges in health and we reflect over the past few years with the COVID pandemic, fires, droughts and floods. COVID hit us hard and continues to do so, particularly in the health sector. We are building with bricks and mortar. In the Upper Hunter stage three of Muswellbrook Hospital is well and truly underway—\$435 million is being spent on that hospital. We are now looking at the workforce. What can we do to encourage, incentivise and get some positive energy into our health workforce? We know those opposite are working hard to destroy the culture of our health workforce—to bring workers down, all because Labor is looking towards next year's election. It is dirty, dirty politics and we call it out for what it is. This Government is working on the culture.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I remind the member for Port Stephens that she is on three calls to order.

**Mr DAVID LAYZELL:** It is boosting the workforce. Over the next four years we will recruit 10,000 health professionals—7,500 in the next year. These are nurses, midwives, doctors, paramedics and pathologists. We will recruit 2,000 ambulance staff. We will be recruiting from here. Our university students will get jobs in the health system. Life is looking pretty bright out there. If you are in university now, be assured that you will be getting a job in the health sector. Do not believe those opposite who say it is a terrible place to work. One of the greatest jobs you can have is working in our great health system. Get on board!

We have incentives for regional and rural health workers—\$883 million. Again, this is huge stuff. Incentivising people to come out and work in the bush is important. We are working with the Federal Government to hopefully get more GPs, but it is important that we get them out in the bush and our country areas through these programs, which will provide up to \$10,000 per person. We will train our nurses to become nurse practitioners. Probably one of the most important things for the bush is getting nurse practitioners who can do a lot of the work of doctors. The Isolated Patients Travel and Accommodation Assistance Scheme will make a big difference in the Upper Hunter. Many people may not know about it, but it will make a big difference helping those who need to travel for treatment.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I call member for Keira. The member for Oatley will remain silent.

**Mr RYAN PARK (Keira) (17:27):** I foreshadow that I will move a detailed amendment towards the end of my speech. There are two words I would like to highlight in this debate.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! I cannot hear the member for Keira. He will direct his comments through the Chair.

**Mr RYAN PARK:** I refer to the term "brighter future". I am not sure that the frontline workers who were protesting in front of Parliament House this morning think they have a brighter future because under the lot opposite their remuneration is going backwards. The Government is now asking frontline workers to take a pay cut. They have been doing that for years and years and years. I do not believe families, certainly not the families in the electorate I represent or those in other Labor electorates, think they have a brighter future when the cost of living is going through the roof. We have a Treasurer who is saying everything is okay, just do not turn on the dryer, the dishwasher or the lights. But everyone has a brighter future. People will not think they have a brighter future when they are paying a tax on the family home.

In this country the family home has always been sacrosanct. The family home was sacred, and not something to be taxed. But there is not a tax that the guys opposite cannot find—they love it. This Government loves a tax. It loves it so much it is now the highest-taxing government in the country—number one. Barry O'Farrell was right: The Coalition will make New South Wales number one again, with the highest taxes, the highest cost of living and the most privatisations. How about other things for a brighter future? What about those who need to access health services? That was mentioned in the debate. I am not sure the future is brighter when people wait longer for essential surgery now than ever before. People wait longer to access an emergency department than they ever have before. The other day someone waited for 23 hours in a hospital emergency department in my electorate before being seen. I am not sure they believe the future is brighter.

What about in the bush? This Government has presided over 12 years of neglect of our health and hospital system in the bush. It opposed the parliamentary inquiry that I and Labor fought hard to establish. It was brought to it kicking and screaming. The National Party has been embarrassed by the stories that that inquiry has revealed. When it comes to health care, people in the bush do not think they have a brighter future. But today was the clanger. The Government announced a land tax, a tax on the family home. A few months ago I heard that the Government was thinking about it. I thought, "I don't think so, it must be scuttlebutt. It wouldn't do that—tax a family home in this country." But it has done it. Because when you are number one for taxation—

**Ms Kate Washington:** You want to stay there.

**Mr RYAN PARK:** —you want to stay number one. The member for Port Stephens is correct. The Government has earned the right to be number one. My amendment to the motion is very simple.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Oatley will come to order. I want to hear the amendment.

**Mr RYAN PARK:** I move:

That the motion be amended by removing all words after "House" and inserting instead "acknowledges the 2022-23 New South Wales budget and opposes a land tax on the family home."

**Mr Mark Coure:** That's not an amendment; that's a new motion.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Oatley will come to order. I will make that call.

**Mr RYAN PARK:** It is an amendment to a fanciful motion about a budget from a government that has run out of ideas, from a government that has lost its way and from a government that does not give a damn. But the people of New South Wales have had a gutful of 12 years of privatisations, the cost of living going through the roof, rampant expenditure that is out of control and now a tax on the family home. [*Time expired.*]

**Ms GABRIELLE UPTON (Vaucluse) (17:33):** In reply: That was theatrics at its worse and misleading to the New South Wales public.

**Mr Mark Coure:** That deserves a Logie.

**Ms GABRIELLE UPTON:** Maybe not even a Logie.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The member for Vaucluse does not require any assistance from the member for Oatley.

**Ms GABRIELLE UPTON:** This Government has steered New South Wales through one of its greatest challenges of if not the twentieth then definitely the twenty-first century. We provided a safe landing for the health of our community across New South Wales through our management of COVID. We have come out of that with an economy that creates potential for growing New South Wales and growing opportunities. This budget provides even greater opportunities to create a bright future for New South Wales. It does this through building on workplace opportunities for women, who can choose whether they want to work. It builds a brighter future for our young kids under five to have that first universal year of preschool education. We know that the brain does most of its development in those early years of childhood. We know that our young people who have that year before kindergarten do the best when they get to school.

As for the points made about creating a new land tax, that is an option for people. That is what this Government is about. It has converted a stamp duty obligation—which is currently on the books and which currently exists as a tax and existed under Labor for ever and ever—and created an option for people to defer that to fit in with their individual circumstances so that they can best budget for their needs at the time. I encourage Labor members to go back and read the budget papers because I do not hear anything other than criticism and, in fact, misleading representation of what this budget encompasses for the State. In this budget, the Government is creating a brighter future for New South Wales. We have done it through five things. I mentioned the one about opportunities to build productivity. We know that that is the way in which we can build our economy.

Women can help us grow this economy if they choose to get back to work through the childcare subsidies that are coming online. The Government has done that; those opposite did not in their years of government in this State. Through the universal pre-kindergarten year of education, we will create the best opportunities for young people in our community to have that extra boost before they get into school system. Our innovation economy takes all the opportunities and marvellous ideas in our test tubes, start-up hubs and accelerators across New South Wales and builds businesses from them, making sure that the aerotropolis, tech central and Westmead are hubs of innovation in the State. They are all the measures of a government that is moving forward and creating a brighter future for New South Wales, that is taking the opportunity off the back of COVID to reform. [*Time expired.*]

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The member for Vacluse has moved a motion, to which the member for Keira has moved an amendment.

**Mr Mark Coure:** That's not an amendment.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! The question is that the amendment be agreed to.

**Mr Alister Henskens:** Point of order: I take a point of order under Standing Order 139. The proposed amendment clearly exceeds the scope of the terms of the original motion and is in breach of Standing Order 139. The original motion makes no reference to tax or the family home. The amended motion will be completely different from the one originally moved by the member for Vacluse. It is my contention that it infringes Standing Order 139. The amendment should not be allowed.

**Mr Ron Hoenig:** To the point of order: What is relevant depends upon how the motion is framed. The Government framed the motion as "the New South Wales budget ... secures a brighter future for New South Wales". That opens the door to virtually any motion or amendment. If the Leader of the House wants the Opposition's amendment to be more narrow, the motion as moved by the member for Vacluse should have been more narrow and not so open ended. The Government cannot move an open-ended, flowery motion about the New South Wales budget and a brighter future and then complain that any amendment that involves the New South Wales budget is not relevant to the motion moved. That is the reality of the situation. The amendment is a response to a very broad motion. It is clearly in order.

**Mr Mark Coure:** To the point of order—

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I am ready to rule on the point of order. Does the member for Oatley have another point of order?

**Mr Mark Coure:** I just like the sound of my own voice, that is all. This is not an amendment. It changes the substance of the motion, particularly as it removes all words after "House". The amended motion will be different from the one that was moved by the member for Vacluse.

**Ms Anna Watson:** Is that it?

**Mr Mark Coure:** I could go on.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I thank the member for Oatley. I will rule on the point of order taken by the Leader of the House. I note that both the motion and the amendment start with the words "acknowledges that the New South Wales budget 2022-23". In line with previous rulings in this House, I find there is no point of order. Therefore, I will put the question. The question is that the amendment be agreed to.

**The House divided.**

Ayes .....36  
Noes .....44  
Majority.....8

#### AYES

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

Donato, P  
Doyle, T  
Finn, J  
Harrison, J  
Haylen, J  
Hoenig, R  
Holland, M  
Hornery, S  
Lalich, N  
Li, J  
Lynch, P  
McDermott, H

Mehan, D (teller)  
Mihailuk, T  
Minns, C  
O'Neill, M  
Park, R  
Saffin, J  
Scully, P  
Voltz, L  
Warren, G  
Washington, K  
Watson, A (teller)  
Zangari, G

#### NOES

Anderson, K  
Ayres, S  
Clancy, J  
Conolly, K

Hancock, S  
Hazzard, B  
Henskens, A  
James, T

Piper, G  
Preston, R  
Provest, G  
Roberts, A



## NOES

Cooke, S  
Coure, M  
Crouch, A  
Davies, T  
Dominello, V  
Elliott, D  
Evans, L  
Gibbons, M  
Greenwich, A  
Griffin, J  
Gulaptis, C

Kean, M  
Layzell, D  
Lee, G  
Lindsay, W  
Marshall, A  
McGirr, J  
O'Dea, J  
Overall, N  
Pavey, M  
Perrottet, D  
Petinos, E

Saunders, D  
Sidgreaves, P  
Singh, G (teller)  
Smith, N (teller)  
Taylor, M  
Toole, P  
Tuckerman, W  
Upton, G  
Williams, R  
Wilson, F

## PAIRS

Barr, C  
Harris, D  
Tesch, L

Stokes, R  
Speakman, M  
Bromhead, S

**Amendment negatived.**

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

**Motion agreed to.**

*Bills***OMBUDSMAN LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2022****First Reading**

**Bill introduced on motion by Mr Alister Henskens, on behalf of Mr Mark Speakman, read a first time and printed.**

**Second Reading Speech**

**Mr ALISTER HENSKENS (Ku-ring-gai—Minister for Skills and Training, and Minister for Science, Innovation and Technology) (17:48):** On behalf of Mr Mark Speakman: I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

The Government is pleased to introduce the Ombudsman Legislation Amendment Bill 2022. The NSW Ombudsman's office is an independent integrity agency that oversees the New South Wales public sector and investigates complaints regarding most New South Wales government agencies, local councils and community service providers. If passed, the bill will make amendments requested by the NSW Ombudsman, Mr Paul Miller, PSM, to two pieces of legislation governing the functions of the Ombudsman's office. The Ombudsman Act 1974, which I will refer to as the Ombudsman Act, and the Community Services (Complaints, Reviews and Monitoring) Act 1993, which I will refer to as the Community Services Act, have not been significantly reviewed or substantially amended for a number of years. The proposed amendments in the bill will clarify and enhance the Ombudsman's powers, resolve inconsistencies and update legislation. In the interests of time, I will not deal with every amendment.

Schedule 1 to the bill amends the Ombudsman Act. Item [2] will rename the Community and Disability Services Commissioner as the Community Services Commissioner. The functions of the Ombudsman under the Community Services Act in respect of disability services are limited as those services are now Commonwealth NDIS funded rather than commissioned and funded by the New South Wales Government. In addition, an Ageing and Disability Services Commissioner has been established in New South Wales under the Ageing and Disability Commission Act 2019. The title of "Community and Disability Services Commissioner" should be updated to reflect the current functions of the Ombudsman. Consequential amendments to the Community Services Act are proposed in schedule 2. Item [3] will make it clear that the Ombudsman's powers in relation to a public authority extend to a former public authority.

Although the Ombudsman has proceeded on the basis that "public authority" includes a person who was a public authority at the time at which the relevant conduct occurred, it is proposed to put the matter beyond doubt. Currently, section 12 (3) of the Ombudsman Act provides that complainants who are detained by or in the custody

of a public authority are entitled to have their written complaints sent to the Ombudsman unopened. No similar protection is provided in the Ombudsman Act when those complainants contact the Ombudsman by telephone. Item [4] will ensure a detained person is able to make an oral complaint about the conduct of a public authority in a way that is not recorded or monitored. Item [5] will enable the Ombudsman to refer a complaint about the conduct of a public authority to the public authority for investigation. The proposed amendment will assist the Ombudsman to handle a large volume of complaints more efficiently, and also assist in educating public authorities about good administrative and complaint-handling practices.

The proposed new section 12A provides that the Ombudsman may monitor the progress of the public authority's investigation of the complaint, make recommendations to the public authority and continue to deal with the complaint. The proposed new power is based on a similar power of the Ombudsman in section 25 of the Community Services Act in respect of complaints about community service providers. I now deal with item [6]. Some Acts include a confidentiality or non-disclosure provision, providing words to the effect that a person must not disclose any information obtained in connection with the administration or execution of this Act unless that disclosure is made in accordance with a requirement imposed under the Ombudsman Act.

Section 13AA of the Ombudsman Act provides that the Ombudsman may request, and a person may voluntarily provide, information to the Ombudsman for the purposes of the Ombudsman determining whether to conduct a formal investigation and compel the production of information. Voluntary disclosure under section 13AA is not a breach of sections 16, 17, 18 or 19 (1) of the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998 and is not prohibited by anything in the Health Records and Information Privacy Act 2002. The proposed amendment would insert a new subsection in section 13AA to ensure that confidentiality or non-disclosure provisions in other Acts do not prevent public authorities voluntarily providing information to the Ombudsman in response to a request by the Ombudsman under section 13AA.

Schedule 1 [11] will enable the Ombudsman to review the systems of public authorities for handling complaints. Currently, the Ombudsman has audit and monitoring powers over agencies performing functions under particular Acts—for example, a power to review the complaint-handling systems of service providers under section 14 of the Community Services (Complaints, Reviews and Monitoring) Act—and has broad powers to conduct investigations about the conduct of a public authority under part 3 of the Ombudsman Act but does not have a general power to review the complaint-handling systems of public authorities. The proposed oversight function was recommended by a 31 August 2018 special report to Parliament by the former Ombudsman, and the 2019 Annual Customer Satisfaction Measurement Survey by the Customer Service Commission.

The proposed power will enable the Ombudsman to assist agencies, in a collaborative manner, to improve their own complaint-handling systems. The function will add further value to public sector complaints handling and service delivery without the expense of the Ombudsman conducting formal investigations. Section 111C of the Independent Commission Against Corruption Act 1988, which I will refer to as the ICAC Act, prevents a complaint, investigation or other action under the Ombudsman Act being taken with respect to the conduct of a commissioner of the ICAC or an ICAC officer or former officer, with the exception of matters referred to the Ombudsman by the Inspector of the ICAC. Schedule 1 to the Ombudsman Act excludes the conduct of certain public authorities from a right of complaint to the Ombudsman and, consequently, the Ombudsman's jurisdiction to investigate that conduct. Schedule 1 [20] to the Ombudsman Act excludes the conduct of the ICAC and its officers where exercising functions under the ICAC Act.

Inconsistently with section 111C of the ICAC Act, no exception is made for circumstances where the conduct relates to matters referred to the Ombudsman by the Inspector of the ICAC. The proposed amendment at item [19] will resolve this inconsistency and enable the Ombudsman to investigate the conduct of an ICAC commissioner, officer or former officer referred to the Ombudsman by the Inspector of the ICAC, consistent with section 111C of the ICAC Act. I now move to schedule 2 to the bill, which amends the Community Services (Complaints, Reviews and Monitoring) Act, including by repealing redundant provisions. Schedule 2 [4] will enable the convenor of the Child Death Review Team to provide information to the Health Care Complaints Commission in connection with the commission's functions. Finally, schedule 3 to the bill makes consequential amendments. In conclusion, the Ombudsman and his office perform an immensely important role, overseeing the public sector and working to protect our community from abuses of power and unfair treatment. These amendments will assist the Ombudsman and his office to continue their important work. I commend the bill to the House.

**Debate adjourned.**

**NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE AMENDMENT (RESERVATIONS) BILL 2022****First Reading****Bill introduced on motion by Mr James Griffin, read a first time and printed.****Second Reading Speech****Mr JAMES GRIFFIN (Manly—Minister for Environment and Heritage) (17:59):** I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

The National Parks and Wildlife Legislation Amendment (Reservations) Bill makes amendments to the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 to revoke small areas of land from the national parks system to enable high priority government infrastructure projects to proceed. The bill also makes a minor amendment to the National Parks and Wildlife Amendment Act 2021 to remove the Maiyngu Marragu Aboriginal place from the Gardens of Stone reserves, which, under that Act, are to be created no later than the 30 June 2022. I turn, firstly, to the revocation proposals. National parks are our most precious environmental assets and are protected in perpetuity. They protect places of exceptional natural and cultural value, and spectacular landscapes. They offer incredible visitor opportunities that underpin much of the New South Wales tourism industry, and they also helped to sustain the health and wellbeing of the people of New South Wales throughout the worst times of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Since 2011 the New South Wales Government has grown the national parks system by over 600,000 hectares. It has also made significant investments in visitor infrastructure and park management activities, including bushfire management. The requirement for Parliament to approve any proposal to remove land from our national parks is an important measure to safeguard the State's conservation assets. Revocations of our national parks estate are only ever considered as a last resort; however, it is a routine process that is required from time to time to enable minor adjustments to be made and ensure sensible and efficient management of the national parks estate. The last revocations bill was in 2020, when around 92 hectares were revoked from 10 parks, and before that in 2016, when 351 hectares were revoked from 12 parks. I can assure the House that the revocation proposals contained in the bill are in the public interest, are necessary because there is no other feasible option, and will not result in any net loss of conservation values.

To ensure a balance between supporting essential improvements to our roads infrastructure and conservation objectives, the bill will ensure that appropriate compensation of land is provided for via transfers back into the national parks system. This is a longstanding practice that has been followed for similar bills over many years. The New South Wales Government is committed to improved transport infrastructure and road safety across the State. The need for improvements to the Great Western Highway in the Blue Mountains and the Princes Highway on the South Coast are well known. Congestion and accidents continue to impact local communities, tourists and road freight. Delivering safer, more reliable and efficient road travel is a priority for this Government.

The National Parks and Wildlife Legislation Amendment (Reservations) Bill 2022 will facilitate the upgrade of the Great Western Highway between Katoomba and Lithgow in the Blue Mountains. The bill will revoke about 23 hectares from the Blue Mountains National Park and about 3.56 hectares from Hartley Historic Site—less than half a square kilometre. This will enable Transport for NSW to commence the priority road upgrades that will help reduce congestion, provide safer more reliable travel to the Blue Mountains and better connect our communities in the Central West. The bill will also make way for important upgrades to the Princes Highway between Jervis Bay Road and Sussex Inlet Road on the South Coast. The bill will revoke small parcels of land from Parma Creek Nature Reserve, Conjola National Park and Corramy Regional Park, amounting to about 25.39 hectares. This will enable road upgrades to the Princes Highway that will ease congestion and improve safety for travellers on the South Coast.

Where revocations are necessary, it is essential that appropriate compensation is agreed. The National Parks and Wildlife Service is negotiating with Transport for NSW to determine an appropriate compensation package for revocations associated with the Great Western and Princes highways. The bill provides that formalisation of the transfer will not occur until the Minister for Environment and Heritage is satisfied that the proposed compensation package is adequate and appropriate. The last of the revocation proposals contained in the bill involves a regional road in the Port Macquarie-Hastings local government area. The bill will enable much-needed upgrades to the Maria River Road between Port Macquarie and Crescent Head on the mid North Coast. That upgrade will be undertaken by Port Macquarie-Hastings Council and will require the revocation of just 2.35 hectares of land from Limeburners Creek National Park.

Revocation of a number of small pockets of land alongside Maria River Road will facilitate important safety improvements to 30 kilometres of that popular tourist drive. Those improvements are critical to keep our local and holidaying families safe and to support the local visitor economy. Port Macquarie-Hastings Council and Kempsey council are working with the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service to identify appropriate

compensation for that revocation. Similar to the other revocations proposed in the bill, the land to be revoked from Limeburners Creek National Park will not be formally transferred until the Minister for Environment and Heritage is satisfied with the proposed compensation package. Overall, about 54.3 hectares—less than one square kilometre—will be revoked across six national parks and reserves to enable these important road upgrades to proceed.

The bill also addresses the need for a minor amendment to the National Parks and Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2021 to revise the scope of lands identified for inclusion in the Gardens of Stone reserves. The 2021 Act identified over 31,000 hectares of State forests and other Crown lands to be added to the national parks system, including a new Gardens of Stone State Conservation Area and additions to the existing Gardens of Stone and Wollemi national parks. This new park protects areas of significant natural and cultural value, and provides major opportunities for enhanced visitor and tourist experiences—driving job creation and economic activity in the Lithgow region. In support of these objectives, the Government has committed to invest \$49.5 million in delivering an exciting new eco-tourism destination, representing one of the largest visitor infrastructure packages ever delivered for a New South Wales national park.

The majority of the Gardens of Stone lands were reserved as part of the national parks system by proclamation on 6 May. The remaining areas are due to be reserved on or before 30 June this year. That includes the Maiyngu Marragu Aboriginal place. The 491-hectare Aboriginal place, declared in 2008 under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974, includes culturally significant art stencils and holds special meaning to Wiradjuri people, who have a continuing cultural connection to the place. The current tenure of the Aboriginal place is Crown land. Specifically, it is a Crown reserve set aside for public recreation and conservation. The Mingaan Wiradjuri Aboriginal Corporation has raised concerns about the inclusion of this Aboriginal place in the Gardens of Stone reserves and the implications of reservation for future management arrangements.

On behalf of the New South Wales Government, I thank the Mingaan Wiradjuri Aboriginal Corporation for the opportunity to ensure Indigenous voices inform our approach to this park. To respect the views and feedback from the Aboriginal community, the bill will therefore act to prevent the inclusion of the Maiyngu Marragu Aboriginal place in the Gardens of Stone reserves, which would otherwise automatically occur on 30 June this year. The outcome of the bill will be that the existing tenure of the Maiyngu Marragu Aboriginal place as a Crown reserve will remain unchanged. Overall, 491 hectares of land originally identified for inclusion in the Gardens of Stone reserves will be excluded. That amounts to about 1.6 per cent of the total Gardens of Stone reserves. Fundamentally, the bill is about a sensible and targeted package of essential revocation proposals, matched with appropriate compensation to protect the overall integrity of the national parks system. It also rightly addresses the concerns of Aboriginal people about the future management of a place that has deep significance to them.

**Debate adjourned.**

#### *Community Recognition Statements*

#### **HUNTER SURF LIFE SAVING AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE**

**Ms KATE WASHINGTON (Port Stephens) (18:09):** Last week I attended the Hunter Surf Life Saving Awards of Excellence to recognise the incredible efforts of our surf lifesaving volunteers and the hours they spent last season keeping our beaches safe. I acknowledge every surf lifesaver across Port Stephens and the Hunter. I congratulate all the award nominees and make special mention of local award recipients: Jackie Bower of Tea Gardens Hawks Nest Surf Life Saving Club, who was awarded the Administrator of the Year and the prestigious President's Award; Greg Williams of Birubi Point Surf Life Saving Club, who was awarded Assessor of the Year; and Rod Limn of Fingal Bay Surf Life Saving Club, who received a high distinction for Volunteer of the Year. I also acknowledge Tea Gardens Hawks Nest club members Phillip Everett, Anthony Logue, Phillip Daniel, Stuart Daniel, Carolyn Jeffries and Sharon Taylor, who were recognised for their courage and teamwork during a recent lifesaving rescue. Finally, I bid a special farewell to Rhonda Scruton, who has led with distinction Hunter Surf Life Saving as CEO for over 30 years. I thank Rhonda for her service and hope she enjoys her retirement.

#### **JEAN CHIENG 100TH BIRTHDAY**

**Mrs TANYA DAVIES (Mulgoa) (18:10):** I draw to the attention of the House the 100th birthday of a constituent of mine from Erskine Park. Jean Chieng will turn 100 on 13 August. I pass on my heartfelt congratulations on achieving that milestone. One of the joyous experiences that members of Parliament have is the celebration of such milestones with members of our community. I congratulate Jean. Over all her years she has seen a lot. I hope I and many more in my community live to be 100, and then some. I congratulate Jean. I hope she is doing well, has successfully got through the COVID pandemic and is getting her life back on track, engaging

with the community, her family and friends. I wish everyone who is approaching that milestone good health. I hope they reach that wonderful milestone so that I can wish them happy birthday when they reach 100 years.

#### **BELMONT 16FT SAILING CLUB**

**Ms YASMIN CATLEY (Swansea) (18:11):** I am excited to acknowledge in this House Banjo Nicholson and Sophie Drummond of Belmont 16ft Sailing Club, who will be competing at the 2022 World O'pen Skiff Championships in Carcans-Maubussion, France, next month. The world championships will run from 18 July to 24 July. Some 250 registered sailors from across the globe will take part. Banjo and Sophie will join five other Australian junior o'pen sailors at the event. Previously they have represented Belmont 16ft Sailing Club at State and national championships. They now have the honour of taking on some of the world's best sailors. Banjo and Sophie are hardworking athletes who have a bright future ahead of them in their chosen sport. They should be extremely proud of what they have achieved. I congratulate Banjo and Sophie and wish them all the best at the world championships. As an added bonus, my daughter Charlotte will meet them there, so we will have a local contingent to support them. As a very proud supporter, I say, "Go, Sophie and Ben!"

