



New South Wales

Legislative Assembly

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES (HANSARD)

**Fifty-Seventh Parliament
First Session**

Thursday 23 June 2022

Authorised by the Parliament of New South Wales

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Thursday 23 June 2022

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

The Speaker read the prayer and acknowledgement of country.

Announcements

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY PHOTOGRAPHS

The SPEAKER: I inform the House that a media representative has been authorised to take still photographs in the Chamber today during the Leader of the Opposition's budget reply speech.

[Notices of motions given.]

Bills

APPROPRIATION BILL 2022

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL 2022

STATE REVENUE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2022

Second Reading Debate

The SPEAKER: I remind all members to extend the usual courtesy to the Leader of the Opposition, as was extended to the Treasurer, for the budget reply speech to be delivered uninterrupted.

Mr CHRIS MINNS (Kogarah) (09:47): I respond to the twelfth budget from the Liberal-Nationals Government. I do so acknowledging the traditional owners of the land on which we meet and determined to walk the path to a treaty with the Indigenous people of this State. I do so with respect for those opposite and a deep responsibility to the people of New South Wales. This week I want our Parliament and our people to see a serious, constructive debate about our State's future.

This was meant to be the year the people of New South Wales enjoyed the prosperity of the post-COVID reality. That is why in the darkest days of the pandemic NSW Labor chose to support the leadership of the former Premier Gladys Berejiklian. We did so in the hope that if we all stuck together and did the right thing, future budgets would be handed down in prosperous times. That was our hope in 2020 and 2021, and that was the people's hope. But the reality of 2022 is so very different. Instead, our people face a future of deep uncertainty, of spiralling costs and of slow wage growth and an ever-growing sense that our economy demands of the many but delivers only for the few.

So just as we did in the pandemic, now in this extraordinary economic crunch NSW Labor stands ready to work with the Government on a plan to see the State through. But unfortunately this year things are different. During the pandemic Gladys Berejiklian had a plan, and we were prepared to back it. Now the State has a cost-of-living challenge, but the budget deals with the Liberals' and The Nationals' "teals challenge". After 12 years of Liberal-Nationals government, four Liberal Premiers and four Liberal Treasurers, this Premier and this Treasurer have a press release for almost everything, but a detailed plan for almost nothing.

Not everything the other side does is wrong; there are parts of this budget that I support. I do not want us to go down the American path of destructive partisan politics and undermining trust in democracy. We do not need that here. So I want to say very sincerely that the Government's initiative to put \$743 million into palliative care is a welcome and important budget announcement. For too long end-of-life care has been a low priority of governments of both political persuasions. No-one should have to suffer in silence but for too long we have allowed that to happen. Change needed to come, and I congratulate the Premier on that initiative. The Closing the Gap package to co-design and support locally focused activities is also a welcome shift and one that I hope has long-term financial support in New South Wales. Indeed, it is a crucial step in ensuring that we meet our Closing the Gap goals. Those are a couple of good things. But I do desperately want the next New South Wales budget to be so much better than this one. With NSW Labor, I know the next budget can chart a better way for New South Wales.

If this were a Labor budget, I would do four things differently: one, give real, immediate help for household budgets; two, build and buy things here to grow jobs at home; three, invest in education like our future depends

on it, because it does; and four, shape the economy to deliver for the many who work hard, not just the lucky few. Here is how. First, a New South Wales Labor government will keep the Sydney Harbour Bridge and the Sydney Harbour Tunnel in government hands. On 31 August the Sydney Harbour Tunnel contract expires. Over the years, drivers have paid off the cost of its construction multiple times. But the Government has refused to reveal what it will do with that critical piece of transport infrastructure. Why would it do that? We know that the Premier would love to sell that toll road once more, along with the Sydney Harbour Bridge, so he can boost his credentials as the great asset recycler. I will not. I commit NSW Labor to returning that money in toll relief for drivers.

The Premier would hand the Sydney Harbour Bridge and the Sydney Harbour Tunnel over to private operators. Labor will retain them in public ownership and put all that money into toll relief. This budget delivers a boost to the toll revenue of the private tolling companies via a boost to traffic. That is not right. Just as toll companies expect their contracts to be honoured, they should not expect windfall gains from government policy changes. Any windfall gain should be contributed back to the public in toll relief. That is just the first part of our plan to ease the toll crunch that the Liberals and The Nationals have put on the families of New South Wales. With Labor, tolls will always be cheaper than under this privatising, asset-recycling Liberal-Nationals Government.