#### **PACIFIC LINK HOUSING**

**Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal) (18:12):** I acknowledge Pacific Link Housing on the Central Coast. In December it completed the Adira social housing development project in Woy Woy. The development is a 12-unit mixed-tenancy complex, which includes a combination of social, affordable and private market rentals. I am proud that the project was able to deliver six units for older women eligible for social and affordable housing. That was made possible through a contribution of \$1.6 million from the New South Wales Government's Community Housing Innovation Fund. By targeting safe housing options for older women who may be ready to downsize—due to children moving out, for example—more larger properties will become available for families in need. A huge thankyou and shout-out goes to the team at Pacific Link Housing; chairman, Wal Edgell; and CEO, Ian Lynch, who do an outstanding job to deliver these sorts of fantastic projects right across the Central Coast. I look forward to working with Pacific Link Housing to increase social and affordable housing options for residents across the Central Coast region.

#### **SANDRA AND MENDO MITREVSKI**

**Ms ANNA WATSON (Shellharbour) (18:13):** I congratulate Sandra and Mendo Mitrevski on the birth of their second baby girl, Alexia, today. I also congratulate Alexia's big sister, Olivia. This has been a long time coming. This beautiful family has been trying for a second baby for a long time. Alexia was safely delivered this morning, and mother and baby are in good health. The arrival of a new baby is a big deal in any parent's life. I acknowledge both parents and their families on this exciting news. Olivia has been very excited about having a baby sister. I could not be happier for the family. It just so happens that Sandy, who is now on maternity leave, has worked in my office for 12 years. I acknowledge her great work over that time.

#### **QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS LIST RECIPIENT GRAHAM BELL, OAM**

**Mr GURMESH SINGH (Coffs Harbour) (18:14):** Coffs Harbour's Graham Bell has devoted his life to making his community a better place to live, so much so that he was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia in the recent Queen's Birthday Honours List. This outstanding achievement is an acknowledgment of Graham's passion to entertain and his enormous work in community radio and country music. Graham, now 82, has enjoyed a distinguished career spanning commercial radio and the ABC, and started Coffs Harbour's community station, 2AIRFM. He even built a studio in his home and produced a weekly country music show, which went out to the ABC and 15 commercial stations and was picked up by Nashville. In 2020, Graham was inducted into the Australian Country Music Hall of Fame for broadcasting. The founder and now life member of 2AIRFM was pleasantly surprised when he received word of his OAM. I congratulate Graham on this well-deserved recognition.

#### **TRIBUTE TO KRISTINE CRUDEN**

**Ms JO HAYLEN (Summer Hill) (18:15):** Over the weekend, we lost a stalwart of Inner West Labor, with the sad passing of Kristine Cruden. Kristine—or Kris, as she was known to everyone—was a dear friend, a mentor to many, and a formidable and passionate comrade. Kris served as mayor of Leichhardt from 1996 to 1999 and worked for many years as chief of staff to Anthony Albanese. She was the powerhouse and brains behind two Federal election campaigns for Anthony in Grayndler and gave priceless advice and support to many Labor candidates standing at all levels of government. Kris was a committed trade unionist, having worked most recently in senior leadership roles at the Public Service Association. Kris was deeply respected. She was funny. She cared deeply for the vulnerable. She was always there to support and nurture young people in the Australian Labor Party, especially young women. She never backed away from a fight and was tenacious when she believed in something or somebody. Words cannot express the deep sense of loss we feel, as an Inner West Labor family, at her passing on the weekend following a battle with cancer. I pass on my deepest love and condolences to her

partner, Mark; her beloved daughter, Amy; and the many Labor comrades with heavy hearts this week who have very fond memories of Kris.

#### **CRICKETER JIM JUILLERAT**

**Mr MARK TAYLOR (Seven Hills) (18:16):** I recognise Jim Juillerat, who is a long-serving member of the Pendle Hill cricket community. Jim has been involved in grassroots cricket for over 30 years and has served as club president of the Pendle Hill Colts Cricket Club during that time. Jim worked tirelessly in service of the Pendle Hill cricket club, spending most Saturdays in the canteen for over 12 years. During this time, Jim has been a passionate advocate for female involvement in cricket in the local area and played an influential role in bringing together the first all-female cricket team in Pendle Hill. In addition to his work with the club, Jim has consistently volunteered at Westmead Hospital for over 10 years. It always brings me great joy as a local member to acknowledge hardworking volunteers from across my electorate. I thank Jim for his service and dedication over such a long period of time, and I wish him all the very best for the future.

#### **MOUNT TOMAH RURAL FIRE SERVICE**

**Ms TRISH DOYLE (Blue Mountains) (18:17):** I acknowledge the members of the Mount Tomah Rural Fire Brigade. It is the season of annual general meetings for the Rural Fire Service. I have been restrained from attending many of the AGMs and thanking our RFS members for their commitment and hard work in protecting our communities due to a bout of pneumonia, but on Saturday I went to the very fringe of the Blue Mountains to visit the Mount Tomah brigade. They often feel quite forgotten out there in the middle of nowhere, and many of them are still struggling with the aftermath of the 2019-20 fires. I was very pleased, along with the fantastic Federal member Susan Templeman, to present members of the Mount Tomah brigade with the National Emergency Medal for their efforts during the 2019-20 fire seasons. On behalf of the Blue Mountains community, I thank Mount Tomah RFS.

#### **ST FLORIAN'S DAY AWARD WINNER WARWICK TEASDALE**

**Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal) (18:18):** I recently had the pleasure of representing the Minister for Emergency Services, Steph Cooke, at the NSW Rural Fire Service Central Coast District Volunteer Appreciation Day. I was honoured to present the St Florian's Day Award, Commissioner's Commendation for Service, to a wonderful gentleman from the Central Coast, Warwick Teasdale. He is a member of the Killcare, Wagstaffe and Gosford Fire Control Centre brigades and also a retired group captain. Warwick joined the brigade in 1976, is currently deputy captain and previously held the positions of permit officer, secretary and captain until he was elected group captain of the Gosford district in 1999. Warwick has attended most significant fires in the region, as well as participating in activities like hazard reduction and flood recovery in surrounding areas. He has successfully delivered many training courses to help upskill other volunteers, even being called upon to deliver incident management training programs to delegates from the Korean Forest Service, the National Disaster Management Authority of India, and New South Wales government agencies such as Roads and Maritime Services and Sydney Water. I congratulate Warwick on this incredible, well-deserved award.

#### **THE CEDARS OF LEBANON FOLKLORIC GROUP**

**Mr JIHAD DIB (Lakemba) (18:19):** It gives me great pleasure to congratulate the award-winning Cedars of Lebanon Folkloric Group on its forty-fifth birthday. The Cedars of Lebanon Folkloric Group was established in 1977 by Elie Akouri, a teacher and choreographer of the Lebanese Dabke dance in Australia. Elie arrived in this country speaking little English, far away from his family and friends. To ease his loneliness, he drew on his knowledge of Lebanese traditional folklore. His first instinct was to search among the Lebanese community for those interested in learning Lebanese traditional folklore. After securing a group of 24 boys and girls, he worked on his first production, *A Father's Mistake*. At the time, Australian-Lebanese families had not seen a play in their own language, and the response from the community reflected the need for increased cultural awareness among young people. Forty-five years later, they still believe in those same ideals. Along with Tania Mihailuk, I had the privilege of attending the group's recent celebration—a vibrant evening of folk dancing, traditional costumes and music. It was heartwarming to see so many young people perform traditional dances on stage. For many, it would have been their first time. Congratulations to Elie Akouri and The Cedars of Lebanon Folkloric Group.

#### **IRONMAN 70.3 PORT MACQUARIE**

**Mrs LESLIE WILLIAMS (Port Macquarie) (18:20):** I acknowledge two stalwarts of the Ironman 70.3 family who have recently announced their retirement after nearly 30 years of service to the sport, coordinating the largest triathlon of its kind in Australia. Mike and Sue Reid have been the face of Ironman 70.3 for the past three decades—since the event commenced in Forster in 1994. Twenty-eight years on, Mike and Sue have decided to call it quits from their roles as local organising committee chairman and director, notwithstanding a three-year stint with the Australian triathlon championships. The success of Ironman on the mid North Coast is largely

attributed to the Reids, who have literally established the Hastings and Camden Haven's premier event of the annual calendar, which injects approximately \$15 million in tourism dollars to the local economy each year. Now in its sixteenth consecutive year in the Hastings, the event is only growing from strength to strength, with an army of 2,000 volunteers and thousands of people flocking to participate and cheer on their favourite competitors, family members or friends, all largely due to a legacy left by the Reids. I thank Mike and Sue for their longstanding contribution to Ironman 70.3.

#### **MARCONI LADIES AUXILIARY AND AUSTRALIA'S BIGGEST MORNING TEA**

**Mr GUY ZANGARI (Fairfield) (18:21):** I congratulate the Club Marconi ladies' auxiliary for hosting the Cancer Council Australia's Biggest Morning Tea on Tuesday 14 June 2022. I was delighted to join in with the president of Club Marconi, Mr Morris Licata; the board of directors; human resources manager, Ms Melissa McDonald; volunteers and guests. Special thanks go to Melissa from the Cancer Council NSW for supporting the ladies' auxiliary in its fundraising efforts. All Biggest Morning Teas take time to reflect and commemorate loved ones that have passed. I give a special mention to Melissa McDonald for sharing her own personal experience of cancer, relating to the loss of her 18-year-old son 10 years ago. The fundraising would not have been possible without generous donations from sponsors, supporters and the ladies' auxiliary. I thank Fernando and Nello Pellegrino for their kind donations of Artego Haircare products. I congratulate the ladies' auxiliary president, Mrs Joan Pellegrino, and her wonderful team of volunteers for organising a successful Biggest Morning Tea.

#### **MACLEAY VALLEY BUSINESS AWARDS**

**Mrs MELINDA PAVEY (Oxley) (18:22):** On Saturday night I was delighted to attend the 2022 Macleay Valley Business Awards. Hosted by the Macleay Valley Business Chamber, the awards recognise business excellence and were put together by the amazing Lachlan Townsend, Lisa McPherson and a whole group of fabulous people. I congratulate all award winners. The winner of the Outstanding Start-up category was L'idole Collaboration; Highly Commended in Health, Beauty and Wellbeing was Mirror Mirror Hair Lounge; Excellence in Health, Beauty and Wellbeing was Kirstie's Skinsational Beauty Therapy; Excellence in Innovation was Key Employment—a big winner on the night; Highly Commended in Professional Service, with more than 20 employees, was Coastal Wealth Directions; and Excellence in Professional Service, with more than 20 employees, was Pathfinders.

The winner of the Outstanding Employee award was Beau Henry; Excellence in Sustainability was Kempsey Shire Council; Excellence in Agriculture was Blueberry Greens; Outstanding Community Organisation was South West Rocks Surf Life Saving Club; Highly Commended in Trades and Industry was Patterson Glass Works; Excellence in Trades and Industry award was T&L Motors; Outstanding Business Leader was Lisa Reed; Outstanding Young Business Leader was Kinne Ring, and the winner of the Highly Commended in Professional Service was Kempsey Shire Council. It was a wonderful night with great people and a lot of fun.

#### **QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS LIST RECIPIENT ALISON COVINGTON**

**Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect) (18:23):** I offer our community's and my personal congratulations to Alison Covington, founder and managing director of Good360 Australia, on being made a Member of the Order of Australia on 13 June 2022 as part of the Queen's Birthday Honours list. First established in 2013 under Alison's leadership, Good360 Australia has contributed to our community as a leading distributor of donated spare goods to charities, which are subsequently donated to the most vulnerable in our community. Alison has spearheaded Good360's charitable initiatives during tough times for New South Wales' communities, including during the COVID-19 pandemic lockdowns and the recent floods and, before that, the bushfires. Alison has created many local jobs for our western Sydney community at the Good360 distribution centre in Smithfield. I congratulate to Alison Covington on being made a Member of the Order of Australia. I thank her for the charitable contribution she makes to our community. She is a truly deserving recipient of this honour.

#### **TRIBUTE TO DONALD QUAST**

**Mr ADAM MARSHALL (Northern Tablelands) (18:24):** I offer my condolences to Moya and the family of Donald "Don" Gerald Quast, a local farming legend who was known for his innovation in agriculture and love for the Moree Men's Shed, who sadly passed away on 19 May. Don and Moya moved to Crooble in 1957 with their young family. The property Domang was established with a vision to make life easier for all on the land. Don was involved in many projects and organisations, including the Crooble Wheat Growers' Association. He was a founding member of the Crooble brigade of the Rural Fire Service, where in 1995 he was awarded the National Medal for his 30 years of service. He was also the chairman of the Moree Oilseeds Co-op, a Yallaroi shire councillor, a Gwydir Valley county councillor and a member of the board of Fairview Care. After 57 years at Domang, it was time to hand over the reins to the next generation of Quasts and head into Moree. This is where

Don found his love for days spent in the Moree Men's Shed. I commend Don for his dedication and love of the land and for his service and contribution to his community of Crooble and Moree. May he rest in peace.

#### NEWCASTLE NORTHSTARS

**Ms JODIE HARRISON (Charlestown) (18:25):** When the Newcastle Northstars and Australian Ice Hockey League leaders Canberra Brave faced off at Hunter Ice Skating Stadium on Saturday, I was honoured to be called on to drop the ceremonial puck. As it has been some years since I have been on the ice, I was thankfully helped out onto the ice by some highly skilled skaters—the game referees—and then got to watch the teams go head to head in a very exciting game. Though the Brave prevailed by six to one against the home side on Saturday night, I was ecstatic with the result of the second game of the weekend's double-header: a Northstars 3-2 win against the Brave after an even faster, fiercer game. I congratulate the goalscorers, team captain Liam Manwarring and Francis Drolet, and the entire team, as the Northstars now sit just one point behind Canberra Brave on the league table. I give many thanks to team captain Liam Manwarring and the whole side, and I look forward to joining them again.

#### EMU HEIGHTS PUBLIC SCHOOL AND P&C

**Mr STUART AYRES (Penrith—Minister for Enterprise, Investment and Trade, Minister for Tourism and Sport, and Minister for Western Sydney) (18:26):** I thank and acknowledge Emu Heights Public School and its P&C for their fundraising efforts following the recent floods. The school and P&C were connected to Murwillumbah Public School, which was severely impacted by the flooding, and they were able to raise over \$1,500 to donate to the school. This kind deed has now led to a brother-sister relationship between Murwillumbah Public School and Emu Heights Public School. The intent is to continue this strong relationship and connection in various ways into the future. This is a great initiative by the two schools. It is very important that students in regional locations and metropolitan locations be able to share their various experiences and learn from each other. This is another great example of leadership shown by Emu Heights Public School, its P&C and its students. I thank and recognise them for their wonderful fundraising efforts to support the school impacted by floods.

#### TRIBUTE TO ROGER CLEMENTS

**Mr TIM CRAKANTHROP (Newcastle) (18:27):** There would not be many people in Newcastle who had not heard the voice of Roger Clements. The Newcastle surfing legend passed away last month, leaving a legacy as an amazing competitor and the local voice of surfing. Roger was a master of the longboard, notching up a string of east coast titles from the late 1960s through to the early 2000s, and was inducted into the Hunter Region Sporting Hall of Fame in 2014. Roger was a respected part of Merewether Surfboard Club and was one of only two members to be club champion, club president, a life member and an inductee into its hall of fame. He was also known on local airwaves, filing daily surf reports, and picked up by-lines in the *Newcastle Herald*. Although Roger's legacy and bright personality will continue in Newcastle's history, he will be sorely missed.

#### COUNTRY BUNCHES PROPRIETOR CARESSA SEAMAN

**Mrs WENDY TUCKERMAN (Goulburn—Minister for Local Government) (18:28):** I today recognise Ms Caressa Seaman. Ms Seaman is the proprietor of Country Bunches, in Crookwell, which was established in 1996. Last November the business proudly celebrated its twenty-fifth birthday. This business has played a key role in Crookwell and surrounding districts over these years. The beautiful floral arrangements have cascaded well wishes and sentiments across the community to a range of celebrations, including birthdays, engagements and weddings, whilst also paying tribute to and farewelling community members over the years. Ms Seaman has recognised her role and participation in the community as a privilege. Undoubtedly those in the community have recognised her floristry skill and artistry when accessing this business to acknowledge a variety of life events. I congratulate Ms Seaman for her service to the community and wish her and Country Bunches a blooming and fruitful future.

#### QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS LIST RECIPIENTS STRATHFIELD

**Mr JASON LI (Strathfield) (18:29):** I commend the many outstanding women from Strathfield who were recognised in the 2022 Queen's Birthday Honours list. Their extensive contributions speak to the admirable level of commitment across our wonderful local community. The OAM recipients include Monica Chu, who has held a range of roles with local charities and community organisations, including the Australian Chinese Charity Foundation, since the year 2000. Janet Robin Harrison's work across a range of faith and women's organisations since 1960 also impresses with the depth and breadth of commitment in our local area. Marie Myssy likewise demonstrates a level of service worthy of public recognition, helping to give voice to multicultural media in Australia in her nearly 40 years at SBS Arabic24. Christina Efthymiades, named a Member of the Order of Australia, has been director of St Nectarios Greek Orthodox Parish and Community of Burwood and director of A Bloody Great Cause, a foundation raising funds and awareness for world-leading haematological clinical



research at Concord Hospital. I extend my congratulations to all four women on their achievement and service. Such recognition is important and should be retained in some form as our relationship to the Crown evolves.

### VIVID IDEAS IN THE HOUSE

**Mr JONATHAN O'DEA (Davidson) (18:31):** This May and June, for the first time, Parliament House hosted a series of events as part of the Vivid Sydney winter festival. *The Bare Pit*, a production held in conjunction with The Ethics Centre, brought together a panel of politicians, journalists and academics to discuss the difficult topic of what place religion has in politics. It was facilitated very capably by Simon Longstaff and broadcast live on Facebook. *The Gospel According to Paul* gave viewers a dramatic narrative of the life of former Prime Minister Paul Keating and exposure to the comic genius of Jonathan Biggins. The event was held on sitting nights, permitting attendees to experience also the unique atmosphere of a working parliament. *The Even Greater Sydney Planning Committee* with H.G. Nelson and James Valentine humorously addressed Sydney's planning challenges. Like the other two, this third event provided an avenue for the Parliament to reach, engage and communicate with new audiences. I acknowledge and thank all those involved, including our communications, engagement and education team, for helping to make these events such a success.

### LONDONDERRY EDUCATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE

**Ms PRUE CAR (Londonderry) (18:32):** Tonight I pay tribute to all the amazing parents who are advocating for the schools we need in the growing suburbs of the electorate I represent, Londonderry. I have been so proud to stand alongside parents from Marsden Park, Melonba, Jordan Springs and Ropes Crossing in community efforts to secure new schools and school upgrades. These projects are urgently needed, and local parents have gone out of their way to support the campaign. Parents lead busy lives, and the fact that they are also making time to push for local schools is a testament to their passion for our growing communities. My commitment to them is that I will continue to work with them until we get these schools built. Community action delivered Jordan Springs Public School. Because we know the Government will only be dragged kicking and screaming, together we will make sure it delivers high schools in Marsden Park and Jordan Springs, a primary school in Melonba and the much-needed upgrade at Ropes Crossing.

### ST FLORIAN'S DAY AWARD WINNER JENNIFER FARRELL

**Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal) (18:33):** I recently had the pleasure of representing the Minister for Emergency Services and Resilience, the Hon. Steph Cooke, at the NSW Rural Fire Service Central Coast District's Volunteer Appreciation Day. I was honoured to present the St Florian's Day Award, the Commissioner's Commendation for Service, to Jennifer Farrell, a member of the Matcham-Holgate brigade. Senior Deputy Captain Jennifer Farrell first worked in bushfire management with the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service in 1973. In 2012, after retiring from the parks service, she joined the NSW RFS. We are lucky to have her. Jenny has been the senior deputy captain since 2017, previously served as brigade training officer and deputy captain, and is currently representing district volunteers at the Central Coast Bush Fire Management Committee. Jenny has dedicated her time to a range of major fires, including more than 60 days of participation in the 2019-2020 fire season, including the Three Mile fire and one at Arizona Road, Charmhaven. Jennifer is a very worthy recipient of this commendation. I thank her for her service to the community.

### SWANSEA COMMUNITY COTTAGE

**Ms YASMIN CATLEY (Swansea) (18:34):** I acknowledge Swansea Community Cottage for being named Lake Mac Environmental Leader at the 2022 Lake Mac Awards. The awards celebrate the amazing accomplishments of local athletes, artists, environmentalists, volunteers and ambassadors, and recognise the contributions that they have made to our local community. Over the past decade Swansea Community Cottage has gone to great lengths to limit the amount of waste going into landfill with the implementation of the Freecycle Program. A team of selfless volunteers work five days a week to distribute items to more than 100 people a day. They have also used items to set up entire homes for vulnerable community members. Swansea Community Cottage has worked tirelessly to look after the environment and support those in need. The cottage should be very proud of what it has achieved. I congratulate Swansea Community Cottage on being named the 2022 Lake Mac environmental leader.

### WILTON VOLUNTEER RFS BRIGADE

**Mr NATHANIEL SMITH (Wollondilly) (18:35):** On 26 May I was glad to attend the Wilton Volunteer RFS Brigade annual general meeting. The meeting had not been running for long when about half the crew got called to a fatal accident on Picton Road. This shows how these brave men and women drop everything in their lives at a moment's notice to go to the aid of others. It is incredible to think these volunteers are often first at the scene, sometimes dealing with confronting tragedies. They deserve all respect from the community. I point out some of those who also received their National Emergency Medals on that evening: Paul Armin, Jai Brancato,

Lou Brancato, Bev Coulter, Brandon Coupland, Kurt Fuller-Peterson, Terry Gunter, Derek Kolster, Pauline O'Pray, Richard Pearce, Blair Smart and Rob Tolhurst. It was an absolute privilege to present them with their medals on that night. God bless our RFS.

### **DULWICH HILL CHICKEN SHOP**

**Ms JO HAYLEN (Summer Hill) (18:36):** Good Food Australia has confirmed what inner west residents already know to be true: Dulwich Hill Chicken Shop on Marrickville Road is one of the best in Sydney, naming it Sydney's best takeaway chicken shop. Dulwich Hill Chicken Shop has been serving up charcoal chicken and its legendary potato bake for 34 years. Almost 10 years ago Jim and Rose Chronis took over the running of the shop from their parents, John and Dafni. Jim and Rose stuff and season their chickens with a secret family recipe. The chickens are delivered fresh every morning. They then marinate them overnight before cooking them on charcoal, which requires manipulating the fire every five to 10 minutes. It is a very skilful task that we probably take for granted when we pick up one of their chickens, but undoubtedly it has cemented their status as connoisseurs of good food in the inner west. I congratulate Jim and Rose on being recognised for their hard work and commitment. This is an important recognition of their family's dedication and commitment to the family business, and to their local community over decades and decades.

### **YOUTH CREATE AND CELEBRATE LEADERSHIP PROGRAM**

**Mr JUSTIN CLANCY (Albury) (18:37):** On May 29 seven local students graduated from the Corowa District Landcare's Youth Create and Celebrate leadership program at the Corowa Cricket Club. I was invited as a special guest to attend the special presentation for Molly, Max, Ruby, Isabelle, Dayna, Emma and Sami. The program, which ran for 14 months, was funded by the NSW Department of Justice and was facilitated by Sally Hughes. It not only offered the students the opportunity to engage in leadership training, but also showed them how to experience and improve their local environment. Community groups helped along the way, including the Rotary Club of Corowa, the Apex Club of Corowa and Corowa Community Garden. The students created a reptile habitat at the Whitehead Street Wetlands under the supervision of wildlife ecologist Dr Damian Michael. I give a special mention to Anne Ovens, a retired school teacher who ran workshops specialising in public speaking; Mayor Pat Bourke from Federation Council, who connected with the group virtually; and Landcare volunteers Natasha Lappin and Basia Olejniczak for sharing their knowledge.

### **SWANSEA MEALS ON WHEELS**

**Ms YASMIN CATLEY (Swansea) (18:38):** I acknowledge Swansea Meals on Wheels for being nominated for the Lake Mac Community Group of the Year award at the 2020 Lake Mac Awards. The awards celebrate the amazing accomplishments of local athletes, artists, environmentalists, volunteers and ambassadors, and recognise the contributions that they have made to our local community. Swansea Meals on Wheels has been committed to helping those in need across the Swansea electorate for the past 45 years. The organisation is made up of 100 to 200 volunteers and three kitchen staff who work tirelessly to deliver nutritional meals to locals who are in the most need. The organisation has worked hard to ensure that members of the local community do not go hungry, and it should be very proud of what it has achieved. I congratulate Swansea Meals on Wheels on being nominated for the 2022 Lake Mac Community Group of the Year award. I also give a big shout-out to its administrator, Donna. Nothing would happen without the amazing Donna.

### *Private Members' Statements*

### **REGIONAL SENIORS TRAVEL CARD**

**Ms JODIE HARRISON (Charlestown) (18:39):** I have spoken before in this place about Newcastle and Lake Macquarie being a tale of two cities under this Government. With a population of more than 210,000 people, Lake Macquarie is rightfully identified as regional city. But the City of Newcastle local government area, which has a population of under 170,000, is not. When it suits the Government, Newcastle is a metropolitan city—usually because it will save it some money. When it does not suit the Government, Newcastle is a regional city—once again, usually because it will save the Government some money. This has the impact of locking the entire local government area out of funding pools that are available to most of the rest of the State. This arbitrary choice has impacts for the city in a range of areas. But, for many residents of the Charlestown electorate, one of the most obvious and absurd is the exclusion of Newcastle residents from the regional seniors travel card program. Madam Temporary Speaker, I am sure that you know about this because your Wallsend constituents are equally affected.

Eligible residents of the Charlestown electorate in the Lake Macquarie local government area are able to access the card, but their neighbours up the street and across the road in Newcastle are not. My office has been contacted by a woman who is the only member of her tennis club who is not eligible for the seniors travel card. Why is that? It is because her house is on the Newcastle side of the invisible dividing line between regional and

non-regional. So her tennis club partners, who live literally streets away, have enjoyed multiple rounds of \$250 cards while she is ineligible based solely on her address. She contacts my office regularly every time her friends get a new card issued to ask whether this arbitrary line has changed. Unfortunately for her, it has not. While she has all the same cost-of-living pressures as her friends, she is not able to access the \$250 to help ease the cost of travel—to pay for NSW TrainLink regional trains and coaches, and to pay the ever-increasing fuel costs or for taxis.

Each year, when the new round of the regional seniors travel card is announced, I encourage my eligible constituents to take advantage of the scheme, because every little bit helps as the cost of living rises higher and higher. But each year I have to tell my constituents in Newcastle that, once again, this Government is failing them. Each year I raise this matter in the Parliament. I have given a notice of a motion, I have spoken on the topic multiple times and I have asked questions on notice. I have written to the Minister asking for clarification, for action and for a little bit of hope for these people who are being hard done by, and still nothing has been done. In a show of their frustration with this policy decision, 11,000 locals signed a petition that the member for Wallsend, the member for Newcastle and I presented to this House for debate, but still nothing.

I share the frustrations of my constituents in the Newcastle local government area. I am getting tired of having to bring up this topic again and again while those opposite defend the indefensible. The exclusion of the City of Newcastle residents has resulted in ridiculous divisions along the border between the two local government areas. How is it fair that people living in one part of Highfields can apply but the rest of the suburb cannot? How is it fair that residents living on one side of Boundary Street in Kotara South are able to access the travel card but their neighbours on the opposite side of Boundary Street in Kotara are not? How is it fair that Adamstown is excluded but residents in large swathes of Adamstown Heights are not? It is patently absurd that residents at one end of a street, which happens to be in the Lake Macquarie local government area, are eligible for the travel card while residents at the other end of the street, which happens to be in the Newcastle local government area, are not. The northern ends of some streets in Adamstown Heights, for example, are in Newcastle, and the southern ends are in Lake Macquarie. These streets are less than 500 metres long. Half the street is eligible, and the other half is not. It is unfair and it is arbitrary. It does not make sense and it flies in the face of good government. The Government must step up and ensure equality for all regional seniors. It must fix the Regional Seniors Travel Card. It has taken long enough.

**Mr ADAM MARSHALL (Northern Tablelands) (18:44):** I thank the member for Charlestown for her contribution. I hope that when she responds to her constituents who are ineligible for the Regional Seniors Travel Card, she tells them that her and her party vehemently opposed its establishment. If it was not for this Government, none of her constituents would be eligible or get any of that assistance from the \$250 card per year. I acknowledge that the member has raised those concerns, and I am sure the good Minister will take them into consideration. But if it was not for this Government, there would be no such thing. Not only did we conceive the idea, but we did so in the face of opposition from those opposite. When they come into government, I am sure that they will remove it. That is the policy of the Opposition of this State.

#### STATE BUDGET AND NORTHERN TABLELANDS ELECTORATE

**Mr ADAM MARSHALL (Northern Tablelands) (18:45):** History was made today for the electorate of Northern Tablelands, with more of half a billion dollars allocated in the 2022-23 State budget for critical projects right across our region. That incredible capital spend of more than \$636,526,000 over the next 12 months is almost double that of last year's record budget—a 45 per cent increase—which made a mega investment of \$349,520,000 across the region. We really do have the lot. I am absolutely tickled pink with this budget and achievement. I give full credit to local councils, local communities and individuals across the Northern Tablelands who lobbied hard and worked together to make sure our issues and projects were front and centre to achieve this funding. Whether it is water infrastructure, health facilities, roads or public infrastructure, it is all coming in the new financial year, as it should be for the people of the Northern Tablelands.

I am absolutely delighted to see the full \$27 million reserved for the raising of the Malpas Dam wall, which will double the capacity of the dam, help mitigate the impact of future droughts and give water security to Armidale and the community of Guyra. Armidale, with 25,000 residents, almost ran out of water in the last drought. Guyra absolutely ran out of water and needed it to be trucked to the community. I recognise the Armidale Regional Council mayor, Sam Coupland, and the general manager, James Roncon, who have spearheaded the development of the detailed plans and costings for the Malpas Dam expansion.

Allocations have also been made for the full cost of the Moree and Glen Innes hospital redevelopments. Redevelopments is the technical term; essentially, we will be building brand-new hospitals in those communities. The allocation today of \$80 million and \$50 million respectively means that project construction will be underway early next year. That is coupled with an investment to construct a brand-new ambulance station at Glen Innes and upgrade Armidale station as well as build new health accommodation for rural health staff, nurses and specialists

at Armidale, Glen Innes and Inverell. I note the \$149.5 million increase to the IPTAAS—the Isolated Patients Travel and Accommodation Assistance Scheme—which is absolutely vital for us in the bush. When I say the bush, I mean west of the Great Divide. Some 3,400 patients in my electorate took advantage of that scheme last financial year, and I think many more will again this financial year. Those rebates have been almost doubled for transport and dramatically increased for accommodation costs.

Some \$194 million of capital has been allocated for stage one of the Moree Special Activation Precinct. That will completely change the social and economic fabric of the Moree community, leveraging off the Inland Rail and ensuring that we attract thousands of new jobs to that community to value add to \$1 billion of agricultural produce per year. It is absolutely brilliant. From a roads point of view there is a major victory for the small community of Lower Creek, with \$227 million allocated to completely rebuild the disaster-prone Armidale-Kempsey Road. That is significant for sections of the road at Blackbird Flat, Flying Fox and Big Hill. Those works will be vital.

Works on the Newell Highway between Moree and Narrabri are weeks away from starting. There is \$168 million in joint funding, which is very exciting. There is \$10 million for pavement upgrades along Newell, as well as in excess of \$30 million for remediation works on Waterfall Way, the New England Highway, Thunderbolts Way and the Gwydir Highway, all of which have suffered greatly from the prolonged wet conditions. The budget will also provide relief to our local councils, with a further \$41 million being allocated to the shires for maintenance and repair works on their roads, which have been shredded by the wet weather.

Away from infrastructure, families and children are at the forefront of the budget. There were announcements about the cost of sending children to preschool being significantly reduced by fee relief. There were critical childcare announcements to allow women, particularly young women, in the regions to get back to work, whether they are teachers, nurses or police officers. That is fundamental. The \$150 back to school voucher subsidy for every child who attends primary or secondary school in New South Wales next year is absolutely brilliant. It is obvious that the Federal Government has ceased to recognise the importance of early childhood education, but I am proud that this Government has stepped up to the mark in its absence. Well done to everyone in the community. With \$636 million, the victory goes to the people of the Northern Tablelands.

**Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal) (18:51):** I acknowledge the speech by the member for Northern Tablelands and the more than half a billion dollars being invested in his electorate in this year's budget. There are important investments from one end of his region to the other. Additionally, I think he mentioned the regional travel card for students and apprentices, which will make a huge difference to young people in his electorate alongside the back to school vouchers for families. In my own regional electorate of Terrigal, 46,000 people have received the Regional Seniors Travel Card. I am sure it is a similar number in the Northern Tablelands electorate. This budget is responsible. I congratulate the member for Northern Tablelands on his fierce and unswerving efficacy and support of his community to ensure that these infrastructure projects will be delivered by a government that cares about, listens to and delivers for the bush. That has been supported, carried and fought for in no small measure by the member for Northern Tablelands.

#### **RIVERSTONE ELECTORATE EMERGENCY SERVICES**

**Mr KEVIN CONOLLY (Riverstone) (18:52):** I am pleased to acknowledge the efforts of many people in the community I represent who came together in a challenging time to protect and support those facing danger from flooding in February and March 2022. I particularly recognise members of the Blacktown unit of NSW SES. Each local SES unit comprises volunteers who train and prepare week in and week out throughout the year so that they are ready and able to help others in times of crisis. I also acknowledge the proactive and generous support provided by the police of the Riverstone Police Area Command [PAC], the staff of Blacktown City Council, and staff and volunteers from the Riverstone Neighbourhood Centre. The electorate of Riverstone and surrounding areas is traversed by creeks, which feed into the Hawkesbury River near Windsor. Of those, South Creek, Eastern Creek and Bells Creek are prone to backwater flooding from the river, as well as flooding from rainfall in their own catchments. Consequently, the level of rise in those creeks can be very significant and presents a major challenge to the nearby residents and local SES volunteers who come to their aid.

I acknowledge the following Blacktown SES unit members who were heavily involved in flood rescues during the 2022 flood events: Matt Elliott, Ryan Rewi, Dugald Parker, Daniel Groom, Scott Butler, Anthony Featherstone, Terence Siriwardena, Jon Giddey, Simone Bland, Aldan Burrows, Wayne Allen and Andrew Mottershead. They all contributed to the flood rescue response earlier this year, with rescues, evacuations, medical transport, welfare checks, resupply and much more. Riverstone police also played an important part by warning residents in low-lying areas of the flood predications coming from the Bureau of Meteorology and the implications for those people in specific localities. Officers from the PAC rang a pre-prepared list of residents in "at risk" areas to ensure that they were aware of the risk and had time to move belongings and ready themselves to evacuate.

The police also identified and closed flooded roads and prevented people from entering dangerous areas. Blacktown City Council opened an evacuation centre at Blacktown Leisure Centre at Stanhope Gardens to ensure that those who needed to evacuate had a place to stay. Council staff were on hand to provide whatever assistance they could. Riverstone Neighbourhood Centre was also proactive in its response, coordinating emergency relief for displaced people and serving as a focal point for locals who wished to donate items or services for those in need. Floods impacted properties in Angus, Riverstone, Schofields and Marsden Park within the electorate of Riverstone as well as a number of adjoining localities in the region. A particularly challenging situation arose for the Blacktown SES when South Creek at Shanes Park rose very quickly.

A feature of the March 2022 event was that not only was the heavy rain widespread across the whole Hawkesbury-Nepean catchment, causing a major rise in the river, but also it was accompanied by some particularly heavy falls in the upstream catchment of South Creek. As a result, the backwater flooding—caused by water flowing "backwards" or upstream away from the Hawkesbury River—was met by a surge of water flowing downstream from the upper catchment of South Creek. The two inflows met near Shanes Park. At Shanes Park, eight adults, nine children, one 12-day-old baby and 28 animals were rescued from properties on Shanes Park Road on 3 March by Blacktown unit's Flood Rescue Coordinator Matt Elliott and his team. The flood waters had risen quickly, leaving those residents and animals stranded. They had to utilise "in water" techniques, rafts and powered vessels to access those residents. It was a challenging task navigating the debris and large objects that had been floating downstream.

I congratulate the members of the team, who carried out these rescues with bravery, skill and efficiency. It is in situations like this that the value of all that training shines through. On the evening of 8 March, NSW SES Blacktown Unit combined with the Hawkesbury unit to evacuate residents of McGraths Hill. Deputy unit commanders Jon Giddey and Kirsten Wademan coordinated five Blacktown unit SES teams as well as up to 10 RFS teams to doorknock the whole suburb to warn people. In addition to helping in the Hawkesbury area, the Blacktown unit also assisted in other regions hard hit by flooding, such as Camden. It is characteristic of SES volunteers that they routinely make themselves available to help in other areas of the State where the need exists, not just their own patch. We all owe them a great debt for the generous voluntary service they perform. I commend all those who contributed to the welfare of their community during those floods in February and March 2022, particularly the SES volunteers who make themselves available and ready for such emergencies. Well done.

#### STATE BUDGET AND MACQUARIE FIELDS ELECTORATE

**Mr ANOULACK CHANTHIVONG (Macquarie Fields) (18:57):** Given it is budget week, the humble working-class economist returns to give his analysis. First, I can say I am very fortunate and privileged to be the member for Macquarie Fields since 2015. My local honest, hardworking community go about their days doing the right thing: working hard, paying their taxes, looking after their family and friends, volunteering to build a better community and, of course, during the pandemic provided much of the essential workforce to keep our economy going and health system operating. All they wanted was their hard-earned taxes to be spent objectively, fairly and where they were most needed. True to form, my local community has missed out again in this budget, like every other budget since 2015, on the much-needed funding to upgrade the Macquarie Fields train station lifts.

This Liberal Government has been in power now since 2011, yet each and every single year the Macquarie Fields community continues to miss out despite station patronage statistics justifying its upgrade. Of course, we all remember the skulduggery and blatant pork-barrelling of a few years ago that resulted in Hawkesbury River station getting its lifts despite having only a fraction of patronage compared with Macquarie Fields. Not only that, the local member and now Treasurer took much pleasure, at the Macquarie Fields community's expense, at having pulled the strings to allow the pork-barrel to occur. Not only did my community miss out on their lifts at Macquarie Fields, but also they got their noses rubbed in it in the process. Theirs and other people's hard-earned tax dollars are being spent like a Liberal Party political piggy bank where you only get resources if your local MP is a Liberal, not based on your need.

Public maladministration through the blatant misuse and misallocation of public funds proves that this nearly 12-year-old Liberal Government is just a bunch of snollygosters who are in it for themselves. My community should not have to beg to get their fair share, especially when their needs are justified by evidence and statistics. As a humble working-class economist, I can say from qualifications and professional experience that it is a complex discipline. Trying to estimate an outcome based on an array of factors, some of which are unquantifiable and others totally unknown, is no easy feat. Predictability, or rather unpredictability, is the more common outcome.

Take, for example, some of the brightest economists working at the central banks around the world—indeed, even at our own Reserve Bank of Australia [RBA]—who predicted that inflationary pressures would be transitory. Month and after month, that was their analysis and conclusion. Further, interest rates were not meant

to rise until 2023-24. As we now know, that is not the case. Inflation is running hot here and around the world. I recall the RBA governor estimates that it will be 7 per cent by the end of the year. We also saw economists predicting that house prices during COVID would probably reduce by about 10 per cent to 20 per cent. But, as we now know, in some areas of New South Wales house prices went up by 50 per cent.

My point is that economic modelling is hard and, despite the best and noble efforts of some of our brightest economists, we do not always get it right. In actual fact, it is more like how much we get it wrong. That is where I have great concern about the much-touted "reform" of the land tax on the family home. Last year when the original model was announced, I called it for what it was: the then Treasurer and now Premier's "snake oil" tax that was marketed as the housing affordability panacea. But now we have a much more modified version of that original land tax. We have gone from the larger boa constrictor land tax to the slightly smaller anaconda version. It is still a snake of a land tax on the family home, whichever version or colour you want to apply.

The whole premise of the snake oil land tax, in whatever form, is predicated on the illusory savings of stamp duty suddenly disappearing because we choose a new tax. Just think about that central assumption for a minute. The price of that precious family home reduces by the stamp duty just because this Liberal Government says so. Abracadabra! The house price shall reduce by this amount because the Liberals say so, and we get an added bonus of paying this yearly tax for each and every year we are in our house. The Liberals do not control house prices. This land tax does not automatically reduce house prices by the corresponding stamp duty. In essence, we are now paying two taxes on our family home. The illusory savings will just bid up house prices. Under the Liberals family home tax policy, we are better off because we pay two taxes now instead of one: one directly in land tax and another indirectly through the embedded stamp duty price remaining on your home.

I have more to say about this, but essentially this land tax is the Mike Tyson tax policy with a right hook and an uppercut, and we will not actually feel the pain. I will speak more on this when time permits, at least to say people are going to be worse off under this bad policy.

**Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal) (19:02):** The only spin we have heard tonight has been from the member for Lake Macquarie, with that appalling private member's statement. It was interesting that he talked about pork-barrelling and infrastructure upgrades to train stations. I urge the member for Macquarie Fields to pop over and have a look at the Central Coast, where Labor invested in building train stations with no lifts. It is this Government that delivered lifts to Point Claire, Narara and Ourimbah, and we are now also delivering lifts to Tuggerah. All those train stations were built by Labor with no lifts in the first place.

I suspect that the member for Macquarie Fields, if he looks back, will find out that his train station was probably built under his former appalling Labor Government—the same Labor Government that introduced an exit tax on property purchases in New South Wales. We all remember how popular that was, introduced by Bob Carr and his cronies to slug people when they were selling their house. We will not ever be lectured by those opposite about how to help first home buyers in New South Wales and even less about how to upgrade train stations across New South Wales, which they built with no lifts. I would say the success of the Transport Access Program has been absolutely outstanding for commuters right across New South Wales.

#### WORKPLACE SAFETY

**Mr GEOFF PROVEST (Tweed) (19:03):** Back in 2012 Aaron Fryer died in a workplace accident. He was only 17 years old and was barely five weeks into his plumbing apprenticeship. Aaron was working on a construction site when he was struck and killed by an unsecured excavator bucket. Ten years on, Aaron Fryer remains one of the youngest workers to die on a construction site in Australia. Byron Davies is also a plumber. He has 35 years' experience and knows Aaron's family. For him, it is important not only to remember Aaron, but also to see that lessons learnt from his death prevent the same thing happening to other young workers. This year Byron is working as a subcontractor on the new \$723.3 million Tweed Valley Hospital project at Kingscliff. This is one of the largest projects in New South Wales and is being delivered by Lendlease.

On 28 April, International Workers Memorial Day, Byron and 300 other workers, in conjunction with their site safety committee, paused to remember Aaron and all those who have died in construction accidents. There is a powerful photo showing a group of men wearing high-vis clothing, boots and hard hats standing behind a photo of a young man whose death was unnecessary and avoidable. His face is a reminder that young, inexperienced workers need to be looked after and supervised. To this end, the green hat initiative was born. In an industry first, Lendlease has introduced the use of green hard hats for apprentices on the Tweed Valley Hospital worksite. This makes identifying apprentices very easy and reminds all personnel that greater care and additional information may be required in the course of the day's activities.

Last week I met Byron Davies and his wife Lee who, along with Plumbers Union representative Luke Barden and former WorkCover trainer and TAFE teacher Ian Anderson, explained the green hat initiative

and the benefits it brings to workplace safety. They all agreed that the time has come to make significant and purposeful changes to protect young, inexperienced workers. Quickly identifying the most vulnerable on site, ensuring they have supervision and are never placed in an unsafe environment is a huge step forward and the green hat initiative does this.

Today I was advised by New South Wales Master Builders Association CEO Brian Siedler that he is in full support, as is Anthony Minichiello, our famous footballer. Ian and Justine Fryer, Aaron's parents, welcome this move and would like to see the initiative rolled out across Australia. Aaron's motorcycling colour was green so this in itself has special significance for them. They believe that if Green Hats for Aaron is introduced as part of site induction, the tragic story may save lives and no other family may lose one of their loved ones or children. Having recently been on site at the hospital, I can attest to the visibility of the green hats in a sea of yellow, orange and white. This is a simple measure, straightforward to implement, and would enhance safety on construction sites. Let's get the green hats mandated on sites right across Australia to keep our young workers safe.

This is such an important initiative from both sides. It is so simple. On construction sites, workers have to wear safety hats, but to have the green ones on apprentices, who are young, inexperienced and at times do not know where they are going, would clearly indicate this to all the other construction workers. I plan to have meetings with the Construction, Forestry, Maritime, Mining and Energy Union, the Electrical Trades Union and many other construction industries. This is a simple thing we can mandate. Today I met with the Minister for Fair Trading and she was fully supportive of it. I shall now continue the program.

We need to mandate this. These young people are at risk. They are dying on sites. We do not need this. We are experiencing a building boom at the moment, and to wear the green hat clearly indicates to the rest of the people on site that they are inexperienced and they need guidance. In fact, Lendlease—and I applaud them, being one of the major contractors here—absolutely supports it. It has introduced it on the fabulous Tweed Valley Hospital site. The more we can do to protect young workers—it is so simple. Green means you are inexperienced and you need help from your fellow construction workers. So I implore Labor and those on all sides of Parliament: Please get behind it. Let's mandate it. Let's not see another Aaron Fryer die on site, because that is just absolutely terrible.

**Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal) (19:08):** I acknowledge the speech given by the member for Tweed, who is not only a fierce advocate for the Tweed and The Tweed Hospital that is being delivered but is also an advocate for young, inexperienced apprentices and the dangers that they face on worksites. While every effort is made by construction companies to ensure worksites are safe, sadly inexperience can cause a fatality and, of course, any life saved is priceless. I commend the member for Tweed and his engagement with not just Lendlease but also the Construction, Forestry, Maritime, Mining and Energy Union and all of the other organisations involved around construction. This is such a simple way to highlight the inexperience of apprentices to make sure they are being looked after by others on site, and that green hat would clearly stand out on a construction site so people are aware of what those young apprentices are doing. I commend the member for Tweed for his fierce advocacy, already meeting with Minister Petinos to look at mandating this. I think it is an outstanding initiative and I congratulate the member for Tweed.

### **SOUTH-WEST SYDNEY HEALTH SERVICES**

**Ms MELANIE GIBBONS (Holsworthy) (19:09):** Today I would like to talk about the New South Wales Government's investment into health infrastructure and services in south-west Sydney. The New South Wales Government has invested a record amount into south-west Sydney's public hospitals and health services. These projects have been supporting job creation whilst also improving health infrastructure for our community. Recently I joined the Premier, the Minister for Health and the member for Camden at Campbelltown Hospital to tour the newly completed construction work. We toured the new 12-storey clinical services building, which is the centrepiece of the \$632 million stage two redevelopment.

The building is fantastic, with state-of-the-art facilities, as well as a new maternity unit, increased medical and surgical services, expanded children's services and increased medical services. Liverpool Hospital's redevelopment is also coming along nicely, with the \$50 million car park upgrade ready to be opened very soon, which will offer the community 500 extra car parking spaces at the hospital. This project is in addition to the \$740 million Liverpool Hospital redevelopment, which will see an additional 200 inpatient beds, a cancer centre of excellence, an expanded and refurbished emergency department, an expanded neonatal intensive care unit and new maternity and paediatric inpatient beds. The redevelopment of both Liverpool and Campbelltown hospitals will transform local health care and ensure that people living in the fastest growing region in New South Wales have improved access to these vital services, much closer to home.

I recently joined the Premier again, the Treasurer, the Minister for Health, the Minister for Regional Health and the Minister for Finance, and Minister for Employee Relations at Liverpool Hospital—it is a busy place—to

announce a new public sector wage policy. The New South Wales Government has committed to a new two-year policy with public sector employees, including nurses, teachers and paramedics, to receive a 3 per cent wage increase per annum in 2022-23 and 2023-24. Additionally, a one-off payment of \$3,000 will also be provided to employees in the New South Wales health service as a thank you for their work on the front line of the COVID-19 pandemic.

We also announced a record health workforce boost—the largest in the State's history—as part of the New South Wales Government's 2022-23 budget. A record 10,148 full-time equivalent staff will be recruited to hospitals and health services right across New South Wales over four years, with 7,674 to be recruited in the first year. This initial boost will help our local healthcare workers who have been feeling immense pressure from the COVID-19 pandemic, provide them with the respite they need and allow them to finally take some leave. This health workforce boost will ensure that our new and upgraded hospitals like Liverpool and Campbelltown have the workforce to fill them when the redevelopments are completed.

The New South Wales Government also announced that NSW Ambulance will recruit 2,128 new staff and open 30 more stations in a \$1.76 billion boost to frontline emergency care. In the Holsworthy electorate, we built a super ambulance station in Liverpool in 2018. It can hold 40 ambulances, which is 35 more than the old Liverpool Ambulance Station. Thirty new stations, with a further 22 to come over the following three years, will significantly assist the people of New South Wales and give them the confidence that emergency support will be there when they need it. The New South Wales Government's announcement will not only alleviate the unprecedented pressure that our paramedics faced during the COVID-19 pandemic but also ensure that our local communities have improved access to the critical healthcare services that they provide.

The Premier and I recently visited the team at Ingham Institute for Applied Medical Research. We toured the centre and discussed the amazing work that they do with their team, Professor Les Bokey and Mr Darryl Harkness. We also discussed my request for the New South Wales Government to support their future plans. They have some great things planned, and supporting localised medical research to deliver breakthroughs for south-west Sydney will also benefit the whole of New South Wales. The Ingham Institute focuses on health problems facing south-west Sydney. Its world-class medical research is working to radically transform health outcomes for the better. It is looking to build stage two of the Liverpool Health, Education, Research and Innovation Precinct, which will spark job creation and economic stimulus and encourage and inspire students to learn, train and work locally. I thank the New South Wales Government for its continued commitment to investing in vital healthcare services and upgrades to south-west Sydney and I look forward to what the future holds for our local healthcare system.

**Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal) (19:14):** The member for Holsworthy spoke about her commitment to her community with the delivery of more than \$1 billion worth of health upgrades at Liverpool and Campbelltown hospitals. I note that the Premier has visited the facilities, together with the member for Holsworthy, on three occasions. Importantly, a car park for 500 cars will be constructed, together with these hospital upgrades worth more than half a billion dollars. One upgrade was worth \$700 million. The member for Holsworthy works tirelessly to ensure that the best possible health resources are provided to people of all ages right across her electorate. Further, medical research is an important part of the New South Wales economy and saves lives in areas around Australia. I congratulate the member for Holsworthy on her tireless and unwavering advocacy for the people of her electorate, as can be seen by the delivery of more than \$1 billion worth of health infrastructure under her watch. I congratulate her on her tireless efforts to improve health infrastructure.

#### **DULWICH HILL STATION PEDESTRIAN CROSSING**

**Ms JO HAYLEN (Summer Hill) (19:15):** Finally, after months of confusion and delay, it appears that the community's concerted campaign to upgrade the pedestrian crossing at Dulwich Hill station has had a win. Finally there may be a fix for what some call the most dangerous pedestrian crossing in Sydney. I understand the New South Wales Government has finally given "in principle approval" to install traffic lights at the crossing — technically known as Traffic Control Signal [TCS] approval—after dragging its feet for far too long. This decision means the Inner West Council can now get on with the detailed design for the pedestrian crossing and move forward with its plans to make the crossing safe. I have spoken to countless residents over many years about the crossing. They have shared with me stories of accidents and near misses and they have shared too their frustration that it has taken so long for something to be done. William from Marrickville wrote to me, stating:

Regarding the crossing at Dulwich Station, I have lived in the area for more than 60 years and have written letters to Council and RTA to no avail. It has been a disgrace for too long.

Ruth from Dulwich Hill said:

It's long been a lethal junction. Just try to turn right into Wardell from Dudley, keeping one eye on the traffic on Wardell and one on the pedestrian crossing, especially at peak hour—impossible.



James from Dulwich Hill emailed me to say:

I am a Dulwich Hill resident who uses the zebra crossing at Dulwich Hill station twice a day to drop and pick up my kids from primary school.

A few weeks ago a raged driver pulled out from the line of cars waiting for pedestrians to cross and accelerated down the wrong side of the road and through the zebra crossing at high speed.

I was halfway across and almost hit by the vehicle. I was not expecting a car to be speeding down the wrong side of the road, and the crazy driver did not see me emerge from behind the line of waiting cars.