Secondly, we will deliver a better and fairer wages deal for our essential workers. Our nurses, police officers, hospital cleaners and all our hardworking public service workers have felt the strain in recent years. They have never been more important. We want better and fairer outcomes for those people. But we are being held back by laws that impose wage suppression. Make no mistake: The New South Wales bargaining system is broken. It is failing to deliver fair wage increases for our essential workers. So we will scrap it and replace it with a system based on productivity-based bargaining. Our bargaining laws should reward governments when they cooperate with their workforces instead of confronting them in the courtroom. The law should help us pay those great people what they are worth. It should help us deliver productivity growth for taxpayers, which can be reinvested in better public services. The wage policy for the New South Wales public sector—a policy that covers one in 10 New South Wales workers—should drive wage growth in our economy. That is critical to our State's future.

The one thing on the minds of the people of this State right now is that the price of everything is going up: petrol, power, fresh produce, interest rates, inflation, taxes and tolls. We are already the highest taxing State in the country, at \$4,795 per person per year. Most of us live in the most tolled city on the face of the earth, paying tolls that go up by 4 per cent in a good year, except in years like 2022 when they go up by 6 per cent or even 8 per cent. That is before the current energy crisis. Next week people's energy bills are expected to increase by between 18 per cent and 20 per cent. My pledge is this: Starting next year, a Labor government will do what it can to make a difference where the pressure is greatest, starting with tolls.

How will Labor create more secure, safe and well-paid local jobs? I can announce that a Labor government will back New South Wales jobs with a comprehensive package of measures to get the job done. We will set a target of 50 per cent minimum local content for future rolling-stock contracts by the end of Labor's first term in office. That is to get us to where Victoria is. We will increase tender weightings to 30 per cent, capturing local content, job creation, small business and ethical supply chains to get us to where Queensland is. We will make sure we actually meet Indigenous procurement requirements. We will set up the NSW Jobs First Commission—an independent, expert body—to oversee the implementation and growth of local industries and support local firms as they bid for government tenders, exactly like they do down south.

We will address the skills gap through TAFE manufacturing centres of excellence in the Hunter, western Sydney and the Illawarra. We will redefine "value for money" to capture wider economic benefits, jobs creation and industry development, which has been recommended by the McKell Institute's recent report. We will collaborate with industry to make our demand pipeline as easy as possible for local suppliers to meet, and we will enforce reporting and accountability. What suppliers promise, they will have to deliver. Finally, in a key signal to the officials who make independent procurement decisions, I am proud to announce that more and better local jobs will be my first Premier's Priority.

I believe we should put behind us this crazy cultural cringe that says something made somewhere else must be better and cheaper than something we build in Australia, here at home. When did that get to be the rule in Australia? We only have to look at the New South Wales Government's foreign-built disasters—most recently at Sydney Ferries—to see it is complete rubbish. Why would we not use our own? It makes no sense; it is simply ideology. I do not understand why Sydney Metro Northwest used steel rails imported from Spain and why the Sydney International Convention Centre was built with steel from China. New South Wales has lost 42,000 manufacturing jobs in the same time that Queensland has gained 6,000. What is more, we have missed out on 4,000 more jobs because those projects were offshored.

Training has gone backwards as well. In 2011, 52,700 people completed a traineeship or apprenticeship. That has more than halved; just 22,000 people got their certificate in 2021. This hurts private industry and drives

a workforce crisis in the caring economy. Women make up the majority of people in those roles. When New South Wales needs nurses, early-childhood educators, social workers and aged-care workers, the Government has no plan, just as it has no plan to create good local jobs. It has to stop. It is this simple: Aussie businesses and workers can build at home as long as Australian governments buy at home. That is what a State Labor government will do.