Driver frustration is increasing and pedestrian safety is at risk due to the poor visibility and high level of vehicle and pedestrian traffic at this intersection.

It is particularly concerning given the high number of children that use this crossing.

There is clear community consensus that something needs to change. Why the delay? Some time ago the Inner West Council committed to raise the pedestrian crossing and install traffic lights at the intersection. The plans were approved by the council's traffic committee and funds were allocated. Reportedly, work was due to commence in March this year. However, it has been pushed back, thanks to the failure of the State Government again to provide the TCS approval. This is simply unacceptable, and understandably residents are very frustrated. Mark Skelsey and members of the Save Dully Residents' Action Group started an online petition and began campaigning for the traffic light signal plan to be approved. In just a week the petition garnered almost 200 signatures and drew the council's attention. The council passed a motion calling for Transport for NSW to get on with the approvals.

In the course of the community's campaign, it has become apparent that there may be widespread issues due to delays in TCS approvals within Transport for NSW. In my electorate there have been considerable delays in works to make the stretch of Warren Road between Illawarra Road and Carrington Road one way. Residents have been calling for this commonsense change for years. But again, after council approved the changes, frustrated residents had to wait for works to be carried out due to delays with TCS approval. Similarly, in Tempe the long-awaited upgrade of the terrifying pedestrian crossing at Tillman Park has been held up by—you guessed it—TCS approval.

These are critical upgrades related to the safety of pedestrians, cyclists and all road users. The New South Wales Government and responsible Minister owe communities across New South Wales an explanation. How many of these TCS approvals are currently outstanding? What has been the average processing time for these approvals? What is the reason for these delays? How is the Government working to ensure that adequate resources are available to conduct this work in a way that ensures that systems operate safely when installed but also within an acceptable time frame that does not leave the community at risk on dangerous intersections?

These are simple questions that I have put to the Minister for Infrastructure, Minister for Cities, and Minister for Active Transport before. In budget estimates hearings he has said it was due to the complexity of the work and blamed the pandemic. I understand that these matters take significant resources and time. However, there are points across my electorate where pedestrians, cyclists and road users are at risk. This is important work. I say to the Minister that it might not involve a splashy announcement on the front page of the *Sydney Morning Herald* but it will save lives and it will make for a more walkable, safe and livable city. I urge the Minister to get on with fixing these delays as a matter of urgency.

#### KEIRA ELECTORATE HOUSING AFFORDABILITY

**Mr RYAN PARK (Keira) (19:20):** I speak on an issue that I know is important to the Temporary Speaker, the member for Sydney, having followed his private member's statements and issues that he has raised in this place. The issue of housing affordability and the housing crisis also exist within the community that I represent, the electorate of Keira. The lack of housing affordability in both the rental and home ownership markets is poorly impacting renters and buyers. The housing crisis that is being experienced is hurting people on what would be considered moderate to middle and upper incomes. A place to call home—it does not seem like such an unreasonable request. Yet, for far too many, the security of knowing they have a place that is theirs, that is safe and secure, seems out of reach.

We do not have to go too far to hear stories of what we as policymakers already know. We already know that there is a lack of stable, affordable housing. We know there is rising inequality and we know many families are experiencing mortgage stress or struggling to pay their rent. Young couples and families should have a strong sense of hope and ambition, of excitement about the future. Whether that relates to purchasing a home or finding a rental property, the goal is the same—a place to call home. That aspiration should not be a privilege but a right afforded to all of us. It is something that perhaps my generation and I have taken for granted, but for generations going forward, particularly my children's generation, it is something that will no longer be able to take for granted.

It is up to those of us in the privileged position as legislators to listen to these hopeful voices and do what we can to make sure that aspiration is not wasted.

For me, having a place to call home means having a space to love in, to grow up in, even to hide in after a terrible day, a place that gives a sense of belonging. I know that all members of this place would share similar feelings about their own properties. I want to share with the House the story of a 44-year-old single mum who runs her own successful business and has a very good rental history. As reported in the *Illawarra Mercury*, she is now homeless, after failing to find a place for herself and her children. She was forced into emergency accommodation at a local caravan park. She attends open inspections with no less than 60 other applicants. She has applied for more than 50 properties, but because of her income she is not eligible for social housing. She is in what I call the "missing middle". She does not earn enough to afford market rent but earns too much to apply for social housing.

I hear too many stories of people living in tents or in their cars. Imagine the mental stress that those men, women and children are experiencing. Those stories are becoming all too common. They are happening across my community and across New South Wales. The social housing waitlist continues to be a substantial indicator of the lack of social housing in New South Wales. Currently, over 50,000 applicants are waiting for social housing, with those in some areas expected to be waiting for 10 years. We simply do not have enough social and affordable housing in New South Wales. Decreased home ownership will continue to place pressure on the rental market and social housing in the State.

The State Government must immediately place greater investment into social and affordable housing. We must also focus on rental and tenant rights and privileges to ensure that tenants are able to rent a property and feel as though it is their home for a long time and not what has traditionally been seen as transitional housing. We also need intervention to ensure the rental market is adequately provided with affordable rental properties. For example, when new land releases are announced, there should be affordable rental properties within those land releases. As legislators we all need to pay attention, because housing affordability and homelessness are critical issues for our society. Without urgent intervention they have long-term consequences for individuals, communities and families.

#### **KATOOMBA HIGH SCHOOL WORK EXPERIENCE STUDENTS**

**Ms TRISH DOYLE (Blue Mountains) (19:25):** It is often said that the world of politics exists in a bubble. As MPs and staffers who live and breathe politics, it can often be refreshing to spend some time listening to the views of young people newly exposed to our political environment. In the previous sitting week, I had the privilege of hosting two work experience students from Katoomba High School. Year 10 students Joe Woodburn and Edward Bell-Smith were able to join me and my team both in our electorate office in Springwood and at Parliament House. I asked them to prepare a speech for me detailing their experiences and sharing some of their thoughts about our line of work. Here is what they had to say:

Work experience with Trish Doyle was a once in a lifetime experience. The time we spent in her office was informative, interesting and fun. Her staffers Kal, Donna, Kate and Ilsa made us feel right at home, welcoming us into the office and giving us projects to work on. We also thank Camille for helping to organise our placement.

Before coming to Trish's office, we both assumed that the work that we would be given would be mundane tasks such as making tea and shredding paper. This could not be further from the truth as the work that we were given had genuine importance. In the first couple of hours of arriving, we were given the task of drafting an email to the Minister for Regional Roads and to the constituents of the Megalong Valley.

Throughout the week, we wrote several more reports on various topics including the proposed Lithgow Incinerator. We drafted Notices of Motions on both the disastrous effect that raising the Warragamba Dam would have on the environment and the lack of action by the Government on installing air purifiers at local schools. We were even given the task of drafting a letter to the Premier.

The tasks were challenging and involved a lot of time, research and patience which gave us a greater understanding of all the hard work that staffers do that often goes unnoticed. The outstanding interest that they have in local issues and all the time that they give to the constituents really is what keeps our communities running.

After three days in the office, we made the trip down to Sydney to spend the day inside of Parliament House. Trish very kindly spent the morning giving us a tour of the area and introduced us to so many of her colleagues which was a wonderful experience. We enjoyed meeting and talking to everybody, including the members for Cessnock, Londonderry, Kogarah, Swansea, Lakemba, The Entrance, Bankstown, Campbelltown, Pittwater, Hornsby as well as the Honourable Bronnie Taylor MLC and the wonderful parliamentary staff.

We were surprised by how warm, friendly and welcoming everybody was to us, with so many MPs taking time out of their busy schedules to listen to what we have to say and talk to us about life in the political world. It was also interesting to see the contrasting difference between how Members acted inside and outside of Question Time.

In the afternoon of our visit we had the opportunity to attend a forum on Men's Mental Health. The forum was very emotive and gave us real insight into the way that we look at suicide in Australia. The Minister for Mental Health started off by speaking about the great progress that has been made in the prevention against male suicide in recent years, but also talked about the work that needs to be done.

We heard the moving story of a man who had experienced suicidal thoughts in his life and the suggestions that he had in preventing suicide. Growing stronger as a community, so that we get to the point where men are able to speak comfortably about their wellbeing is vital in dealing with suicide rates.

Until the day comes when men feel comfortable to share their feelings and stories, male suicide will always be an issue.

...

It was really concerning to learn of the statistics about male suicide rates in Australia. About 75% of suicides are men, 42% of men will drop out of therapy and 72% of men will not seek help on mental health problems. This is why programs like Doing it Tough are so important. Every day in Australia 7 men commit suicide, which is why we need communities that provide a space for men to talk about their problems and the forum we went to highlighted this important issue.

We are both really thankful for the way we were taken on board as part of the team at Trish's office and how we were given work that was important and meaningful. We thank the Speaker for his acknowledgement at the beginning of Question Time. We also thank the kind members of Parliament from both houses for taking time out of their busy days to meet with us. We hope that we can spend more time in the future inside of Trish's office and Parliament House.

**Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal) (19:30):** I thank the member for Blue Mountains for delivering this evening that extremely well written speech by the school volunteers. It was probably the best speech the member for Blue Mountains has delivered in this Chamber.

**TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Alex Greenwich):** They are all good.

**Mr ADAM CROUCH:** It was great to see that young school volunteers could spend time in an MP's office and come into this Chamber and also realise that, away from the argy-bargy of question time, a lot of collaborative work goes on between MPs in this place, some with good humour because we often need it in this job. It is great that young people are wanting to engage with MPs and learn about what we do on a daily or weekly basis and how this incredible Parliament works for the entire community of New South Wales. I commend those students for their excellent contributions. I am glad they enjoyed their time in Parliament and volunteering in the office of the member for Blue Mountains. No doubt similar sorts of engagements with students across New South Wales should be encouraged for all MPs.

### EDUCATION REFORM

**Mr JONATHAN O'DEA (Davidson) (19:31):** The groundbreaking reforms to the New South Wales education system announced this week with the introduction of a pre-kindergarten year of education will have a significant positive impact in my electorate of Davidson. Under the plans of education Minister Sarah Mitchell, a free year of education will be provided to all four-year-old children in New South Wales. Studies have shown that providing this extra education can have a huge impact on a child's later development, leading to a much easier pathway into kindergarten, a stronger grasp of social skills, more positive interaction with other children and, ultimately, an enormous benefit for later learning. New South Wales will see the establishment of pre-kindergarten facilities by 2030 in a program established in collaboration with the Victorian Government—a shining example of the levels of cooperation possible between governments of different political persuasions.

My electorate of Davidson has seen considerable growth in the time that I have been in Parliament, with an increased number of young families making local suburbs their homes. The electorate is likewise the choice for many families whose language spoken within the home is not English. Beginning school at four will provide more opportunities for the children of close-knit multicultural families to develop early language skills, which will not only assist them in later years but also help bring those language skills home to their families. It is significant that this universal pre-kindergarten education is to be provided completely free through the New South Wales education department. The choice of parents to later educate their children within a private school framework will not impact on their ability to provide this important first step in their child's education. The children of parents whose choices have been limited due to financial constraints will benefit enormously from that extra year of learning, a vital early stepping stone in their education.

My electorate of Davidson currently has 12 preschool and kindergarten facilities and 11 public primary schools, which will benefit from those groundbreaking reforms in the New South Wales education system. The preschools and kindergartens to benefit are Belrose Family Day Care, Uniting Forest Preschool and kindergarten Belrose, Ganeinu Long Day Care and Preschool, Happy Feet Family Day Care Lindfield, Acre Woods Childcare Roseville, KU Killara Park Preschool, Lindfield Montessori, Roseville Preschool Kindergarten, East Lindfield Community Preschool, St Ives Preschool Kindergarten, Lady Game Community Kindergarten and Christ Church St Ives Preschool. I also acknowledge the public primary schools in my electorate as Roseville, Kambora, Lindfield and Lindfield East public schools; St Ives, St Ives North and St Ives Park public schools; Castle Cove Public School; as well as Belrose, Mimosa and Wakehurst public schools. Together with special needs schools Cromehurst and Sir Eric Woodward, those schools will all have an incredible opportunity for more inclusive schooling.

The reforms will also attract more teachers into the New South Wales education system, while providing many young mothers the opportunity to return to the workforce a year sooner. In turn, that will increase family incomes and provide those mothers with an additional year of superannuation savings. I commend the Premier, the Treasurer, the education Minister and the Government generally for the initiatives announced this week, especially in facilitating a vital first step in the education of all children in New South Wales.

### ELECTRICITY PRIVATISATION

**Ms YASMIN CATLEY (Swansea) (19:36):** This is sadly not the first time that I have raised a very important issue in this House, and this evening I discuss the detrimental impact that the New South Wales Liberal Government's decision to privatise the State's energy assets is having on not only the residents of the Swansea electorate but also the people right across this State. We will all remember that it started back in June 2014, when the then Government announced its plan to privatise the poles and wires across New South Wales. The then Government also promised that all of the money generated from that plan would be used to build new assets that would be owned by the State and that energy prices would not rise as a result of the scheme.

We also know how the promise not to sell the new assets went. In debate on the Electricity Retained Interest Corporations Bill 2015, the then Parliamentary Secretary for Treasury and current Treasurer said that allowing private investment in the network assets would mean a more efficient network and therefore lower prices for consumers. Nothing could be further from the truth, and the Treasurer himself has admitted that in the past weeks by negotiating to buy back the exact assets that were privatised in 2014.

The people of Swansea and I fiercely opposed the Government's plan to privatise electricity. In fact, during the 2015 election campaign, which was dominated by that issue, locals constantly told me that the privatisation of the State's electricity network would see energy prices skyrocket as well as a lack of resource availability. I shared that view with my local community, and I voted against the privatisation of the network. Despite that, the privatisation of energy prevailed. Today in this House, the Premier said that the Government took it to an election and had a mandate. I say to this House right here and now: That was not the case in the electorate of Swansea. The 15 per cent swing against the Government was mostly because of its privatisation plan, and it turns out the people of Swansea were spot on.

We just need to look to the events that have unfolded over the past few weeks to see that the Government's privatisation of electricity assets has terribly burdened the people of New South Wales. The State's energy resources have become so scarce that families right across this State have been bracing for blackouts and soaring power bills. That came straight from the Treasurer's mouth. We even saw the Treasurer, and Minister for Energy pleading to residents to turn off their heating, lights and other appliances in the midst of winter. The Minister's actions are an absolute joke. We are living in the twenty-first century, not in the Middle Ages. Energy supply and cost should not be an issue, but under this Liberal Government they are.

The Government has clearly not learned that its ideological obsession with privatisation results in nothing but job losses, less services and higher prices. Being charged more for basic essential services like electricity has such negative impacts on everyone across the community, but it especially hurts low-income earners. Like you, Mr Assistant Speaker, I represent many of those people. With the rise in the cost of living, the stark reality is that more low-income earners, not only in the Swansea electorate but right across New South Wales, are staring down the barrel of having their electricity disconnected as a result of the incredible price increases.

It is very clear from the Government's energy privatisation agenda that members opposite care more about their economic aspirations than they do about the people of New South Wales. Their actions have done nothing but hurt local communities and prove that they are not fit for governing. It is time for the New South Wales Liberal Government to own up to its mistakes and acknowledge that privatising our electricity was the wrong decision. It must then take immediate action to shore up supplies and decrease power costs right across this State, so that residents can turn on their heaters and are not left freezing.

### PUBLIC HOUSING

**Mr JIHAD DIB (Lakemba) (19:41):** Around budget time an inordinate amount of time is devoted to headline figures, costs and percentages. Budgets are framed as zero-sum games with winners and losers. I think we all fall into that trap sometimes, but in reality a budget is about people. There is an expression in Arabic—and my apologies to Hansard in advance—"Khair al-nas man yanfa' al-nas". It dates back to a tenth-century scholar, Al-Daraqutni, and basically translates as "The best of people are those that bring the most benefit to the rest of mankind." The obligation to judge ourselves not by whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much but by whether we provide enough for those who have little is shared across every culture and every time.

No issue presents as a more acute example of where we fall short than in housing. I remember back in December 2020 seeing a performance by the Riverwood Community Choir in my electorate of Lakemba. The

choir is made up of social housing residents. One member who had previously sought my help for a transfer told me that he did not want to leave anymore because the choir had become their family. It reminds us that home is much more than bricks and mortar; it is about belonging. It reminds us that our obligation to ensure that everyone in New South Wales receives affordable and adequately maintained housing is, at its core, about respecting the dignity of every citizen.

That extends not just to public housing but also to the bigger issue of housing affordability. A week ago the Australian Bureau of Statistics found that the combined value of all dwellings in New South Wales is now \$4.1 trillion, which is 40.1 per cent of the total value of dwellings in Australia. That is great news for those who own a portfolio, but it is not great news for those who are trying to break into the property market. At its meeting on 7 June, the Reserve Bank increased the cash rate target by 50 basis points. That creates further mortgage pain for families and compounds the cost-of-living crunch that people are under at the moment. We have heard of new plans for housing as recently as today. But the fact is that Premier after Premier have said that they will do something about it, and we have not quite got there yet. But for those who do not even think about getting to that—they are in social housing, if they are the lucky ones—owning a home seems as distant now as it has ever seemed.

I represent a community that experiences comparatively greater disadvantage than many others. We have the fourth highest rate of low-income families, the third highest rate of unemployment and the fourth highest proportion of public housing dwellings. We have more than 2,600 public housing dwellings and what appears to be a seemingly endless waiting list. Indeed, across the three allocation zones of Canterbury, Riverwood and Bankstown there are 3,150 people on the general waiting list and 244 on the priority waiting list. These are facts and figures that we can dwell on, but each figure represents a person and a story. I do not tell the following stories to depress the House but to remind it of our shared obligations. I do not tell these stories to shame a government agency that is under-resourced and well beyond capacity. I tell these stories because we need to better resource those agencies to support people in need.

An elderly man in my electorate was sick in hospital for many months. He lost his house because he was unable to pay the rent. The hospital called my office because he had nowhere to go upon his discharge. We called Department of Communities and Justice – Housing, also known as DCJ Housing. He was already on the priority list. We then called Link2home but he was only given two days of emergency accommodation proximate to the hospital, given that he needed regular check-ups. Then they tried to move him further away. The man was ill, had no car and had breathing problems. A female public housing tenant called my office. She was living next door to a private dwelling that was having its foundations excavated. During that process, rats, mice and other vermin that lived below were forced to the surface and infested her dwelling next door. The rats ate through the floorboards. Her daughter was terrified and she refuses to live there. An exterminator performed a quick fix but said that the issue would persist. She was told it was her responsibility to fix the problem. She is on a transfer list, but we know that list is long. In the meantime, she and her daughter are crashing with friends and sometimes sleeping in their car.

Then there is, given the recent weather conditions—some of the wettest months we have had—the problem of mould. A constituent contacted my office to speak about the significant damage in her father's unit. Mould grew on the floor, shoes, clothes and bed sheets. She called DCJ Housing to request maintenance. My office followed up on her behalf. Such is the scale of the backlog of maintenance required to public housing that it has taken months of calls and emails to resolve the problem. Due to the mould, the elderly man slept on the couch. He fell off onto the floor and injured himself. As I said in this House earlier this month, the New South Wales Government needs to ensure that DCJ Housing can assist residents to remove mould as it is an unacceptable health risk. Currently, residents are being told they have to remove it themselves. What else needs to be done? Clearly, we need to ensure that there are better standards in social housing and that more social housing is available. The challenges are immense, but they are not so great that the collective will of this place cannot overcome them or at least make material improvements in the lives of the people we represent.

#### **NEW THURGOONA PUBLIC SCHOOL**

**Mr JUSTIN CLANCY (Albury) (19:46):** I welcome the announcement made today of a new school for Thurgoona. Last October I spoke in this place about the increasingly urgent need for a new public school in Thurgoona. I have been hearing from parents and staff about their concerns and have been pressing the Government on the case for a new school. Today, in delivering the New South Wales budget for 2022-23, the Treasurer placed a new school for Thurgoona firmly on the worklist. It is a fully funded project, it is a public school, and this Government is delivering it. Much preliminary work has been underway to get us to this point, and now, with funding for planning, we are entering the phase where substantial planning will commence, including site options, size, facilities and costing.

The local State primary school, Thurgoona Public School, has a terrific reputation across Albury. As a result, the school and its staff have shouldered the responsibility to cater for numbers of students well beyond what that school was built to accommodate. At the end of last year enrolment was 599 students, while the enrolment cap was set at 324 students. Enrolment as at today has crept up to 628. The issue and its pressing nature are plain to see—a 10 per cent increase in students just this year. In effect, that equates to a whole additional class. Demountables almost outnumber permanent classrooms. The school population has impacted the community in terms of vehicle traffic as well. Council has done its research, noting that the under-16 age group in Thurgoona is expected to double by 2036. Almost 2,000 school-aged children will be living in Thurgoona. Capacity of this local area is expected to reach 20,000 additional dwellings.

Although there are two independent schools in the local area—Trinity Anglican College and Border Christian College—it has been inadequate that public education did not expand to meet need. While there has been some underutilised capacity in State schools elsewhere in Albury, this observation does not get to grips with the on-the-ground logistics and realities of the situation. For a start, Thurgoona is the major growth area for the city. It is the epicentre of residential subdivision and is undergoing a population explosion. Our other existing public schools are separated from Thurgoona by the Hume Freeway. The freeway crossing points have become choked with traffic, essentially centred around school drop-off and pick-up times. Hundreds of vehicles are crisscrossing the freeway to take kids to school.

There is real value for families and students from public education. The State must be strongly represented in the mix as the Thurgoona-Wirlinga precinct grows. For several years now, I have been in discussion with local departmental officials and ministerial offices about the need to plan ahead of the population wave that is now well developed. Departmental officers made visits to Thurgoona to refresh the demographic data and to carry out the research necessary to produce a compelling business case for investment in such expensive infrastructure. A service need report was completed in late 2021, and a briefing in February indicated the pieces of the puzzle were at last beginning to fit into place. Even more pressure is building in this precinct. Albury City Council is considering further expansion of residential subdivisions north along Kerr Road, along farmland east of and behind Thurgoona. A new school must be understood in this context. Council's planners report that the Kerr Road development will carve land into 198 lots as part of an \$11 million Thurgoona development, which they note "will provide a significant injection of additional residential land which is in demand throughout the region".

These emerging estates will be well positioned to connect onto a new Hume Freeway crossing point, planned as a link to Davey Road. This will take some pressure off Thurgoona Drive and traffic problems around the current school. A number of new preschools are also under development here. The area is growing and businesses are taking action to provide services to the community as it expands. I thank all who have been active in this campaign. In particular, I acknowledge the committed work of Albury City Council, Sally Hendy and the Thurgoona Community Action Group. I acknowledge committed local teachers and educators, like Heather Hayes, who have written to me about schooling and broader education issues and kept the fire burning. I thank the Minister and her staff for making this happen. It is much appreciated. The planning for a new school for the expanding Thurgoona community will help establish what will be a most welcome addition to our first-class education capabilities and facilities.

### PORT STEPHENS HEALTH SERVICES

**Ms KATE WASHINGTON (Port Stephens) (19:51):** The health and hospital system in Port Stephens is in crisis. Recently I met with local nurses, whose stories horrified me. I have met with local patients who have suffered terrible, and sometimes tragic, outcomes because our hospitals do not have enough staff to cope. I have met with residents who were forced to fend for themselves in their hour of need because there were simply no ambulances available. The situation in Port Stephens is getting worse. Every single day I am contacted by patients whose stories are shocking. Some of them are appalling. All of them demonstrate that our health system is failing to deliver the care that my community deserves. Today is budget day. The Premier, the Treasurer and the health Minister have all been bragging about how wonderful this budget is. But Port Stephens' only local hospital—the Tomaree hospital—received nothing, not a cent, in this budget. I know that local nurses at Tomaree hospital will be gutted, and so will local residents. This Government is just not listening.

For years I have been fighting for more resources at Tomaree hospital. It desperately needs more nurses, more doctors and expanded services, but year after year the hospital is ignored by this Government. Sadly, this year is no different. Recently I met with the Nurses and Midwives Association, with ten local nurses who live in Port Stephens and work across the Hunter region. The stories they shared were horrific. One of them looked at me and said, "What we're doing isn't nursing. It's just crisis management, day after day. It isn't nursing, anymore." It was heartbreaking to hear these exceptional local nurses, with decades of experience, thinking of walking away from the profession altogether because of this Government. They told me that some nurses sit in their cars in the parking lot, prior to a shift, willing themselves to walk into the building because they are so understaffed and they

are so worried about patient outcomes. After their shift—which is usually a double shift—they cry in their cars before heading home and putting on a brave face for their families.

Just think about that for a second. The situation is so bad in our hospitals that nurses are sitting in their cars before and after their shifts willing themselves, convincing themselves, to take another step. One of the nurses with many years of experience—someone we need to keep in the system—shared her fears and lost hope. Every day she just hopes that she will get through her shift without a career-ending event. Every nurse in my office admitted that their workplace stress levels were so high that they had a fully mapped out plan to leave nursing because any day could be their last. That is not a cliché. They are at breaking point and they deserve so much better than this Government is offering.

Of course the ultimate victims of the system in crisis are the patients. At Tomaree Hospital, wait times for Port Stephens residents are dangerously long. Too many leave before they are even seen. They wait for dangerously long times for ambulances. When they are taken to a bigger hospital, they face some of the longest waits in the State. More than 57 per cent of patients at the new Maitland Hospital spend over four hours in emergency, waiting to be seen. That is one of the worst wait times in New South Wales. Yet this is where paramedics are now taking many local patients from Port Stephens. The whole system—from the ground up—has been neglected for so long that it is crumbling. The reality is new buildings do not save lives; doctors and nurses do. But this Government refuses to properly staff our hospitals and pay the workers. Enough is enough. Lives are being put at risk and our local health workers are being driven from their jobs. That is the record of this New South Wales Liberal Government: 12 years of waste and mismanagement.

New South Wales is heading towards a record \$160 billion of debt. Our triple-A credit rating has been shredded. We are the highest taxing State in Australia, yet our essential services are falling apart. We desperately need a new direction. We need a government that is willing to meet with nurses, hear their stories and not come into this place and pretend that everything's okay. Because it's not okay; they are not okay. When we meet with local nurses, hear their stories and see their heartache, we know immediately that they are not even fighting for themselves; they are fighting for all of us. They deserve better, because the healthcare system in Port Stephens is in meltdown. Given the naturally greater health needs of our region's predominantly vulnerable, aging population, the risks are too high. For the sake of my community's health and wellbeing, I could keep urging this Government to do more, to do something for Tomaree Hospital and for its nurses and workers. But it has not; today's budget makes it clear that it will not. So it is time to elect a government that will care.

### THE ENTRANCE ELECTORATE HOMELESSNESS

**Mr DAVID MEHAN (The Entrance) (19:56):** The Together Home program promised to house and support the homeless and those at risk of homelessness. However, in the face of what can only be called a housing crisis, the program is struggling to meet the needs of my community. A perfect example of that is a young woman in my electorate who recently built up the courage to leave a violent relationship after seeing the Government's messaging on her TV. As a result, she became homeless. She thought that once she took the step of leaving the relationship for herself and her children, her life would be better. That young lady advised my office that she was wrong. The assistance available to her was hard to access. She said, "I was doing all the things the DCJ asked, but it was difficult."

With three children in tow, two of whom have special needs, she was moved from motel to motel to satisfy the 28-day temporary accommodation requirements. She made a number of calls to see whether the Department of Communities and Justice [DCJ] would approve an extension. Having not heard back about the extension, she contacted my office the day before one of her temporary accommodation locations was due to expire. On making inquiries, my staff were advised that for temporary accommodation to continue she needed to view and apply for two properties a day and link in with services. Given this young lady's circumstances, that was very difficult for her. Eventually that day the extension was provided, but it happened at the last minute. Surely more notice could have been given and more flexibility applied in the case of this young woman. She has now been provided with appropriate support services and longer term accommodation, which is a good outcome. However, her experience is far from the "housing first" approach promised by Together Home. It was precarious, stressful and always with strings attached.

On 11 May homeless service providers on the Central Coast held a rally at Wyong to protest the housing situation. Jade Brown, Uniting's coordinator for youth and homelessness on the Central Coast said the rally was to draw attention to the housing crisis that so many Central Coast locals face. Jade told Central Coast Community News:

"We need more funding for additional Central Coast temporary crisis accommodation to support the most vulnerable in our community," ...

"We want to see funding for Sleep Buses, a possible safe rough sleeping option and free access to empty nursing homes for older people experiencing homelessness.

"The current rental crisis on the Central Coast is pushing more people into homelessness services and we need increased funding for more case management services to help people in need navigate the private rental market, Housing NSW and other vital supports such as Health and Psychosocial support.

"Longer-term housing solutions are also required.

"We need 6000 more affordable housing dwellings to keep up with housing demand on the Central Coast," ...

I acknowledge the good work being done by the Central Coast staff of the Department of Communities and Justice. They are always willing to help my staff and answer their inquiries. I acknowledge Jade and the other specialist homelessness service providers on the Central Coast, who are dealing with a difficult system and a housing crisis that is not being adequately addressed. The Government must do better. We need more support for specialist homelessness service providers. We need more flexibility, longer stays and more support in the temporary housing program. "Housing First" must be more than a slogan. We need better protection for renters in our community. Finally, we need to squarely address the cause of the housing crisis by building more affordable and social housing.

**Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal) (20:00):** I acknowledge the contribution of the member for The Entrance. I acknowledge the great work being done by the team at the Department of Communities and Justice [DCJ] right across the Central Coast. I also acknowledge the comments made by Jade Brown. The department runs an inter-agency meeting with all the providers across the Central Coast. Sadly, I have been the only Central Coast MP to attend those inter-agency meetings.

**Mr David Mehan:** Point of order—

**The ASSISTANT SPEAKER:** The Clerk will stop the clock.

**Mr David Mehan:** The member is wrong. He is misinformed. I attended the last inter-agency meeting.

**The ASSISTANT SPEAKER:** There is no point of order. The member for Terrigal will continue.

**Mr ADAM CROUCH:** We have all acknowledged that housing affordability issues exist right across New South Wales. DCJ is doing great work, along with the agencies. It has done an incredible job securing funding for Together Home programs right across the Central Coast, including for First Nations peoples. Some \$1.3 million is going towards ensuring that First Nations people are protected on the Central Coast. Of course there is more work to be done. The Government will continue to focus on providing great programs like the Together Home program that is being delivered on the Central Coast.

#### NEWCASTLE ELECTORATE SOCIAL HOUSING

**Mr TIM CRAKANTHROP (Newcastle) (20:02):** There is a disheartening omission for Newcastle in today's budget. As in the last budget and the budget before that, in today's budget we did not see one dollar allocated to new social housing in the Newcastle electorate—not one! Some 1,366 applicants are waiting for a property in the NN07 Newcastle zone. That is higher than the year before, which was higher than the year before that. People have to wait for over 10 years to get a property with three or more bedrooms. On top of that, in the past 12 months house prices grew 7.1 per cent. The median house rental price has increased by 14.2 per cent. But this Government has not given one dollar to new social housing in the Newcastle electorate. Rather, the Government is getting rid of it. Land values are higher. It flogs off the social housing in more desirable suburbs. It says that money is being reinvested. But what we get instead are apartment blocks way out west. Three- and four-bedroom houses near the coast with public transport connections and services are all gone. The money goes to one- and two-bedroom apartments on the edge of the city, where residents need to change buses twice just to get anywhere.

The Government tries to tell us that it is increasing stock, but the number of bedrooms is reducing, and I have the data to prove that. In the past 18 months three properties in Stockton, a coastal suburb, have fetched almost \$3 million. They were houses that the Government let fall into disrepair, and now you would knock them down. Four blocks in Wickham have just sold, right next to the Newcastle Transport Interchange, that were marketed for \$1.3 million. They were government-owned. We could have put some social housing there, right next to the train station, but I am sure the development application will be in soon for a private developer to make millions out of its own apartment block. Today the Government announced its pre-election, "making up for lost time" budget of throwing money at everyone and everything that has been neglected for the last decade. Still, there was not one dollar for new social housing in the Newcastle State electorate. It has been made abundantly clear that this Government has no regard for social housing tenants. It is much more interested in how it can make money out of them.



**The ASSISTANT SPEAKER:** I thank the member for Newcastle. I was surprised by his conclusion. It must be the lilt of the member's delivery that brings Government members into the Chamber. I acknowledge his contribution.

### **TERRIGAL LOCAL WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD**

**Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal) (20:06):** It is with great pride that I recognise some of the amazing women in the Terrigal electorate. While every woman in my electorate deserves commendation for her unique contribution, these women have been nominated by their peers and our community as particularly outstanding members of the community. I thus offer my sincerest congratulations to the following women. Kristal Naividi is the founder and principal lawyer of Coastal Lawyers. Her experiences as a teenager and young adult provide her with a true sense of empathy and understanding in her professional career. She is a mother of three with a husband in cancer remission. She has created an exceptional career through hard work.

Waverney Innes has a professional career in clinical psychology and has served the community with passion for over 20 years. It is the passion, commitment and dedication she shows that is particularly inspiring to colleagues and friends. Dr Yantra de Vilder, a dynamic member of the community, is a local artist, composer, filmmaker and performer. She is the artistic director of the 5 Lands Walk and, in partnership with her artistic contributions, she advocates for the environment. She is an inspiration to all. At the age of 22, Kristin Downing is an incredible member of our community. She has spent much of her time caring for two children who had previously been in their grandmother's custody. She works to support their welfare and provide them with a nurturing environment in which to grow up. This admirable devotion is to be both acknowledged and celebrated.

Allison Sharkey-Smith is heavily involved with the Terrigal Surf Life Saving Club as an educator, mentor and support person. While humble, her hard work and hours volunteering do not go unnoticed. She has met these challenges with professionalism and positivity, pouring hours into the club as a volunteer. This monumental effort is essential in supporting our Terrigal community. Elle Nielsen is the owner of the Body Movement gym, the infamous Bowlarama and forward form protein. Her work has particular emphasis on women's fitness, where she looks to support the mental and physical wellbeing of fellow women right across the Central Coast. Nada Potter is a former Terrigal Woman of the Year nominated again by her peers. She is a local psychologist who works in paediatric health. She works at The READ Clinic and both organises and operates the Central Coast Kids Day Out. She works tirelessly to support their welfare and ensure that all children are treated with kindness.

Within the Country Women's Association [CWA], Marilyn Lovell performs an essential role as the coordinator of catering. Despite the challenges of the pandemic, she has participated in several charity events and fundraisers to support the CWA and other community initiatives. Norma Boag is the second half of this dream team as the coordinator of catering for CWA. The hours she has committed to preparing food and selling raffle tickets is a testament to her community involvement in this organisation. Marie George is an essential part of the Terrigal community. She owns and operates George's Fruit Barn, a thriving business. I wish her a very happy sixtieth birthday. In recent years, Marie has launched Green View Gallery, which supports local artists and artisans. Her business ventures have won her multiple awards, yet it is the personal connection with the community that makes her so well loved.

After the tragic loss of her husband to cardiac arrest and the near loss of her father, Kelly Drover has made it her mission to improve access to defibrillators in the community to prevent future incidents. This admirable work has undoubtedly saved lives. The mother of two autistic boys, Nicole Verhoef works to support the welfare of not only her kids but also families in similar situations. Through her church and social media, she shares her wisdom and experience to empower other mothers. Kim McLoughry is a highly dedicated member of the community who has led Regional Youth Support Services as its CEO since 2014. That is just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to her involvement in youth work. She advocates for adequate support, facilities and resources to empower young people.

Taia Sansom is the instrumental vice-president of the 3 Villages Community Group. In that role, she has organised environmental initiatives and advocated for funding of shared outdoor furniture, such as playground equipment and picnic tables, to improve the community's atmosphere and environment. It is with great pleasure that I acknowledge Rachel Hilditch, who is Terrigal's 2022 Local Woman of the Year. In 2016 Rachel's son, Gabe, was diagnosed with a rare and aggressive form of childhood cancer. Heartbreakingly, Gabe lost his fight in 2018. In the wake of his passing, Rachel built a local charity in his memory, Love like Gabe, raising money for Bear Cottage in Manly and other support services to assist other families facing a life-limiting diagnosis. I thank Belinda Dew for nominating Rachel and highlighting the strength she brings to the Terrigal community. I reiterate my congratulations to all the nominees for Woman of the Year and personally thank them for their dedication to our community.

*Community Recognition Notices***MR PHILIP GARLING AM OF BERRY**

**Mr GARETH WARD (Kiama)**—Today the Parliament of NSW congratulates Mr Philip Garling AM of Berry. Mr Garling has been appointed as a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for his significant service to the energy, construction and infrastructure services throughout Australia. I applaud Mr Garling's outstanding contribution across various sectors after graduating from the University of Sydney with a bachelor of building, your career at Lend Lease Capital Services and as Global Head of Infrastructure for AMP and in your current role as Chairman of Energy Queensland. Once again, congratulations to Philip Garling AM on this incredibly well-deserved recognition and thank you for your significant and ongoing contribution to our local Berry community.

**SOUTH COAST BRAVEHEARTS**

**Mr GARETH WARD (Kiama)**—Today the Parliament of New South Wales congratulates the South Coast Bravehearts Committee. Last Saturday 18th June, the Bravehearts Winter Ball was held in Berry with a terrific turn out. The South Coast is also about to get its own 'Ditto Keep Safe Adventure' interactive education program with a dedication education team based in the Shoalhaven which is fantastic news. The leading child protection charity was also honoured with a Shoalhaven City Council civic reception. Some 25 years ago, the work of Bravehearts commenced under the guidance of founder Hetty Johnston. There will be another event coming up during National Child Protect Week 'The Ditto Teddy Bears Picnic' will be held on Saturday 10th September 2022 in Harry Sawkins Park in Nowra. This will be to celebrate Bravehearts Day which was formally known as White Balloon Day. In particular, I would like to acknowledge Wendy Woodward OAM who is the hard working Chairperson of South Coast Bravehearts.

**JAYMI MORRIS OF NOWRA**

**Mr GARETH WARD (Kiama)**—Today the Parliament of New South Wales congratulates Jaymi Morris of Nowra who was recently crowned New South Wales strongest woman. Jaymi Morris continues to take the powerlifting world by storm, with her most recent efforts, crowning her the strongest women in the state. The Nowra local recently took on the NSW State Titles for Powerlifting, competing in the Opens division. The other four women she was up against in the Opens class were all much taller and bigger than Morris – who usually competes in the low 80kg weight group – so she had her work cut out for her. Overall Morris' point total on the day was enough to secure her first place and the title of New South Wales strongest woman. Congratulations and well done to Jaymi Morris of Nowra.

**BUSINESS AWARDS**

**Mrs MELINDA PAVEY (Oxley)**—I was delighted to attend the 2022 Macleay Valley Business Awards. Hosted by the Macleay Valley Business Chamber the awards recognise business excellence. Congratulations to the award winners: Outstanding Start-up: L'idole Collaboration. Highly Commended, Health, Beauty, Wellbeing: Mirror Mirror Hair Lounge. Excellence in Health, Beauty, Wellbeing: Kirstie's Skinsational Beauty Therapy. Excellence in Innovation: Key Employment . Highly Commended, Professional Service (> 20 Employees): Coastal Wealth Directions. Excellence in Professional Service (> 20 Employees): Pathfinders. Outstanding Employee: Beau Henry. Excellence in Sustainability: KSC. Excellence in Agriculture: Blueberry Greens. Outstanding Community Organisation: SWRSLC. Highly Commended, Trades, Industry: Patterson Glass Works. Excellence in Trades & Industry: T&L Motors. Outstanding Business Leader: Lisa Reed. Outstanding Young Business Leader: Kinne Ring. Highly Commended, Professional Service (> 21 Employees): KSC. Excellence in Professional Service (> 21 Employees): Macleay Valley Support Services. Excellence in Diversity, Inclusion: Key Employment. Excellence in Micro Business: Mirror Mirror Hair Lounge. Highly Commended, Retail Service: Sweet Blossom Floral Design. Excellence in Retail Service: Ironstone & Co. Excellence in Small Business: Kirstie's Skinsational Beauty Therapy. Highly Commended, Tourism, Accommodation, Hospitality: Costa Rica Motel. Excellence in Tourism, Accommodation, Hospitality: Malt and Honey. Employer of Choice: Key Employment. Excellence in Business: Macleay RSL Club

**MR MURRAY BALFE**

**Mr DAVID MEHAN (The Entrance)**—I acknowledge and congratulate Mr Murray Balfe, who has recently been appointed as Principal of Lisarow High School. Lisarow High School is an excellent local school, which values collaborative leadership and seeks to meet the learning and welfare needs of students through academic programs coupled with extensive cultural, sporting and community participation opportunities. Mr Balfe was instated as Relieving Principal at the beginning of this year, but has recently been offered the permanent role, undoubtedly due to his outstanding commitment to the school and its students. Members of the Lisarow High School community have all boasted of his capability and aptitude for the position, many remarking his active presence and interest in the School and its activities is heartening. On behalf of Lisarow High School community,

I would like to commend Mr Balfe on his work ethic and wish him the very best of luck undertaking this new privileged position. Thank you.

#### **ROTARY CLUB OF THE ENTRANCE**

**Mr DAVID MEHAN (The Entrance)**—I acknowledge the Rotary Club of The Entrance, which is celebrating its 50-year anniversary, and congratulate them on the myriad of community projects they have accomplished in that time. The Rotary Club has fulfilled a variety of community projects since its establishment in 1972. Among many is the beautification of Saltwater Creek Park at Long Jetty which has been renamed Rotary Park, as well as initiated the erection of a pathway linking the retirement village at Killarney Vale with Councils cycle way. The Rotary Club has also contributed to Gosford Hospital Rotary Lodge and provided support for many charity programs and welfare agencies, including Camp Breakaway at San Remo, Meals on Wheels, Aspect School for children with Autism, Central Coast Kids in Needs and the Coast and Country Primary Care HOTS team. These are just some of many projects undertaken by the club over the last 50 years, and on behalf of The Entrance community, I would like to sincerely thank The Rotary Club of The Entrance for all they have achieved in our community. Thank you.

#### **THE ENTRANCE SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB**

**Mr DAVID MEHAN (The Entrance)**—I acknowledge The Entrance Surf Life Saving Club (SLSC), which is celebrating its 100-year anniversary of patrolling The Entrance Beach. The Club was founded in 1922 and was the second surf lifesaving club to commence operation on the Central Coast. At the time, the Club was mainly manned by lifeguards from Sydney in response to large numbers of Sydney tourists who flocked to The Entrance in the summertime. Today, the club remains an active and integral part of The Entrance community. With a strong ethos as a family club, members and guests are offered a wide variety of surf lifesaving programs and social activities. On behalf of The Entrance community, and beachgoers everywhere, I would like to congratulate The Entrance SLSC on 100 years of service and thank them for protecting our community. Thank you.

#### **VIVID LIVE 2022 LAUNCH**

**Ms GABRIELLE UPTON (Vaucluse)**—As part of the 2022 VIVID celebrations, Sydney Opera House this year again hosted VIVID Live – their annual festival for contemporary music. I was delighted to join the Sydney Opera House leadership and supporters for the opening night on 31 May 2022. A big part of VIVID Live is the Lighting of the Sails where the iconic Opera House sails are lit up. This year, the Sydney Opera House sails showcased Yarrkalpa – Hunting Ground, 2021 – a collaboration between the East Pilbara Martumili Artists and Sydney-based company Currious. The display was accompanied by an Electric Fields soundtrack and the voices of Martu Artists. They are just one of 70 international and Australian artists featured in this year's program. I want to congratulate and thank the SOH leadership including CEO Louise Herron AM, Head of Contemporary Music Ben Marshall who oversaw the festival and Trustee Chair Lucy Turnbull AO and Trustees the Hon. Bruce Baird AM, David Campbell OAM, Michael Ebeid AM, Kathryn Greiner AO, Deborah Mailman AM, Kevin McCann AM, Kylie Rampa, Jillian Segal AO, Phillip Wolanski AM. The Opera House is an international iconic and it was so wonderful to celebrate it through VIVID.

#### **KEVIN BELL'S 95TH BIRTHDAY**

**Mr LEE EVANS (Heathcote)**—It is with great pleasure that today I acknowledge Mr Kevin Bell on his 95th birthday celebrated on 19 June 2022. I trust Kevin had wonderful day celebrating this special occasion and was accompanied by his closest friends and family. I take this opportunity to extend my sincere congratulations to Kevin and wish him good health and happiness for the future.

#### **WESTERN SYDNEY PHILHARMONIC STRING ENSEMBLE**

**Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect)**—It was a pleasure to attend the Western Sydney Philharmonic (WSP) String Ensemble at St Patrick's Cathedral on Monday 13th June 2022. This ensemble was a celebration of the immense musical talent of Western Sydney. This concert follows the first of WSP's intensive music education masterclasses from 10th to 12th June 2022 for 17 local students with five outstanding professional musicians. The students and the professional musicians beautifully performed Bartok's Divertimento for String Orchestra Sz. 113 BB. 118 followed by Tchaikovsky's Serenade for Strings in C Major, Op.48. I acknowledge the fantastic work of the five professional musicians tutoring these students for this performance, including Emma Jezek on violin, Dana Lee on viola, Miles Martin-Chivers on Cello, Benjamin Ward on Bass, and especially Kristian Winther, Artistic Director, who conducted the performance. It was also great to hear from Max Holzner, WSP Chairman, who delivered the introduction speech for the performance. Congratulations to the students, tutors, and leadership team of WSP on a successful performance. Thank you to WSP for mentoring these Western Sydney students to

pursue their musical aspirations. I look forward to attending future ensembles to see what more Western Sydney Philharmonic will achieve.

#### **ROBERT MCCLELLAND AO**

**Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect)**—I would like to offer our community's, and my personal congratulations, to his Honour Justice Robert McClelland, on being made an Officer of the Order (AO) on 13th June 2022 as part of the Queen's Birthday Honours List. Justice McClelland has made a decades long contribution to the legal profession, commencing his legal career as an associate to Justice Phillip Evatt at the Federal Court of Australia from 1981 to 1982. He also served as the Australian Attorney-General in the Cabinet of Prime Ministers Kevin Rudd and Julia Gillard from 2007 to 2011. Justice McClelland subsequently served as a Judge of the Family Court of Australia from 2015, before being appointed as Deputy Chief Justice of the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia in 2018. Justice McClelland also made an important contribution by representing his community as the Australian Labor Party Federal Member for Barton from 1996 to 2013. Congratulations to Justice Robert McClelland on being awarded the Officer of the Order of Australia. Thank you for the contribution you have made to the legal profession and our community. You are a truly deserving recipient of this honour.

#### **SYDNEY YOUTH ORCHESTRA - ANNUAL FUNDRAISING GALA**

**Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect)**—It was a pleasure to attend the Sydney Youth Orchestra (SYO) Annual Fundraising Gala at the historic 50 Martin Place building on Thursday 9th June 2022. This was a wonderful evening which celebrated and supports the regional engagement of Sydney Youth Orchestras. Principals from the SYO performed along with Liisa Pallandi from the Australian Chamber Orchestra, who is an Alumna of SYO. All funds raised on the evening directly benefitted the SYO Opportunity Fund, which support regional based musicians, as well as musicians requiring financial support to participate within SYO's quality orchestral music program. This fundraising initiative is important as there are many talented young musicians in Western Sydney who need financial support to achieve their musical aspirations. The SYO is making a fantastic contribution to our Western Sydney community assisting these young musicians. Thank you to Shemara Wikramanayake, Managing Director and CEO of Macquarie Group, for hosting this event and supporting the SYO. It was a pleasure to meet you. Congratulations to the SYO on a successful Fundraising Gala. I look forward to continuing to support your wonderful musical initiatives in the future.

#### **NAZEEM, SHALEEN AND BENIZAR ALI**

**Dr JOE McGIRR (Wagga Wagga)**—Wagga Wagga's Benizar Ali has had to face some significant health challenges in her young life. Benizar was just five when she was diagnosed with cancer. After that initial diagnosis, the now-teenager underwent five years of treatment before getting the all-clear. Sadly, this good news was followed by a diagnosis of lupus, a condition that required Benizar and her family to travel long distances to seek specialist appointments. Benizar and her family soon realised they were not the only family from rural, regional and remote NSW who had to travel to seek specialist appointments, so they began a campaign to have a paediatric rheumatology outreach clinic established at Wagga Wagga Base Hospital. It was a campaign I was very happy to support. I am delighted to say that these efforts have paid off and the clinic is now operating. It was a pleasure to be able to meet Associate Professor Singh-Grewal when I paid a visit to the clinic this month. Congratulations to brave Benizar and her parents Nazeem and Shaleen, for wanting to help others. Let's hope we will see more services like this in our regional hospitals in the future.

#### **QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY AWARDS 2022**

**Mr JONATHAN O'DEA (Davidson)**—I acknowledge all recipients of the Queen's Birthday Honours, including the following in my electorate of Davidson: Dr Marlene Kanga AO from St Ives Chase, for her service to engineering, professional organisations and business. Mr Kersi Meher-Homji OAM of St Ives, for his dedication to the multicultural community and to cricket. Dr Cecile Ferguson OAM of St Ives, for her service to people with disability. Mr John Gatfield OAM of Lindfield, for his dedication to veterans and to broadcast media. Mr Stephen Lim AM of Killara, for his service to cancer support services and the community through several organisations. Dr Elizabeth Koff AM of Roseville, for her dedication to public health administration and governance, as well as to professional organisations. I commend and congratulate these six people whose contribution has been appropriately recognised by the wider Australian community through their awards.

#### **WOLLI CREEK HEALTH HUB**

**Mr STEPHEN KAMPER (Rockdale)**—Earlier this month, I had the privilege of attending the opening of the Wolli Creek Health Hub. This new hub is the result of an outstanding collaboration between SESLHD's Child and Family Health, Women's Health Program, St George Hospital Maternity Service and the not-for-profit organisation Karitane. By providing a broad range of services including midwifery, child and family health, parenting support and women's health, the hub will hugely benefit and promote the health and well-being of

residents in my electorate. Wolli Creek and its surrounding suburbs have been identified as a high-need assistance area with 24 per cent of residents having lived in Australia for less than five years, a higher-than-average rate of children with vulnerabilities, a sharp and continued rise in population including births and many international students and temporary resident visa holders with visiting grandparents and carers. This hub will provide much needed support and care and I commend all those who worked so hard to bring it to fruition.

#### **WESTERN SYDNEY TWO BLUES**

**Ms JULIA FINN (Granville)**—On 18 June 2022 I was delighted to see the Western Sydney Two Blues beat Randwick at Eric Tweeddale Stadium, Granville. The Two Blues were formed in 1879 and competes in the Shute Shield run by the New South Wales Rugby Union. They are one of the oldest clubs in the Sydney Premier Rugby competition. The club has produced nineteen Wallabies over the years, starting with the great Bill Cerutti in 1936 through to the club's current, Tatafu Polota-Nau. They have played in eight First grade grand finals. Prior to kickoff I joined Two Blues supporters in attending a briefing by Mr Phil Kearns AM, former Wallabies captain to hear more about the Rugby World Cups coming to Australia in 2027 and 2029. Members and fans alike still remember Australia's loss to the UK at Telstra Stadium in Sydney in November 2003 and are looking forward to the opportunities the Men's and Women's Rugby World Cups present. I am delighted to advise the House that the Two Blues won 21:5. I thank Randwick for their sportsmanship throughout the match and I thank Two Blues CEO Christian Burden for the kind invitation.

#### **HOLROYD RANGERS FC**

**Ms JULIA FINN (Granville)**—The Granville & Districts Soccer Football Association (GDSFA) is the governing body for soccer within the Parramatta/Cumberland area. They formed in 1900 and today the Challenge Shield is Australia's oldest continuously played soccer silverware, and possibly the Southern Hemisphere. On 17 June 2022 I was delighted to see Holroyd Rangers FC play Auburn District FC in the X League at Melita Stadium in Auburn. The Rangers formed in 1966 under the name "Guildford Cubs" and their slogan nowadays is "the family club". Last season (2021) the club also adopted a new jersey that featured more yellow – which was more reminiscent of their original strip where yellow was the dominant jersey colour. I can advise the House that the scores were mixed: in Xleague 2, Holroyd 2:Auburn 2 and in Xleague 1 it was Holroyd 1: Auburn 2. I thank both teams for their respect and fair play throughout the matches and I thank Rangers President Danny Rizk for the kind invitation to attend.

#### **MS CELIA STRANG**

**Dr MICHAEL HOLLAND (Bega)**—I would like to congratulate local Tilba resident Ms Celia Strang for her work directing the award-winning feature film, Mother Mountain. The film, which highlights the natural beauty and spiritual significance of Gulaga Mountain (particularly for the Indigenous Yuin people of my electorate), has garnered international accolades by recently winning the Best Narrative Feature Film category at the Cannes World Film Festival for the month of October 2021. Working alongside cultural producer, well known author, and Aboriginal woman Fran Dobbie, Mother Mountain was shot across multiple different localities such as Narooma and Bermagui as well as Ms Strang's home in the foothills of Tilba. This film is a shining example of Australian cinema and showcases some of the very best of what the Far South Coast has to offer. Although the film enjoyed its world premiere at this year's Jewish International Film Festival back in March, a special screening of the work is currently playing at the Narooma Kinema. I congratulate Ms Strang and the entire production team for their wonderful work in bringing Mother Mountain to our screens.

#### **COLONEL PETER FLORANCE (RETD.) AM**

**Dr MICHAEL HOLLAND (Bega)**—I would like to recognise and congratulate Colonel Peter Florance AM of Bega after being appointed a Member of the Order of Australia in the 2022 Queen's Birthday Honours List. Mr Florance was included in this month's honours for his significant service to veterans and their families, and to the community. Many in the Bega electorate would know of Mr Florance's work with Legacy, particularly for his advocacy role on pensions for veterans and their families as founder of the Far South Coast Ex-service Pension Support Centre and chairman of the Bega Legacy Group for more than a decade. However his contribution to the wider community extends much further. As past captain of the Numbugga Rural Fire Brigade, member of the Bemboka Show Society, a supporter and volunteer at the Bega Historical Society, a member of Sapphire Coast Community Aged Care, former chairman of the Bega Valley Social Planning Committee and among the founders - and now life member - of the Sapphire Coast Producers Association. On behalf of the Bega electorate, I sincerely thank you for your service to the community and congratulate you on this well-deserved accolade.

#### **BATEMANS BAY UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE (U3A)**

**Dr MICHAEL HOLLAND (Bega)**—On behalf of the Bega electorate, I would like to congratulate Batemans Bay University of the Third Age (U3A) on their 25th anniversary. This long-standing group held their

first meeting in the Long Beach Fire Shed in 1997 and have been providing cost-effective classes to the Batemans Bay community ever since. More of a self-help organisation run by members, for members; the U3A relies on the voluntary contribution of skills, knowledge and ideas from the community to form their program. The Wine Appreciation Group has been running consistently for 24 years, but countless other courses including computer literacy, sketching, singing, dancing, baking, Aboriginal history, current events discussions and science groups have also been offered over the years. Although there is no minimum or maximum age, members are for the most part in the over-50s age group, providing those who are retired from full-time work a valuable social and educational experience. My congratulations to the members who have stayed the course and thank you for your continued commitment to this valuable collective of knowledge in our community.

#### **MAREE POBJE**

**Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS (Dubbo—Minister for Agriculture, and Minister for Western New South Wales)**—Being chosen to represent your community once is a fantastic honour – but twice is impressive! That's exactly what Maree Pobje has done! Maree was Dubbo's teenage showgirl in 2017 and last month she completed the double, being named the Dubbo Show Society's inaugural Rural Young Woman. Maree is passionate about rural women living in remote communities, and she wants to see digital connectivity improve. It's a struggle we know only too well, Speaker. Improved internet coverage in the bush means a more level playing field for country kids, which is why our Rural Access Gap program is delivering cutting edge technology and more reliable internet to 1003 rural, remote, and regional schools. Better mobile and internet coverage means our farmers can work smarter, not harder – and even create off-farm income streams. Congratulations Maree, and well done as well to runner-up Tiffany Ingham and finalist Savannah Coddington. I'm sure you'll do a great job representing the Dubbo region, and putting western towns on the map!

#### **TRANGIE FIREFIGHTERS**

**Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS (Dubbo—Minister for Agriculture, and Minister for Western New South Wales)**—I want to congratulate a trio of Trangie firefighters who were recently recognised for their service. Fire and Rescue NSW Inspector Michael Harvey presented retained firefighter Ian Geoghegan with the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal for 13 years of service. Retained firefighter Rodney Barclay received the National Service Medal for 15 years' service. A special Unit of Commendation for Meritorious Service was presented to retained firefighter Te Penaha, for his efforts during the summer of 2019-20. Now I don't need to remind anyone how horrendous that fire season was. But what many people may not know, is how many emergency service personnel from unaffected areas of the state, travelled far from home to defend people and property. Te was part of Strike Team Lima. 4 days before Christmas 2019, they were deployed to the townships of Clarence and Dragan, one of the most devastated areas of the Blue Mountains. Crews encountered catastrophic conditions – 47 degrees and winds over 90 km/h – but they successfully protected the community. Congratulations Ian, Rodney and Te, and thank you for your service not only of the Trangie community, but our whole state.

#### **NEW LAKE MACQUARIE CITIZENS**

**Ms JODIE HARRISON (Charlestown)**—One of the best parts of being an MP is getting the chance to meet new members of the Australian family as they take their oaths to become citizens. Recently, we welcomed 58 new citizens to Lake Macquarie. I had the pleasure of joining in the celebrations at Rathmines, with people originating from the Solomon Islands, UK, NZ, Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, South Africa, US, India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Philippines, Italy, Russian Federation, Tibet, Kenya, Netherlands, Ireland, Zimbabwe and the Republic of Congo. I met Lhundup Wangyal from Tibet, who marked his citizenship ceremony with his family; Fakiha Faruque and Arafat Bhuiyan, originally from Bangladesh; and Abiral Rai, Beer Rai and Ashmita Rai from Nepal. It was a beautiful morning to mark a memorable occasion for our new citizens, their families and their communities. Every new citizen enriches our wonderful, multicultural country, and I am always so proud to join them.

#### **WOMENS SHED ON THE LAKE**

**Ms JODIE HARRISON (Charlestown)**—Womens Shed on the Lake is an inclusive group for women of all ages based out of the amazing Our Community Place neighbourhood centre in Windale. They are enthusiastic about becoming involved in and helping out with community projects, offering a place for local women to become involved in and learn more about Do It Yourself projects. The Womens Shed provides a safe place for women to socialise and work together on their health, well-being, craft and more. They are driven by the words "Sharing, Caring, Empowering", and we can see that vision being carried out in the activities they have organised recently. In May, the Womens Shed held a jewellery and knitting bee; a High Tea in support of the Cancer Council; a Mother's Day cruise on the MV Lady Mac; and got involved in the 2022 Waste to Art Competition. The important work of the Womens Shed wouldn't be possible without the volunteers who run their programs, the engagement of their members, and of course the wonderful staff of Our Community Place. My thanks to all those involved!

### FIRST NATIONS ART IN LAKE MACQUARIE

**Ms JODIE HARRISON (Charlestown)**—The artistic heritage of Australia extends back tens of thousands of years. Art has always been important to Australia's First Nations people, with a rich, diverse and constantly-evolving tradition which stretches from the distant past to the present day. The diversity of contemporary First Nations art is currently being showcased in two recent exhibitions at the Museum of Art and Culture, yapang, in Lake Macquarie, coinciding with Reconciliation Week. One of the exhibits will feature works by the late Kunmanara Carroll, telling stories of Country. Ngaylu Nyanganyi Ngura Winki (I Can See All Those Places), showcases Carroll's final ceramic works and paintings recalling his ancestral Country. There will also be a separate exhibition titled 'One foot on the ground, one foot in the water', an exploration of the subject of mortality and the inseparable link between life and death. MAC yapang is a fantastic local art gallery and a wonderful cultural resource for all the people of Lake Macquarie and beyond, and I am so glad that they continue to take the opportunity to recognise and uplift First Nations artists. My thanks to the staff at MAC yapang, and I encourage everyone to take a look!

### JEANETTE STEPHENS - WENTWORTH JJ

**Mrs HELEN DALTON (Murray)**—Today I would like to recognise Jeanette Stephens of Buronga for her services to the Wentworth and Dareton communities. Jeanette has been heavily involved in her Anglican Parish of Wentworth Dareton as Parish Secretary and was a Sunday School Teacher for 45 years. Jeanette has always displayed a strong support of school communities through active involvement with P & C Association, tuck shop duties and voluntary reading with students. Born in the region, married and having three daughters of their own, Jeanette and husband Ron, have fostered 16 children of varying backgrounds. Although now living in Buronga, Jeannette continues to provide voluntary assistance to many organisations including the Coomealla Action Team, which has invigorated the Anzac Day celebrations for Dareton and is now in the planning stages for Dareton's Centenary in 2024. I congratulate and thank Jeanette for her community spirit, and the energy and time she has given to her community.

### JESS DOIDGE - WENTWORTH JJ

**Mrs HELEN DALTON (Murray)**—Today I would like to recognise 12 year old Jess Doidge of Wentworth for her community involvement. Jess was an active member of a community group that raised money to build the Wentworth Skatepark through trivia nights, sausage sizzles, car boot sales and car washes to raise the funds needed. Jess enjoys karate and has her brown belt and after 5 years training, assist juniors with their stances, position and most importantly, respect for all. Her involvement continues with basketball and cricket which she enjoys. Through the Wentworth Public School, Jess volunteered at Murray House Aged Care facility where she spends time with the elderly residents. As part of the school band, they will often play at Murray House and other events within the Shire. Last year, Jess was vice captain at Wentworth Public School and enjoyed assisting at school P & C fundraisers. I congratulate and thank Jess for her community activities and recognise the time she has given to others, acknowledging her 2022 Australia Day Award within the Wentworth Shire as 'Young Citizen of the Year'

### BRUCE GRIMLEY OAM

**Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla—Attorney General)**—I highlight the contribution of the late Bruce Grimley OAM of Miranda, who received the Medal of the Order of Australia in the Queen's Birthday honours list "for service to veterans, and to the community". Mr Grimley made significant contributions to veterans through his numerous roles at the Miranda RSL Sub-Branch. Mr Grimley was a member of the Miranda RSL Sub-Branch from 1985 until 2021. He held several positions in the Sub-Branch including President from 2012 to 2016, Chairman of the Sub-Branch Memorial Committee and welfare officer. In his role on the Sub-Branch Committee, Mr Grimley initiated the movement of the Miranda memorial into Seymour Shaw Park in 2014 and was responsible for organising many Anzac Day and Remembrance Day services. In 2015, Mr Grimley helped organise the commemoration service to mark the 70th anniversary of the end of war in the Pacific. Mr Grimley was awarded the 25 Year Service Award, GyMEA Community Aid and Information Service; Senior of the Year Award, Miranda, 2017; NSW Local Achievement Award, 2015; and the Cook Community Award, 2009. He was also awarded a Certificate of Appreciation for 25 years of service with GyMEA Community Aid in 2019.

### JACK HAWKINS OAM

**Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla—Attorney General)**—I highlight the contribution of and congratulate Mr Jack Hawkins OAM of Woollooware who received the Medal of the Order of Australia in the Queen's Birthday honours list "For service to the community through a range of roles". Mr Hawkins has made a significant contribution to the community through his 38 year career as a paramedic and senior officer in the NSW Ambulance Service. Mr Hawkins joined the NSW Ambulance Service in 1955 and held positions which included

chief superintendent, state director of operations and Sydney metropolitan superintendent. He co-founded the Special Casualty Access Team and Ambulance Games and established a public relations unit and Ambulance Provident Fund. Mr Hawkins was also instrumental in the introduction of staff counselling and a peer support program, stop smoking programs, and access to gym equipment and fitness instructors. Following his retirement from the Service, Mr Hawkins has continued to contribute to the community by coaching hundreds of young people in the sport of bowls.

#### **WILLIAM "BILL" PICKEN OAM**

**Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla—Attorney General)**—I congratulate Mr William "Bill" Picken OAM of Port Hacking who received the Medal of the Order of Australia in the Queen's Birthday honours list "for service to the horse racing industry". Mr Picken has made significant contributions to the community through horse racing including through owning and operating thoroughbred racing, events and hospitality venues across Sydney. Horse racing has always been a part of Mr Picken's life. He began his career in harness racing, where his father was a champion driver, before transitioning into thoroughbred racing. Mr Picken was the last chairman of the Sydney Turf Club before it merged with the Australian Jockey Club in 2011 to become the Australian Turf Club. The positions Mr Picken has held have all been honorary. Over his career, Mr Picken has developed a close association with the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW, the Sydney Royal Easter Show, and the NSW Mounted Police Unit. Prior to 1998 he was also a strong supporter of the Newtown Police Citizens Youth Club.

#### **JODY AND CONNOR MIELKE**

**Mr LEE EVANS (Heathcote)**—I wish to recognise Jody and Connor Mielke- mother and daughter mountain bike riders from Engadine. They are both club champions at the Green Valley Mountain Bike Park and have also both worn an Australian mountain bike team jersey. Jody has excelled over many years winning events across the world. Recently she took home the gold and coveted green and gold jerseys in the Masters Downhill and the E-Bike XCO titles at the 2022 AusCycling Mountain Bike National Championships. Jody's 18 year old daughter, Connor, has followed in her mum's footsteps after taking up the sport at Heathcote High School. After completing her HSC last year she is taking a gap year to compete internationally. Connor has excelled in many events accumulating enough points to race for Australia overseas in World Cup and the World Championships in Downhill as an U19 Junior. This season she will be competing at the World Cup Downhill events representing Australia at four events in Switzerland, Andorra, USA and Canada. I congratulate Jody and Connor on their outstanding achievements and especially wish Connor the very best of luck in her upcoming events.

#### **MOUNT HUNTER RFS AGM**

**Mr NATHANIEL SMITH (Wollondilly)**—I was honoured to attend the Mount Hunter Volunteer Rural Fire Brigade AGM on the 27th of May. It was great to see the members all come together and reunite for a face-to-face meeting, when for so long many brigades have been undertaking their meetings via online methods. A large number of brigade members were presented with National Emergency Medals for their service during the 2019-20 Black Summer Fires. The medals are to recognise the sustained and significant service during that devastating fire season. Congratulations go to the following hardworking and dedicated volunteer recipients: Laurence Boardman, Craig Bonnett, Robert Bonnett, Amy Burgin, Philip Burgin, James Dalton, Stephen De La Mare, John Holmes, Gary Morosin, Jamie Morosin, Kim Morosin, Mitchell Morosin, Matthew Nutter, Nathan O'Reilly, Rory O'Reilly, Marie Turner. It should be noted that their contributions, together with those of their fellow colleagues within the Emergency Service during that period of critical need, are greatly appreciated by the whole community.

#### **PAWS PET THERAPY**

**Mr NATHANIEL SMITH (Wollondilly)**—Cancer is one of the most challenging things one can endure, which can be made a little easier by PAWS Pet Therapy, a group of four-legged friends. The purpose of this volunteer organisation is to provide comfort and unconditional love to anyone who needs it, especially to those going through cancer. All PAWS people and pooches are volunteers who dedicate their time and energy to spreading the magic of pet-assisted therapy. Sharon Stewart, a Wollondilly resident, identified a need for pet therapy in 2012 and shortly after that founded PAWS. Over 100 volunteers work in various facilities throughout the region, including those offering chemotherapy at the Southern Highlands Cancer Centre and those providing mental health care at aged care facilities. During illness and loneliness, PAWS Pet Therapy helps make life more bearable. I don't know how Sharon does it, but through her vision and everyone at PAWS Pet Therapy, people and dogs are making a real difference in people's lives. On behalf of the Wollondilly community, thank you.

#### **ARTHEAD BLUE SQUARE ART COMPETITION**

**Mr NATHANIEL SMITH (Wollondilly)**—ArtHead's 5th annual Blue Square Art Competition took place in May at the Bowral Art Gallery. Sonja Millis founded the event after she lost her husband Bob Millis to



cancer in 2017; she established the ArtHead Community Wellbeing Project based on a philosophy of kindness, compassion, and creativity. This year, the event attracted 300 entries of drawings, paintings, photographs and sculptures and was judged by artist-curator and regional gallery director Jane Cush. The competition is not only an excellent opportunity for local artists and art lovers alike – but it also raises money for Can Assist Southern Highlands. This charity is currently supporting over 200 cancer patients in their treatments. This year a portion of each entry fee was donated, raising \$3,000 so far, with more expected through the sale of the artworks. Congratulations to the winning artists: Competition Winner - Libby Wakefield's Blue Skies in a Heavy Storm. Hangers' Prize – Denise Markovic's Make a Wish. Bob Millis Memorial Prize – Sandra I'Anson's Blueberry Ash.

#### **WAVES AQUATIC CENTRE**

**Mr RAY WILLIAMS (Castle Hill)**—It was recently my pleasure to visit the nearly completed 'Waves Aquatic Centre' within the suburb of Castle Hill. I'd like to recognise those community members who fought hard for the expansion and revitalisation of the Centre, especially former Mayor Michelle Byrne, and all the Members of the previous Hills Shire Council. The Waves Fitness and Aquatic Centre will service the aquatic needs of people right across The Hills, and will include a 10 lane 50m pool, a combined 25m learn to swim pool and family leisure pool, and a 20m warm water pool (for hydrotherapy and aqua-aerobics). It will also include a gym, café, water play structure and external garden. The pool has also been designed to accommodate a later expansion to include an additional square pool and water slides. The Centre looks fantastic, and is testament to the vision and fore thinking that was typical of the previous group of Hills Shire Councillors. I again thank Michelle Byrne for her work on this project, and look forward to visiting the many other projects that constitute her impeccable legacy.

#### **JOHN THOMAS OAM**

**Mrs TANYA DAVIES (Mulgoa)**—I would like to acknowledge local St Clair resident of 40 years, John Thomas, on receiving a Medal of the Order of Australia, highlighting his commitment to his career and the community. John has always been a hard worker, running his own consultancy business while chairing six financial service boards. As well as this he has been equally committed to volunteering for organisations such as the Catholic Church and being Chairman of Stride Mental Health. Being informed of the OAM came as a shock to John. He was surprised and absolutely flattered for the recognition of his service to the community and business. All throughout John's career he has believed you should give back and with the support of his family hopes to continue his work for another 10 years and encourages others to get involved with not-for-profit organisations. John knows that everyone can get swept up in the busyness of life but believes it is crucial to inspire more people to volunteer and come together in order to make a difference. Congratulations John on this incredible achievement and thank you for your ongoing support and service to the local community!

#### **CASSIE CUTHELL**

**Mrs TANYA DAVIES (Mulgoa)**—I would like to acknowledge local Wallacia resident, Cassie Cuthell, for her encouraging and inspiring nature in operating her small business, A Birth Inspired, and running Hypnobirthing Australia's Positive Birth Program. This is antenatal education that is comprehensive, evidence based and is centred around you and your baby. Hypnobirthing helps prepare you for the most positive birth with the 'hypno' part referring to the use of self-hypnosis for labour management. The program teaches about a multitude of labour management techniques, the physiology of our bodies, how to release fears surrounding birth, decision making tools, empowering yourself in birth and what roles birth partners can take on. Cassie now runs group classes in Wallacia for the last two weekends of each month and private lessons. Cassie says that expecting parents will learn about the body's anatomy, the brain and how the subconscious operates, self-hypnosis, hormones, massage, acupuncture, breathing techniques, choices in maternity care, birth preparation, informed decision making and consent and advocating for your choices. Congratulations Cassie on such an incredible achievement in not only running a small business but having a lasting, positive impact on expecting parents. You should be incredibly proud!

#### **WINBOURNE ESTATE MULGOA**

**Mrs TANYA DAVIES (Mulgoa)**—Today I want to recognise a historic landmark, Winbourne Estate in my electorate of Mulgoa. A tour has recently been introduced at the estate by a small business, Ghost Territory Tours run by Rob Wilson, where a local tour allows people to get up close and personal with Mulgoa's ghostly past! The Ghosts of Winbourne's first event was a great success and was completely sold out. In the two hour Afterlife Adventure, attendees learn about the property's rich history via a video presentation and tour of the property. Then, they help team PACT (Paranormal and Cryptid Task-Force) conduct a paranormal investigation at Winbourne, having their very own ghost hunting kit to utilise during the exciting evening. This is such an amazing experience and very interesting to learn about the paranormal whilst also exploring the incredible heritage location. This ghost tour is a fascinating and exciting experience that not only exposes younger generations to

learn about the history but to also preserve and protect this precious landmark in Mulgoa. Congratulations on this achievement!

### **ARDLETHAN ART PRIZE**

**Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra—Minister for Emergency Services and Resilience, and Minister for Flood Recovery)**—It is with great pleasure that I bring to your attention, what I believe, was an extremely successful Ardlethan Art Prize Exhibition. The Advance Ardlethan committee, a 355 committee of Coolamon Shire Council, hosted the Ardlethan Art Prize from Friday 14 May to Sunday 16 May. The competition included four main sections of Open Section – Artist choice, Youth Section – Artist choice, Sheep Work Section – Artist interpretation, and Sculpture Section – Mining theme – Artist interpretation. I am advised that all Artworks on display were for sale with proceeds going to the Ardlethan and Beyond Museum. Judges Dr Sam Bowker from Charles Sturt University and Mr Tim Kurylowicz, Executive Director of Eastern Riverina Arts, had an extremely hard decision to make from the incredible artworks on display. The winners of the Art Prize were for the open section, Tracy Heinrich from Temora with "Petunia Pig", Mirrool Creek in Flood Section winner was Mary Bennett from Ardlethan, Sculpture Section winner and the Coolamon Shire Art Prize Award winner was Heidi Guttormsen from Ardlethan with "Poppy" and the Highly Commended winner was Carmela Kozlowski from Griffith. A huge congratulations to everyone involved on a very successful weekend.

### **DANCE WITH MISS EM**

**Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra—Minister for Emergency Services and Resilience, and Minister for Flood Recovery)**—I would like to take the time to thank and acknowledge the work of Emilee Newham and her dance students from Harden and also Dance2590 from Cootamundra as they held disco fundraisers to raise money for "Dance for Sick Kids". Dance for Sick Kids was held between 23rd and 29th of May, to raise money in support of families with an ill or injured child through the Ronald McDonald House. The fundraisers were held on the 27th May in the Cootamundra-Ex Services Club auditorium and the 28th May in the Harden Country Club auditorium. This is the second year in a row that Emilee and her students have raised money for Ronald McDonald House charities. The fundraisers were a way of giving back to Ronald McDonald House charities, with students from both schools who either previously, or currently access the facilities and services provided by the charity across NSW. Collectively, students from both schools raised a total amounting to over \$5,000. I would like to again recognise both groups for their significant contributions towards this wonderful cause.

### **JEANNIE KERR**

**Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra—Minister for Emergency Services and Resilience, and Minister for Flood Recovery)**—I would like to congratulate and extend my appreciation to local nurse, Jeannie Kerr of Young after 42 years of service at the Young Hospital. Commencing on February 15th, 1980 Jeannie began as a pupil nurses' aide. Jeannie also completed a variety of training during her time at the Hospital, such as conversion to become an enrolled nurse, medication administration and a Diploma of nursing for enrolled nurses. Jeannie has also spent time in the maternity ward, and more recently assisting operations while working in theatre. Jeannie has exemplified what it means to be dedicated and committed to not just her profession, but her local community as well. The importance of individuals within local communities like Jeannie cannot be understated and again, I thank her for her service. I wish Jeannie all the best as she takes some well earned Long Service Leave.

### **BARBARA AND KEVIN WEIMER**

**Mr GREG PIPER (Lake Macquarie)**—I would like to acknowledge the tremendous work done by Barbara and Kevin Weimer from Bolton Point in championing the sport of tennis throughout Lake Macquarie. Barbara and Kevin created the Bolton Point Tennis Club almost 50 years ago and since its inception have been heavily involved in every aspect of it. During that time they have successfully lobbied for funding to upgrade the facility, helped in the daily running of the courts and club, organised numerous social events, club events, competitions and have seen thousands of children coached through the club. Their love of tennis began during their childhood years when as next-door neighbours they began to play the sport together and with their friends. Barbara and Kevin are well-known and loved members of the tennis community and have encouraged generations of locals to play, enjoy and respect the game. In recognition of their efforts, they were recently recognised as a finalist in the 2022 Lake Mac Volunteer of the Year Awards. I acknowledge and thank Barbara and Kevin for their contribution to the community.

### **OUR BACKYARD PROJECT**

**Mr GREG PIPER (Lake Macquarie)**—I would like to acknowledge the efforts of the dedicated team of volunteers behind the Our Backyard Project in Cardiff. Homelessness is a huge problem in Lake Macquarie, and one that the Our Backyard Project works to address by providing both immediate and long-term solutions for people experiencing this hardship. For the past eight years, the volunteer-run organisation has operated out of

Macquarie Life Church's carpark, providing people who sleep in cars, often with pets, with a safe place to spend the night. They also provide people experiencing homelessness with an on-site communal kitchen, bathroom and laundry facilities and the opportunity to connect with caseworkers, mental-health providers and access to financial counselling services. To date, Our Backyard has supported more than 200 community members, 43 pets and 28 children. Volunteers were on site throughout the Covid-19 lockdowns, putting their own health at risk to ensure others had a safe space to sleep. Recently the team began working with real estate agents and landlords to help their clients move into permanent homes, and access rental subsidies. I acknowledge and thank everyone at the Our Backyard Project for their contribution to the community.

#### **DIANNE SYKES**

**Mr GREG PIPER (Lake Macquarie)**—I wish to acknowledge and thank the wonderful Dianne Sykes who worked in my electorate office at Toronto since I was first elected 15 years ago. Dianne was my Senior Electorate Officer for all of that time but has now retired to allow more time with her family and grandchildren. There are literally thousands of local people who have been assisted by Dianne over the years in my office. She was unrelenting in pursuing the best outcomes for people who had for whatever reason been caught in a difficult situation, and particularly where she perceived unfairness or injustice. I first met Dianne almost two decades ago when she took a lead role in the community's fight against a proposed open-cut mine that would have run roughly between Cooranbong and Awaba. We won that battle, importantly ensuring that mining in Lake Macquarie can only occur underground. Dianne was an exceptionally competent electorate officer, a great work colleague, a loyal friend to me and very much a relentless champion of the local community. On behalf of the Lake Macquarie community I thank her for all she's done and wish her well in her retirement.

#### **SHANE CHAPMAN**

**Mr ROY BUTLER (Barwon)**—On Saturday 4 June 2022, Broken Hill Umpire Shane Chapman celebrated a significant milestone in AFL Football. He officiated his 500th league game after starting his umpiring career in 1986. Shane was initially a boundary umpire before moving into the field position. This is a remarkable feat when you consider that his contribution extends much further than just the league fixture. He has also umpired Senior Reserves, Women's games since 2012, mid-week games for the Under 18's, and also the Under 15's and 13's. Shane has also fulfilled the positions of Umpires Fitness Coach and Coordinator and has served as an honorary Director of AFL Broken Hill. Shane is passionate about fitness and is an active community member of the Hash House Harriers and the Mountain Bike Club. I appreciate Shane's remarkable contribution to AFL at a regional level, in a time when it is difficult to secure reliable assistance for positions that are integral to the opportunities that sport offers. Thank you for your service to AFL Broken Hill, Shane Chapman.

#### **MERREN TURNBULL**

**Mr ROY BUTLER (Barwon)**—A capacity crowd attended the opening night of Art Unlimited at Dunedoo on 20th May 2022 with Merren Turnbull's 'Run For Your Money' being the winner of the ABC Western Plains Prize. 200 entries came from artists, photographers and ceramicists from across Australia. Judge for the event, Lizzy Galloway, Curator of Mudgee Art Precinct, chose Merren's painting because she saw it as a true depiction of a spectacular outback Australian sunset. "The artist has competently used the pastels to create the beautiful colours of an enormous sky, which dwarfs the foreground goats, as they're urgently herded into the livestock truck" she said. Merren was shocked, but excited that she had won. "There were so many beautiful paintings on display" she said. Merren's inspiration comes from living a rural lifestyle in the unique NSW Western Bourke region and enjoying some mentoring from renowned Bourke outback artist Jenny Greentree. After reflecting upon her win Merren said "the recognition inspired her to get better and enter more art competitions, and hopefully take out the top prize next year. I congratulate Merren on her award and enthusiasm and wish her every success with her future works.

#### **100 YEARS NOWRA CROQUET CLUB**

**Mrs SHELLEY HANCOCK (South Coast)**—What a huge celebration for the Nowra Croquet Club celebrating 100 years, I would like to congratulate the club and acknowledge them for their 100 years supporting their members over the years. The Nowra Croquet Club celebrated its centenary with a special event held at the club's Bomaderry Lawns, the celebration included the launching of a book to mark the occasion of their 100 years 1922-2022 written by Robyn Florance OAM. After mixed weather conditions over the last couple of weeks it was great to hear the sun was shining for the event for all members to enjoy celebrating in the lovely sun. The Nowra Clubs history dates back to May 1922, where the Nowra Women's Croquet Club was formed. Rob Haines spoke about the newly published book commenting on how the early days was very much a social event for the ladies as well as being competitive. Many of the club's successes over the years are also featured in the book and copies have been provide to the Shoalhaven Historical Society and the Nowra Library. I would also like to say again congratulation and thank you to all members involved over these 100 years.

**THANK YOU RAINE AND HORNE MURWILLUMBAH**

**Ms JANELLE SAFFIN (Lismore)**—I wish to place on the parliamentary record my thanks to Raine and Horne Murwillumbah for their generosity in their recent fundraising efforts to support the flood affected St. Josephs Primary School in South Murwillumbah. St. Josephs is a wonderful school in South Murwillumbah and suffered significant damage during the catastrophic flooding events earlier this year. On Friday June 10 they received a \$1,500 cheque to support them in their flood recovery. The funds were raised from the realestate.com.au Advantage Community Grants Program which staff at Raine and Horne Murwillumbah and Brunswick Heads/Ocean Shores applied for on behalf of the school. I especially thank Raine and Horne principal Julie-Ann Manahan and sales consultants Jason Dittmar and Elizabeth Hickey who handed over the cheque to Principal Jason Clarke. I congratulate Raine and Horne on their fundraising efforts and the entire St. Josephs school community on all their work for the recovery.

**LISMORE THISTLES SOCCER CLUB CLEAN UP DAY**

**Ms JANELLE SAFFIN (Lismore)**—I wish to place on the parliamentary record my thanks and congratulations to President Cam Latimer and all the members and supporters of Lismore Thistles Soccer Club on their mammoth effort at their recent clean-up day held on Saturday June 11. Thistles is in East Lismore and sustained major damage during our recent floods. A well-loved club I am so glad to see them getting back on their feet. A special mention to Corinne Milgate and Deb Latimer for putting on a BBQ and a delicious morning tea. I acknowledge all members who showed up to help - Paul Albertini, Terry Neal, Glen Partridge, Ian Hunt, Shane Milgate, Dean Marshall, Tyler Szczerbanik Benjamin Albertini, Cooper Manning, Isaac Essery, Joel Worgan, Ian Essery, Tim Webster, Tom Burnett, Andrew Dwyer, Braydon Milgate, Matt Dunn, Ryan Partridge, Hudson Lynch, Marial Maciek, Damon Dwyer And Nick Rhodes for being site foreman and I hear was also the onsite beer taster. A very important job. I can't wait to see Thistles back in action and it will be because of the tireless efforts of the players, members and supporters.

**BIG W LISMORE**

**Ms JANELLE SAFFIN (Lismore)**—It was fantastic to be at the re-opening of Big W Lismore Square. It was a packed house of locals, staff and all the workers who helped with the mammoth rebuild. I thank Uncle Gilbert Laurie, Aunty Tracy King and Aunty Lilian King for their welcome to country and moving smoking ceremony. Since the flood Big W has formed a strong and enduring friendship with the Koori Mail. It was great to hear from Naomi Moran about the support Big W has provided the Koori Mail in their recovery effort and will in years to come. I congratulate District Manager Dean Richardson and Store Managers Jess Lee and Rachel Horan for their incredible hard work and leadership during these difficult times. I also acknowledge all the tradies from Prime Build who rebuilt the store in record time. The store is new, bright and improved and fully stocked. I did some shopping for some winter warmers and the kiddies were so excited for the toy sale. A special shout-out to Sheldon Harrington for his beautiful art work that is pride of place in the store which celebrates the efforts of the Lismore community during and since the floods.

**PROFESSOR MIKE CALFORD**

**Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland)**—I acknowledge the service of Professor Mike Calford, the outgoing Hunter Medical Research Institute (HMRI) director, for his selfless dedication to the organisation. Coming out of retirement during the unprecedented challenges of COVID-19, Professor Calford stepped up when he was most needed. Mike's dedication to and leadership of the HMRI has been absolutely outstanding. Mike has left with an incredible legacy of achievements and the institute is in an even stronger position as a result of his hard work and dedication. Mike not only had a deep connection to the organisation and the work that it supported, but has enhanced its connections with the University of Newcastle and Hunter New England Local Health District (HNELHD). His stewardship over both periods and his long-term involvement has been very appreciated by the community. Mike is keen to enjoy his well-earned semi-retirement and his other commitments to education and research, so I wish him all the best for the future.

**PROFESSOR FRANCES KAY-LAMBKIN**

**Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland)**—I would like to congratulate registered psychologist and mental health researcher Professor Frances Kay-Lambkin on her recent appointment as director of the Hunter Medical Research Institute (HMRI). Her innovative work on the comorbidity of mental health and drug use disorders received more than \$30 million in successful research funding and led to new treatments and better outcomes for patients. So, Frances' leadership and extensive background will be an enormous asset to the institute and the region in general. As a long-time supporter of the HMRI, even before I entered politics, I'm very pleased to see the excitement that her appointment has generated both within HMRI and the broader research community. I look forward to working with Frances and her team on a number of projects but, in particular, the establishment of the

HMRI Rural and Regional Research Hub to improve the health and wellbeing of people in Maitland and surrounding areas. I look forward to seeing Professor Kay-Lambkin this weekend at the HMRI Foundation Reunion Ball. I hope the ball is a great success and helps to revive the fundraising for this important institute.

#### **HUNTER SAFETY AWARDS - MAITLAND**

**Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland)**—I congratulate the Maitland businesses who tasted success at the sixth annual Hunter Safety Awards, which were announced on 12 May. The ceremony, returning after a COVID-enforced hiatus in 2021, recognised leading WHS professionals and industries across a range of health, safety and wellbeing categories. With so many outstanding entrants, I am sure the judges were hard-pressed to select the winners. But, I'm delighted to say Maitland businesses did very well, taking out the top two gongs. Fenech Demolition walked away with the WHS Business of the Year honour. A second generation, family-run enterprise, established in 2008, it is proudly 100% indigenously owned and operated. It was also named Best WHS Management System (SME). RedInsight director/principal consultant Monica Toews Brown then captured the prestigious WHS Champion of the Year award. Another winner on the night was Rutherford's Warner Company, securing the Best WHS Improvement (SME) crown. I would like to acknowledge and thank Hunter Safety Awards Founder and Judge, Sarah Jane Dunford for ensuring that WHS professionals who are leading the way in workplace safety are recognised in the Hunter.

#### **SECONDARY STUDENT LEADERSHIP PROGRAM - BANKSTOWN GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL**

**Ms TANIA MIHAILUK (Bankstown)**—I take this opportunity to thank the student leaders from Bankstown Girls High School for visiting me in Parliament during the last sitting week, as part of the Secondary Student Leadership program. The Secondary Student Leadership Program offers Year 12 student leaders an opportunity to develop their knowledge of our system of government and parliamentary proceedings. I wish to acknowledge Bankstown Girls High School prefects, Michelle Le and Hadia Chaudhry, for participating in the program. I also wish to extend my appreciation to Bankstown Girls High School Principal, Mrs Suada Bilali, teachers, and administrative staff for supporting this program. As student leaders from Bankstown Girls High School, Michelle and Hadia represented their school and our community with distinction. I am very proud of our local school student leaders, and I hope they consider taking on leadership roles in civil and public services in the future!

#### **SECONDARY STUDENT LEADERSHIP PROGRAM - BANKSTOWN SENIOR COLLEGE**

**Ms TANIA MIHAILUK (Bankstown)**—I take this opportunity to thank the student leaders from Bankstown Senior College for visiting me in Parliament during the last sitting week, as part of the Secondary Student Leadership program. The Secondary Student Leadership Program offers Year 12 student leaders an opportunity to develop their knowledge of our system of government and parliamentary proceedings. I wish to acknowledge Bankstown Senior College prefects, Abdulrahman Tijani and Sonia Jando, for participating in the program. I also wish to extend my appreciation to Bankstown Senior College Relieving Principal, Ms Jennifer Gardiner, teachers, and administrative staff for supporting this program. As student leaders from Bankstown Senior College, Abdulrahman and Sonia represented their school and our community with distinction. I am very proud of our local school student leaders, and I hope they consider taking on leadership roles in civil and public services in the future!

#### **SECONDARY STUDENT LEADERSHIP PROGRAM - SEFTON HIGH SCHOOL**

**Ms TANIA MIHAILUK (Bankstown)**—I take this opportunity to thank the student leaders from Sefton High School for visiting me in Parliament during the last sitting week, as part of the Secondary Student Leadership program. The Secondary Student Leadership Program offers Year 12 student leaders an opportunity to develop their knowledge of our system of government and parliamentary proceedings. I wish to acknowledge Sefton High School Captains, Dominic Eid and Kylie Huynh, for participating in the program. I also wish to extend my appreciation to Sefton High School Principal, Mr Kevin Humphreys, teachers, and administrative staff for supporting this program. As student leaders from Sefton High School, Dominic and Kylie represented their school and our community with distinction. I am very proud of our local school student leaders, and I hope they consider taking on leadership roles in civil and public services in the future!

#### **CENTRAL COAST ACADEMY OF SPORT**

**Ms YASMIN CATLEY (Swansea)**—I acknowledge Central Coast Academy of Sport for their partnership with the University of Newcastle to deliver work integrated learning opportunities for students. As part of this partnership, the Academy has recently welcomed 5 placement students to undertake work in their office, so that they can continue to meet the needs of the Coast's sporting sector. The placements were arranged by the Academy's Programs and Strength and Conditioning Manager, and former University of Newcastle student Tye McGann. The Academy have noted that having these students on board will benefit their administration centre

because they will be able to assist with jobs from the Regional Academies of Sport Coaches Conference, as well as with the launch of touch football, swimming and athletics. I know that the placement is a great opportunity for the successful students and I am sure that they will gain many useful skills that will help them establish their careers. I commend Central Coast Academy of Sport for establishing this program.

#### **JAMES (JIM) WRIGHT**

**Ms YASMIN CATLEY (Swansea)**—Today I acknowledge Swansea local Jim Wright, who was one of the recipients of the Emergency Services Medal in this year's Queen's Birthday Honours List. The Emergency Services Medal was first awarded in 1999, and recognises distinguished service by members of emergency services across Australia, and people who are involved in emergency management, training or education. Jim has been a volunteer member of Marine Rescue Lake Macquarie Unit for the past 13 years. During his time with the organisation, Jim has held the role of Unit Commander, and since 2017 he has been a Regional Director for Marine Rescue NSW. Jim's volunteering efforts with Marine Rescue Lake Macquarie over the years have played a key part in ensuring the safety of boaties using local waterways. I congratulate Jim on receiving the Emergency Service Medal and thank him for his service to the local community.

#### **GATEWAY CARE**

**Ms YASMIN CATLEY (Swansea)**—Today I acknowledge Gateway Care on being named the Lake Mac COVID-19 Hero at the 2022 Lake Mac Awards. The Lake Mac Awards celebrate the amazing accomplishments of local athletes, artists, environmentalists, volunteers and ambassadors and recognise their contribution to the local community. Gateway Care is a volunteer led not-for-profit organisation that has continuously worked to look after local residents, especially during the pandemic. They have provided support by donating truckloads of fruit, vegetables, meat and essential goods to organisations across the region. In addition, Gateway Care have distributed protective equipment to keep community members safe from the virus. Gateway Care has made a great contribution to the local community and should be very proud of what it has achieved. I congratulate Gateway Care on being named the 2022 Lake Mac COVID-19 Hero and thank them for its tireless efforts to assist those in need.

#### **COUNCILLOR JAMES SPENCELEY DELIVERS MEDICAL AID TO UKRAINE**

**Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore)**—I recognise North Sydney Councillor James Spenceley who recently undertook a weeklong journey delivering ambulances from Poland to war torn Ukraine. As the war rages through Ukraine, many including civilians have been left devastated and injured. Medical equipment and ambulances are desperately needed to assist those who have been injured. Councillor Spenceley bought two ambulances from France for \$25,000 each and drove them from Poland to cities across Ukraine. The ambulances were fitted with stretchers, defibrillators, and blood transfusion equipment which will be critical in responding to those who are injured from Russian attacks. James bought the first two ambulances but has crowd funded almost \$200,000 to buy another eight that will be delivered to the people of Ukraine. This fundraising is personal for James as his wife's family is Ukrainian still living in Kherson. I congratulate Councillor Spenceley for organising this extensive funding along with his personal contribution, and for making the extraordinarily dangerous journey to deliver these ambulances himself to Ukraine. I extend my thanks to everyone in the community who has supported this amazing initiative.

#### **TARONGA GOES WILD FOR VIVID**

**Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore)**—After a two-year hiatus due to COVID, I recently had the pleasure of joining Taronga Zoo and its supporters for a special VIVID preview of Wild Lights at Taronga. Wild Lights is an immersive experience where guests can explore the zoo after dark on an illuminated night walk, all whilst connecting with wildlife and conservation. This year's theme showcased the concept of a shared planet, titled "Where Nature Shines", connecting wildlife of the land, of the sky, and of the sea. I want to acknowledge Simon Duffy, Executive Director of Taronga Zoo and Anna Town, Head of Business Development Services at Cushman and Wakefield. With a strong focus on accessibility, Wild Lights featured three, never seen before, purpose-built, inclusive installations contributed by Cushman and Wakefield and I thank them for their support. There were an array of fascinating light displays showcasing a variety of native and exotic animals, from lions and gorillas to the humble brush turkey which I know would have been a favourite of many Mosman residents. Congratulations Taronga for creating another successful experience, and a special acknowledgement to all the staff at Taronga and the fantastic work they do in conservation.

#### **AUDIKA HEARING OPENS IN MOSMAN**

**Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore)**—I recently had the pleasure of attending the official opening of the new Audika hearing clinic in Mosman. Audika provides essential services to people in the community suffering from hearing loss. They also assist in diagnostics, and helping to provide the best solution for each

individual who is facing challenges due to hearing loss. The new centre features a modern state of the art fit out with soundproof rooms and a tech bar. A qualified audiologist, Lainey, is based out of the new centre and aims to promote and ensure that hearing-check ups are prioritised as much as other health checks. Lainey even performed a hearing check on me at the opening. The clinic's new location of Mosman provides a convenient location for residents in the area, and I look forward to seeing the great work that the team here at Audika will do in assisting our local community with their hearing care. I am always delighted to welcome new businesses to our local area and wish Lainey and the full Audika Mosman team the best of luck with their new location.

### **GREYHOUNDS RACING NSW**

**Mr GUY ZANGARI (Fairfield)**—The Parliamentary Friends of Greyhounds Racing recently hosted Greyhounds Racing NSW for the long-awaited parliamentary friends gathering. This event was two years in the making with the inaugural meeting postponed due the pandemic. I was delighted to join in with co-chair Nathaniel Smith MP and parliamentary colleagues to farewell CEO Mr Tony Mestrov and acknowledge his work with Greyhound Racing NSW over his tenure. During the event attendees were briefed regarding the NSW Greyhound Adoptions, "Greyhounds as Pets" program. I thank Dr Alicia Fuller and her team for their work in finding suitable homes for former Greyhound Racing Dogs. The "Greyhound As Pets Program" is a not-for-profit initiative coordinated by the industry in NSW. The initiative takes careful consideration when placing dogs in homes, it provides continuous comprehensive support during and after the adoption process. On behalf of the Parliamentary Friends of Greyhound Racing I take the opportunity to wish outgoing CEO Mr Tony Mestrov well in his future endeavours and commend the Greyhounds As Pets Program for it's work in animal welfare.

### **WESTFIELDS SPORTS HIGH SCHOOL - LIGHTHOUSE DANCE PROJECT 2022**

**Mr GUY ZANGARI (Fairfield)**—Recently the Westfields Company dance students participated in the 'Lighthouse Project' held at Newtown HIGH School of the Performing Arts. Throughout the two-day experience, students were able to take part in workshops where they challenged themselves to expand their knowledge of dance. Students were also able to have a snapshot at what tertiary study of dance would look like, with information sessions from tertiary institutions such as the Australian College of Physical Education, Adelaide College of the Arts, Sydney Dance Company PPY and Point Park University (USA). The students were also able to perform their dances "Whodunit?" and "Dodgeball". I commend the efforts of the Westfield Company dancers for their avid participation in the invitation-only event as well as for their performances on the day.

### **"BREAKING THE MYTH ON WHY MEN SHOULDN'T CRY" SEMINAR**

**Mr GUY ZANGARI (Fairfield)**—On Sunday 19 June 2022 the Australian Mancave Support Group held the "Breaking the Myth on why Men Shouldn't Cry" seminar at Smithfield RSL. The two hour seminar was presented by TAMC co-founders Pastor Lou Greco and Pastor Agostino Gattellari. The focus of the workshop was to dispel myths regarding men and crying. Lou outlined the benefits of crying for men as well as the different types of tears men cry. Also identified during the seminar were the signs to look out for when men are suffering anxiety and depression. Attendees were presented with strategies in what to say and what not to say when helping mates suffering with anxiety and depression. The concept of the "Mental Health Tool Box" was presented, a technique for all to use when times get tough. The contents of the Mental Health Tool Box consist of an individual's favourite music, places to go, trusted friends and other items of choice. The Mental Health Tool Box is not a closed concept but rather one that is always progressing. I congratulate the Australian Mancave Support Group for hosting the successful monthly seminar.

### **EMMANUEL ANGLICAN COLLEGE'S SHAKESPEARE CARNIVAL TEAM**

**Ms TAMARA SMITH (Ballina)**—Today I congratulate the Year 11 Emmanuel Anglican College pupils who competed successfully in the recent State Grand Finals of Sport for Jove's Shakespeare Carnival in Sydney. The 10 students, Michaela Ayebole, Conrad Bahadur, Toby Beck, Xavier Cocks, Leila Djokic, Eliška Gidding, Eliza Grosser, Charli Ivers, Ava Parker Gray and Taylah Ledingham, won both categories entered. The two categories were Group Devised and Physical Theatre. In the first, the students, guided by their teacher Eva Brown, investigated plots and characters from several Shakespearean dramas to create an ensemble piece titled Toxicity, which concluded that there are no truly happy relationships within the Bard's plays. In the Physical Theatre category, the students explored scenes from Macbeth and drew upon contemporary dance movement to use their bodies to tell the story of the death of Lady Macbeth. The judges said their entry was "brave, strong and committed". The Shakespeare Carnival is an opportunity for personal development as much as a cultural event and the Emmanuel pupils were able to share the joy of Shakespeare with young people from 16 other schools across the State, as well as demonstrate adaptability, teamwork and extraordinary creativity.

**MIKAELA SIMMONS - EDITH CAVELL TRUST SCHOLARSHIP**

**Mr ADAM MARSHALL (Northern Tablelands)**—I recognise Ms Mikaela Simmons of Armidale for being awarded the Edith Cavell Trust Scholarship, which honours the British army nurse who was executed in Belgium during the First World War for her commitment to nursing others in spite of the danger. Mikaela has demonstrated the same commitment to the NSW Nurses and Midwives Association which initiated the award for an aspiring nurse working or studying in the field to support nursing research and education. Mikaela moved to Lismore Base Hospital as an enrolled nurse but decided to study to become a registered nurse at Southern Cross University while completing her course as an Enrolled Nurse. The Scholarship will assist Mikaela with textbooks and the expense of going on placements, relieving some financial pressure as she realises her dream. I congratulate Mikaela on receiving the Edith Cavell Trust Scholarship. I commend Mikaela for her commitment to nursing and her decision to take the challenge and move from her Enrolled Nurse to the Registered Nurse pathway course.

**CASEY RYAN, MANAGER - LIFEHOUSE CARE COMMUNITY HUB**

**Mr ADAM MARSHALL (Northern Tablelands)**—I recognise Mrs Casey Ryan, Manager of LifeHouse Care Community Hub in Moree and the many volunteers who ensure crisis and community support is offered to local people in need through the store. This op shop is much more than a store. After finding basic food, clothing, and perhaps furniture needs, people can be referred to other local services that can also help them. The volunteer program teaches servers customer service skills, stock rotation and other skills that can prepare them for employment. Referrals from correctional services find an environment to raise their self-esteem and for direction for a more constructive life style. LifeHouse offers all this plus a gathering centre for a friendly chat and a cuppa. I congratulate Casey and the many volunteers on the success of LifeHouse Care Community Hub. I commend Mrs Ryan and her support team for their dedication, compassion, and professional skills in ensuring that those in need get a hand up.

**WENDY AND LLOYD HORNSBY - GAWURU GALLERY**

**Mr ADAM MARSHALL (Northern Tablelands)**—I recognise Mrs Wendy and Mr Lloyd Hornsby for reopening their Gawuru Gallery located in Glen Innes, one of my Northern Tablelands businesses impacted by the Covid-19 restrictions which severely affected tourism. Adding the unseasonal weather and floods, many businesses have closed, never to reopen which is why we are so appreciative that this gallery, home to internationally acclaimed Aboriginal Artist Lloyd Gawuru Hornsby is back to share his beautiful works of art. The reopening will feature the extraordinary wire-works and Garden Ghosts by local artist Jo Duck, Grand Champion of the Glen Innes Show this year. In addition, Sarah Fletcher will exhibit her immaculate pencil drawings inspired by the rural New England region. Another local artist, Anne Hazelwood will contribute her landscapes in both oil and watercolours. I congratulate Wendy and Lloyd on the Gawuru Gallery and the adjoining café which offers both locals and tourists an inspirational experience. I commend Mr Lloyd Gawuru Hornsby on his artwork and his commitment to the vibrant Glen Innes art world.

**HORIZON THEATRE**

**Mr JIHAD DIB (Lakemba)**—On 28 May, I joined Horizon Theatre to celebrate their 25-year anniversary, the Sharing Culture Festival event, at Wiley Park Amphitheatre. Horizon Theatre specialises in Visual Puppet Theatre. This international award-winning local group has brought arts, puppetry and theatre to our local, diverse community inspiring expression through performance. The featured presentation was a screening of Hamid Rahmanian's film version of Feathers of Fire, the Middle Eastern shadow puppet play based on the Persian epic, Shahnameh. Horizon Theatre also performed the play An Alien Adventure where a young woman visits Earth and discovers the things we share are more important than the things that make us different. Art is a tool of expression and a means of communicating ideas. Inspiring an interest in art amongst young people is something my friend Maddy preaches and as a former Principal, I appreciate the need for the arts. One of the most exceptional aspects that stands out is Horizon Theatre's consistent dedication to the community. Thank you to Maddy and Horizon Theatre for having me at the Sharing Culture Festival and I look forward to the next performance.

**JUSTIN COUPLAND, PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR AWARD**

**Mr JIHAD DIB (Lakemba)**—It gives me great pleasure to announce that this year the Australian Education Excellence Awards, now in its fifth year, awarded Justin Coupland with the Principal of the Year Award. This award celebrates the outstanding achievements of the country's top performing schools, principals, department heads and teachers. Mr Coupland has expressed his gratitude for the recognition and acknowledges that having a connection to the community and a teaching staff, with the same commitment, is the reason why the school is thriving. St John Vianney is a small Catholic school with approximately 260 K-6 students from 30 cultural backgrounds. The school, established in 1961 by the sisters of St Joseph, is a vibrant and welcoming community that reflects the diversity of the area in a positive way. What makes this school special is that the



teachers have a strong connection with the community and continue to respond to the needs of the students. The past two years have been challenging for schools and this commitment speaks volumes as to why Justin received this award. Congratulations to Justin on this well-deserved recognition for his dedication and commitment to the students.

#### **TONY AND GRACE MARTIN**

**Mr JIHAD DIB (Lakemba)**—Tony Martin and Grace Martin's story begins at Penshurst Park. Tony was down from Katoomba with his soccer team and Grace was volunteering with St John's Ambulance. Tony was involved in a head clash and Grace administered first aid. It was love at first sight. Tony and Grace married and raised 5 children together and as part of that journey Grace decided to start her own local soccer club. In 1972, Roselands Morton United Soccer Club was born, and after Grace's advocacy, Grace Brothers Roselands agreed to sponsor the club. Over the years the club's name changed to Roselands FC. Grace was the driving force behind the growth in club participation and she advocated for women in Soccer with a ladies team taking to the field in 1973. The CDSFA All-Age Women's Division 1 Trophy, named after Grace, is a testimony to her passion for women's soccer. Tony and Grace have passed their passion to their grandchildren, Brad and Danielle Bartels, who currently playing in the NSW Premier League. On behalf of the community, I want to thank Tony and Grace Martin for their amazing contribution to community sport.

#### **KHANCOBAN SHORTLISTED FOR TOP TINY TOWN**

**Mr JUSTIN CLANCY (Albury)**—I would like to congratulate the residents of Khancoban, a picturesque small town located in the Snowy Valleys Council, as the town has been selected as a finalist in the NSW 2022 Top Tourism Town Awards. This beautiful town, which is nestled on the edge of the Snowy Mountains, is competing against 30 other towns across the state, in three categories and has been tagged as a 'Tiny Tourism Town' based on its population size. The NSW Top Tourism Town Awards, highlight the destinations, showcasing the value of tourism, whilst attracting visitors and boosting visitor economy. The vibrant community of Khancoban has demonstrated success and achievement and I wish you all the best as you progress to the next stage at the Australian Top Tourism Town Awards and for the final later this year.

#### **MUMS GETTING CREATIVE WITH NEW GROUP**

**Mr JUSTIN CLANCY (Albury)**—Well done to a group of four creative mums teaming up to form a group to support those suffering mental health and perinatal depression. Stacey Burt, Monika Chahda, Jordyn Burles and Gretchen Prowse created 'The Sad Mums Club' in aid of women facing challenges in parenthood. These women wanted to do something different, and by connecting through social media were overwhelmed by the response, with 500 women on board to-date. The group has found that there were many women who wanted to connect but didn't know how, many wanting an escape for one night and not necessarily suffering any mental health. This organisation sets out to help such women feel validated and heard. Well done Stacey, Monika, Jordyn and Gretchen for supporting each other as a community, creating awareness and advocating for those living with perinatal mental illness.

#### **COROWA'S GALLERY 294 CELEBRATES 15 YEARS**

**Mr JUSTIN CLANCY (Albury)**—Celebrating 15 years of artistic culture, colour and creativity is Corowa's Gallery 294, which first opened its doors in 2007 and was operated by Corowa's Art Co-operative. This Gallery represents a collaboration of art in many forms, jewellery, photographers, painters and much more. The gallery itself was purchased by Margaret Wilmot who was inspired after returning home from a workshop in Melbourne. Margaret is supported by other founding members including Suzanne French, Brenda Tuddenham and Bev Wilson. The gallery holds monthly exhibitions, and has provided many opportunities for local creators, exhibiting their work of art and providing sales. Thankyou Margaret, Suzanne, Brenda and Bev for creating a passage through which the community can recognise themselves, and for creating a great place to witness both modern and traditional art in our region.

#### **CHATSWOOD RANGERS SPORTS CLUB**

**Mr TIM JAMES (Willoughby)**—I wish to recognise the Chatswood Rangers Sports Club in my electorate. This community sports club caters for junior and senior football and netball players. Founded at Mowbray Public School in 1963, the club was originally formed to address the shortage of sporting teams available to local boys. By 1987, the club consisted of cricket, athletics, table tennis, basketball, netball and soccer teams. Today, Chatswood Rangers Sports Club has over 700 members across football and netball. Based on senior premierships, Rangers is the most successful football club in the Northern Suburbs Football Association with 27 titles and has won many titles in the Northern Suburbs Netball Association. Open to all age groups and skill levels, Chatswood Rangers promotes enjoyment, player development, fairness and sportsmanship. It was terrific to catch up recently with Club President, Joe Butler, and some of the club's wonderful volunteers. Chatswood Rangers is

an iconic local club with a great history and I honour its contribution to the sporting life of the Willoughby community.

#### **WILLOUGHBY THEATRE COMPANY**

**Mr TIM JAMES (Willoughby)**—I would like to commend one of the great cultural organisations in my electorate, the Willoughby Theatre Company. Formerly known as the Willoughby Musical Society, the Company welcomes anyone with a passion for musical theatre. With a loyal audience base, Willoughby Theatre Company has presented many 'premiere' productions in its history. Nurturing local talent, the Company is proud to count such stars as Hugh Jackman and Yvonne Kenny amongst its alumni. Before the pandemic, the Company presented an average of three shows each year and after a hiatus, I am delighted to say it has come back roaring to life. Its 2022 season includes Backwards Broadway which premiered last month, and the old favourite, Mamma Mia, due to be performed in October. On 20 May, I had the great joy of attending its Backwards Broadway show. The cast, crew and musicians were all superb, supported by a fantastic team of leaders and volunteers. I especially commend Tom Sweeney for his fifty years of dedication to the Company, making it such an integral part of Willoughby's cultural life.

#### **WILLOUGHBY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**

**Mr TIM JAMES (Willoughby)**—I would like to showcase the magnificent contribution of the Willoughby Symphony Orchestra to the vibrant cultural life of my electorate. Attracting musicians and composers of the finest calibre, the Willoughby Symphony has evolved into an orchestra of international standing. Boasting a broad repertoire, the orchestra is renowned for its concerts of classical favourites, innovative music genres and family-oriented productions appealing to audiences of all ages. The orchestra is comprised of a tight-knit group of talented musicians whose love of music shines through all their performances. Since 2001, the orchestra has been led by Dr Nicholas Milton AM, an internationally acclaimed orchestral leader, chief conductor and artistic director. With the state government's commitment to nurturing the arts and raising up local talent, the Willoughby Symphony is supported by the government through Create NSW. During the Lunar New Year festivities in my electorate earlier this year, I had the pleasure of attending a performance by the Willoughby Symphony, and can attest firsthand to their musical brilliance.

#### **RUGBY COMMUNITY OF THE CENTRAL WEST**

**Mr PHILIP DONATO (Orange)**—I wish to recognise the rugby community of the Central West for their generosity and support. Andrew Regan, an Orange local, father and husband, suffered a severe spinal injury while playing rugby for his club Orange Emus on 23rd April, 2022. After medical assistance on the field and initial investigations at Orange Base Hospital, Andrew was airlifted to Royal North Shore Hospital. Andrew underwent emergency surgery, and while Andrew and his family remain hopeful of a best-case scenario, his road to recovery will be long, difficult and expensive. He will require significant support and long-term care. At this stage, the injury has left Andrew an incomplete quadriplegic, paralysed from the chest down. Andrew's family initiated a fundraising page to assist with his medical, rehabilitation and medical equipment costs. The close-knit rugby across the Central West, and beyond, have rallied to financially support Andrew and his family. Support hasn't been limited to just the rugby community, with donations coming from everywhere. I applaud the rugby and broader community for their spirit and generosity in support of Andrew and his family. I join with them in wishing the very best outcome for Andrew's treatment and recovery.

#### **BILL KELLY OAM**

**Mr PHILIP DONATO (Orange)**—I recognise Bill Kelly OAM. Mr Kelly was recently awarded the Order of Australia Medal. He served his community for many years in many capacities, being a former Councillor on the Orange City Council, stalwart of the Orange CYMS rugby league and cricket sporting clubs, and a long-serving volunteer within the Catholic Church. Mr Kelly owned and operated the Kelly's Rugby Hotel, a popular community-oriented establishment. During the 26 years Mr Kelly ran his family business, he sponsored many sporting teams in that time and in-turn supported the local sporting community to access and enjoy local sports. As a hotelier, Mr Kelly also chaired the Orange Liquor Accord from 2008 to 2018 and instrumental in introducing liquor accord conditions to address the alcohol-related antisocial behaviour. Mr Kelly's local government representation contributed to the Regional Gallery and Library development, bringing natural gas to Orange, upgraded the sewer treatment and water treatment plants and constructed the city's first roundabouts. He has worked within the Bathurst Catholic Diocese, volunteered for St Vincent De Paul and the Australian Red Cross for more than 30 years, and made over 170 blood donations. I congratulate Mr Kelly on receiving this most deserving honour.

**GEOFF OLDE**

**Mr PHILIP DONATO (Orange)**—I wish to recognise Rural Fire Service volunteer firefighter, Geoff Olde. Geoff was recently awarded the prestigious National Emergency Medal, having been recognised for his bravery and dedication in the devastating 2019-2020 New South Wales bushfires. He spent a scorching 65 days in 11 separate deployments on the perilous frontline, fighting fires at Dubbo, Cooma, Tenterfield, Casino and Ralston. At age 70, the Springside Senior Deputy Captain has experienced many firefighting campaigns. His wisdom and experience are an invaluable asset in keeping his junior volunteers both safe and effective in their deployments. I congratulate Geoff on this most deserved award, and for the significant sacrifice he has made over many years in volunteering to protect lives and property. Well done.

**SYLVANIA PUBLIC SCHOOL**

**Ms ELENi PETINOS (Miranda—Minister for Small Business, and Minister for Fair Trading)**—I congratulate Sylvania Public School's Parents and Citizens Association, on being the recipients of a one-off grant of \$15,136 from the Premier, the Hon Dominic Perrottet MP. Sylvania Public School are a small school with a huge heart. Led by Relieving Principal Mat Egan, the teaching and support staff work hard to support students throughout their education journey. Through this funding, the school will upgrade the audio-visual system in the school hall that will include the installation of a new projector, as well as new speakers, monitors and microphones which will aid in the production of school events. I take this opportunity to recognise the hard-working members of the Parents and Citizens Association for their continued dedication to the school community. Particularly, I recognise President Alicia Lykos, Vice President Ken Comerford, Secretary Mariam Ali, Treasurer Amar Latif, Nicki Jones, Lexie Jowett, Katie Beer, Dora Paneras and Susan Macleod. I also acknowledge Mat Egan for his ongoing interest in increasing students' tech literacy and his role in spearheading this project. I thank Sylvania Public School for bringing the importance of this project to my attention and look forward to seeing the impact of this tech upgrade for students.

**MENAI HIGH SCHOOL**

**Ms ELENi PETINOS (Miranda—Minister for Small Business, and Minister for Fair Trading)**—I recognise the incredible team of students who represented Menai High School in the ANSTO Science and Engineering Challenge on 15 May 2022. The ANSTO Science and Engineering Challenge brings together students from schools across to participate in various practical and educational STEM tasks to foster an interest in science and engineering. Finishing in third place, the students exemplified the school's vision of developing Skilled Learners, Skilled Citizens who are Skilled for Life. As a part of The Challenge, the group of Year 10 Enrichment Science students completed a range of STEM activities which included the construction of earthquake proof structures, bionic hands and the creation functional code. I recognise the members of Menai High School's team including Adam Arjah, Eleanor Aros, Emily Boyd, Kyan Cameron, Nate Cameron, Lachlan Camp, Gemma Clark, Isabella Derrett, Thanay Gowda, Ethan Hider, Chloe Horn, Cooper Jones, Liam Lee, Dalia Libman, Nathan Maddock, Thomas Marshall, Adam Martignago, Maeghan McGrath, Liliana Monte, Kalani O'Brien, Pearce O'Grady, Kevin Pham, Benjamin Phillips, Jemma Richardson, Timothy Rudnitskiy, Lily Thompson and Isaac Warwar. I congratulate the students from Menai High School on their third place finish and extend my best wishes.

**ANDREW NIELSEN**

**Ms ELENi PETINOS (Miranda—Minister for Small Business, and Minister for Fair Trading)**—I recognise the exceptional talent of Illawong's Andrew Nielsen, an incredible nurse and one of the Sutherland Shire's best DJs. Andrew developed a keen interest in health while learning first aid as a volunteer surf lifesaver with the Elouera Surf Lifesaving Club where he also earned his bronze medallion. This then led to Andrew attaining a Bachelor in Nursing at the University of Western Sydney and a career in nursing. He is currently the Acting Head of Nursing at Sutherland Hospital and using his skills to assist out local community. During his time at Sutherland Hospital, his two passions have come together and he has become featured at many of Sutherland Hospital's events. Andrew will be spinning his decks at Sutherland Hospital's Fundraising Gala on Saturday evening and was also involved in the Music on the Lawn wellness initiative during the COVID-19 lockdown, to encourage staff to spend their lunch breaks outside on the front lawn, listening to music and enjoying the sunshine. I thank Andrew for his work and wish him every success as he continues to pursue his two passions of nursing and deejaying.

**MYALL CREEK MASSACRE COMMEMORATION**

**Mr PAUL LYNCH (Liverpool)**—I recognise the 2022 Annual Gathering of Commemoration of the Myall Creek Massacre. The commemoration was held on 12 June at the Massacre Memorial, north of Bingara. The Guest Speaker at the Commemoration was historian and author James Wilson-Miller, who was introduced by Fabri Blacklock. A welcome to Country was performed by Elders Sue Blacklock and Clayton Blacklock. A

minute's silence for the victims of 1838 was led by Keith Munro. There were traditional dances in welcome, by the Inverell/Moree Dancers, the Gomeroi Dancers and the Tingha Nucoorilma Dancers. Singer Roger Knox contributed to the event and the roles of Cecilia Blackwell and Graeme Cordiner should also be acknowledged. The murder of Aboriginal people, not just at Myall Creek but at numerous other places and times is not something to be airbrushed from Australian history. Using the language of Henry Reynolds, those who say this is merely a black armband view of history themselves suffer from a white blindfold.

#### **INAUGURAL REGIONAL ACADEMIES OF SPORT COACHES CONFERENCE**

**Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal)**—Last month close to 130 regional coaches' administrators and staff gathered at Mingara Recreation Club on the Central Coast for the inaugural 2022 Regional Academies of Sport Coaches Conference. The event featured a range of special guests including Olympic silver medallist and Coastie, Nicola McDermott and Jilaroos Head Coach, Brad Donald. The theme for the conference was 'Bound for Brisbane 2032' with a focus on preparing current Regional Academy athletes who will be realistic chances for competing at the next Australian Olympic Games. I congratulate Managing Director of Central Coast Academy of Sport, Ian Robilliard, for running such a fantastic inaugural event, and totally support the Central Coast being the location for this annual event. The event aimed to upskill coaches across NSW as well as thank the hard work of volunteer coaches who support pre-elite athletes in NSW. I am proud the Central Coast has been able to host such a fantastic initiative.

#### **KAYE PITTMAN**

**Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal)**—I have recently been informed of the passing of the late Kaye Pittman who was a founding member of Central Coast Basketball. Throughout her life Kaye volunteered for Basketball on the Central Coast, since the formation of Gosford City Basketball Association in 1991. She served as the inaugural basketball administrator between 1993 and 2000 following the construction of Gosford City Sport Stadium. Mister Speaker, without Kaye there would have been no competition. She did all the competition draws, convening with age group delegates, writing up score sheets, managing association finances, assisting in the canteen, and overseeing office training for traineeship school leavers. I would like to offer my condolences to Kaye's family and acknowledge the huge contribution she has made to the sport of basketball on the Central Coast.

#### **CHARLIE HAWKE**

**Ms SONIA HORNER (Wallsend)**—Rankin Park local Charlie Hawke has put in a strong showing at the recent Australian Swimming Championships in Adelaide. Crediting his incredible performance to a move to the United States to focus on his training, 19-year-old Charlie made a real splash by making three finals, finishing second in the 200m butterfly, sixth in the 200m freestyle and seventh in the 400m freestyle. He has recently completed his first year at the University of Alabama, where he is studying a double degree in Electrical Engineering and Physics, after securing a scholarship and a spot on their swim team. He trained at Hunter Swim Club before his move, and his recent performance marked a number of personal best times. To cap it off, Charlie has been named in the Australia A team to compete at the US National Championships in Irvine, California, in July. Charlie is hoping his achievements at the Australian Swimming Championships will help fuel him on at the Californian event, but he's keeping one eye on Paris and the 2024 Olympics. I wish Charlie all the best, and I can't wait to see where his career goes next!

#### **FINNIAN JOHNSON**

**Ms SONIA HORNER (Wallsend)**—Maryland-based 19-year-old musician Finnian Johnson is poised to take on the world after a stint on The Voice. A regular performer around the Hunter, supporting acts like Kirsty Lee Akers, Finnian suffered a tragedy at just sixteen years old when his mum Michelle passed away suddenly. Finnian credits the support of his sister Erin and her partner, who were then university students themselves, with getting him through that tragedy, helping him get through high school and off to uni, and finally with reigniting his love of music and performing. He returned to gigging in 2021, and when he performed 'July' by Noah Cyrus on The Voice he attracted the attention of judges Rita Ora and Jessica Mauboy. He joined Team Jess, and though he was limited to online tutorials via Zoom thanks to a bout with COVID while the show was being filmed, made quite an impression. Although Finnian's time on The Voice came to an end on 15 May, Finnian calls it "the greatest adventure of his life so far". I can't wait to see where this incredible talent goes next.

#### **GREG HEYS**

**Ms SONIA HORNER (Wallsend)**—After more than 10 years of dedicated work by Newcastle Library and volunteers, the Greg Heys Regional Planning Collection cataloguing project was launched in May this year. Greg Heys was a social worker, an academic, a member of the ALP, a Newcastle City Councillor and, from 1995 until 1999 served as Newcastle's Lord Mayor. Born in Sydney in 1945, he and his family—including his beloved wife Wendy and their children Sarah and Matthew—moved to Newcastle in 1982. Greg was a respected

community member, a man of great integrity in public life, and had a great interest in democratic governance for econological sustainability. As Lord Mayor, he positioned Newcastle to be head of the pack in pursuing ecologically sustainable policies and practices. After he completed his term as Lord Mayor, Greg returned to Newcastle University, where he undertook a PhD looking at models of sustainable regional development. Though he passed away in 2007 before completing the project, it has since been finalised and published by the University. This, along with the Library collection, is an appropriate acknowledgment of the life of a great Novocastrian.

#### **CURRANS HILL PUBLIC SCHOOL**

**Mr PETER SIDGREAVES (Camden)**—A good teacher can make a world of difference in a student's life, impacting everything from their classroom learning to their long-life success. I take this time to congratulate Currans Hill Public School teacher Mrs O'Loughlan who was presented a certificate of recognition for 30 years of teaching service by the Director of Education for Macarthur, Dr Glen Patterson. Currans Hill Public School are very lucky to have the privilege of Mrs O'Loughlan teaching the students since the school opened in 2001. Congratulations once again on your award and I hope you have many more years of teaching memories to come.

#### **ELDERSLIE PUBLIC SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVES**

**Mr PETER SIDGREAVES (Camden)**—Well done to the students at Elderslie Public School students who have represented the school at Razorback and who were also selected into the Sydney South West (SSW) Teams. Congratulations to Ajay, Harrison and Bodhi who represented Razorback at the SSW Rugby Championships. Well done to Bodhi who was selected for the SSW Rugby team. Well done to Jackson and Dreyson who represented Razorback at the SSW Basketball Tournament. Congratulations to Dreyson who was selected in the SSW team to compete in Tamworth. Lastly, well done to Blake and Brooklyn who were selected to represent Razorback at the SSW Open League Tournament. What an amazing effort in representing your school and Razorback.

#### **CAMDEN ROTARY CLUB**

**Mr PETER SIDGREAVES (Camden)**—Last month, Camden Rotary Club held a 'Mega Auction' to raise funds for dementia research. Camden Rotary Club has a long and proud history of serving the community and being involved in both national and international projects. Rotary's motor of 'Service above Self' is more than mere words, it is belief and commitment. Camden Rotary Club in total reached their target, raising \$20,000 for dementia research, having sold 82 of the 83 items listed for sale. What a wonderful event to raise money for a great cause. I thank the work of members who volunteer their time to make events like this such a success.

#### **A CENTENARY FOR ST GEORGE DISTRICT ATHLETICS CLUB**

**Mr CHRIS MINNS (Kogarah)**—The St George District Amateur Athletic Club was formed at Hurstville on 7 March 1921. Originally called the 'Hurstville Harriers', the St George District Athletics Club recently had the opportunity to celebrate its 100-year jubilee at its Scarborough Park clubhouse. A grassroots club that welcomes all community members and ages, the club has fostered a number of champions, including Albie "The Phantom" Thomas, who went to three Olympics and broke two world records, breaking the two-mile world record over Herb Elliot in 8.32 in Ireland. Oldest living club member George Gedge (92), won a gold medal in the Auckland 1950 Empire Games in the 4x400 yard relay. Other athletes who wore the red and white: runners Daniel Batman, John Andrews and Ben St Lawrence. Three club officials Dennis Jolliffe, Alan Staples and Ron Gribble were recently presented with the Australian platinum service medal for a combined 140 years plus of service. I wish to congratulate the St George District Athletics Club on its outstanding contribution to sport and community and on its first 100 years. I look forward to seeing its achievements as it starts its next centenary.

#### **BAYSIDE MEN'S SHED (BESTIC STREET KYEEMAGH)**

**Mr CHRIS MINNS (Kogarah)**—I would like to acknowledge the generosity of the Bayside Men's Shed whose members recently took time out from making toys for sick children to support the Commonwealth Bank's NSW Floods Appeal. A collection box was set up at the Men's Shed premises for members to donate what they could – all done anonymously. Bayside Council mayor, Dr Christina Curry visited to open the collection box and count the proceeds and found that the members had collected \$1,000 to support the Floods Appeal. An outstanding amount. It's a small group; approximately 50 members are senior citizens aged between 65 and 92 and after seeing the flood footage and its devastating effects, felt the need to help. The Men's Shed members are currently aiming to make 200 toy cars by November for children in hospitals across NSW. Sincere thanks to all Men's Shed members for their generosity and continued charitable works as well as for providing a wonderful opportunity for local men to meet and share their skills and knowledge. It is greatly appreciated. I look forward to seeing the toy cars when they are ready.

**JOHNNY RAPER TRIBUTE (KOGARAH)**

**Mr CHRIS MINNS (Kogarah)**—St George footballing legend Johnny Raper's life and career were celebrated with a fitting tribute and plaque unveiling on 21 May at Kogarah's Netstrata Jubilee Oval. The plaque, to recognise his enormous contribution to Australian sport, was unveiled on the famous Dragons field in the presence of Raper's wife, three sons and some of Johnny's team mates. This was followed by a game of footy in which the first-grade team walked onto the ground with captain Ben Hunt holding Raper's number 8 jersey, which was retired for Round 11 in honour of the rugby league Immortal. Raper was one of the original Rugby League Immortals; he played 39 games for Australia, captaining eight times. He will most famously be remembered for playing in eight of the 11 consecutive grand final victories by the mighty St George Dragons. Raper retired with 215 first grade games and 57 tries to his name, including 180 appearances and 47 tries for his beloved St George. Vale Johnny Raper, a true Immortal and legend of the game and beloved St George player.

**GRC 'BETTER TOGETHER' ANTI-RACISM CAMPAIGN**

**Mr MARK COURE (Oatley—Minister for Multiculturalism, and Minister for Seniors)**—Today I congratulate Georges River Council on a successful launch of the 'Better Together' Anti-Racism Campaign. I recently attended the launch at the Clive James Library at Kogarah and made a short speech in my capacity as the Minister for Multiculturalism and Seniors. It was excellent to connect with constituents within my local area and discuss this important issue. Anti-racism strategies remain a high priority for both Georges River Council and myself. The Georges River area is incredibly diverse, with many residents coming from China, Nepal, Greece, the Philippines, India and a number of other countries. Multiculturalism truly helps to make our community a better place to live. As a part of the program, Georges River Council introduced the 'Living Libraries' initiative which allows members of the local community to learn about the experiences of others by borrowing a 'human book' to read, which helps to build understanding and empathy. I would like to once again congratulate Georges River Council on a successful launch and wish them all the best with the future endeavours of this program.

**ARNCLIFFE AURORA FOOTBALL CLUB**

**Mr MARK COURE (Oatley—Minister for Multiculturalism, and Minister for Seniors)**—Today I thank Arncliffe Aurora Football Club for a wonderful Business Partners Dinner and to wish them luck in their upcoming season. I recently attended the Business Partners Dinner and I must say, I had an absolutely fantastic evening. It was great to speak at this event and it was also great to meet with the chair of Football St George, Irene Hatzipetros, who does outstanding work in the local sporting community. Established in 1991, Arncliffe Aurora Football Club promotes a social sporting environment for children and youth who live in Arncliffe and surrounding areas. They look to improve both mental and physical health, as well as disciplinary skills through participation in this wonderful sport. Grassroots soccer clubs are truly the heart of our local sporting community. It is such a pleasure to see organisations like Football St George and Arncliffe Aurora Football Club operating to such a high calibre within my electorate, and I am so proud of the work they do. I look forward to supporting local soccer clubs like Arncliffe Aurora Football Club into the future, and wish them all the best in the upcoming season.

**CRAIG THOMSON**

**Mr MARK COURE (Oatley—Minister for Multiculturalism, and Minister for Seniors)**—Today I thank a wonderful member of our community who has served us so well, the Editor of the St George Leader, Craig Thomson. Craig has recently accepted a role as the Editor for the Australian Community Media's South East Queensland masthead. Since starting as an Editor with the Leader in January of 2020, Craig has helped keep the community informed as we navigated through some tough times. Whilst the COVID-19 pandemic was certainly difficult for all of us, Craig and his team at the Leader ensured that the community was kept up to date on important news events. Craig has promoted the journalistic values of honesty, integrity, accuracy and fairness, delegating tasks to journalists and collaborating with them on newsworthy issues. Craig is a truly accomplished leader, and his years of experience will help Australian Community Media to meet their organisational goals. I would again like to congratulate Craig on this position, and wish him all the best in his future endeavours.

**The House adjourned, pursuant to standing and sessional orders, at 20:12 until  
Wednesday 22 June 2022 at 09:30.**