After 12 years of Liberal-Nationals government, education results have not got better; they have got worse. Yet this budget offers nothing for today's learners. Universal preschool is an admirable goal. So why, after this Government waited 12 years to even set that goal, do families have to wait another eight years to reach it? By the time the Liberals and Nationals fix kindy, a child born on budget day will be in second grade, and a child born the day the Liberals and Nationals were first elected will have left school completely. Victoria can deliver its preschool goals by 2025. Why do we have to wait until 2030? I think we have already waited long enough. Investment in early education needs to start now. So I can announce that a New South Wales Labor Government will build 100 government preschools, co-located with primary schools, in our first four years.

Every new primary school should be built with a co-located preschool. Preschool centres should be built and expanded at under-utilised schools with vacant classrooms that can be retrofitted, and we can build new preschools on unused land. Where it works, we should also build standalone preschools to create an oasis of learning where there are early learning deserts in our growing towns and suburbs. All of this will help deliver universal preschool for four-year-old children well before 2030. It will be a huge boost to our children's learning and a huge benefit for the participation of women in the workforce. And the flood-impacted communities of the Northern Rivers region should not have to wait. As those schools are rebuilt, they should be built with preschools on site. This is an idea that makes sense, and it does not need to wait until the next State election. I urge the New South Wales Government to take up this idea right now.

In New South Wales, only Labor has a plan to help the household budget, to create local jobs and to reset our education system. But the very core of the difference between the parties in this Parliament is even more basic than that: Labor believes the economy should work for everyday people. The Liberals and Nationals really think that good economic management means more returns for a powerful few. Look at the asset sales of Premier Perrottet, Treasurer Kean and their predecessors. Eraring Energy sold for \$657 million a decade ago, and now they have offered the same company \$240 million to keep it open. WestConnex first sold for around \$20 billion while drivers are signed up to pay \$115 billion in tolls, all to private owners. The Port of Newcastle has been banned from use as a container terminal, a huge blow to Hunter businesses that are desperate to diversify the region's growing economy.

The household budget is bleeding from the rising costs to feed private profits. No wonder the independent competition watchdog, the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission, has said that privatisation without regulations, and often with rules designed to prevent them from facing competition, makes us all poorer. Yet this Government wants to go even further and make it even worse. Can you imagine if your water bill was controlled by a private company, just like your power bill or your toll bill? We will make the economy work better for everyone. So I can announce that a Labor Government will legislate a ban on the sale of major State assets without the approval of both Houses of the New South Wales Parliament. It is clear that this is shaping up to be a major difference between the parties at the next election.

We believe asset sales have hurt the economy. We know that the sale of Sydney Water, Hunter Water and the rail assets would be terrible for our State, and I have no doubt that the people of New South Wales believe this too. Making the economy work for everyday people means using the revenue from public assets for public good, not for private gain, and it means using the resources of the State to deliver benefits for the whole State. In 2022, this has to begin with a plan to rebuild Sydney's west and south-west. The New South Wales lockdown of 2021 was harshest in south-western and western Sydney, but those areas have had a budget lockdown from this Government for a decade. Every single one of our worst-served public transport suburbs is in western Sydney. Families move to the west on promises of infrastructure, schools, hospitals and public transport, all of which seems to mysteriously never appear.

The numbers are staggering. Two-thirds of our State's growth over the next 20 years will be in Sydney's western and south-western suburbs. Blacktown will see 200,000 more people move in; Liverpool, 190,000; and Camden, 180,000; but Mosman, a breezy 999. That in itself seems unfair. But to not match it with the urgently needed infrastructure, after a decade of neglect—it is just not right. Perhaps where suburban Sydney is paying the highest price of all is in the hospitals. This is the biggest city in Australia, one of the richest countries in the world, and we understand the need for public health as much as any society on the face of the earth. Our hospitals should be sanctuaries. You should arrive in a hospital in Sydney and think, "Thank God I live in this city." But we are a million miles from that today.

Staff say that it is a complete mess. Patients suffer. Our healthcare workers, who entered a noble profession with the singular goal of helping others, are now at breaking point. And it is worst in the places where people are most vulnerable and, in many cases, need the most help. It is shocking that four in 10 critical emergency department patients did not start treatment on time. But it is disgraceful that across the west and south-west that figure is not four in 10—it is seven in 10. And would you believe that at Blacktown Hospital it is eight in 10? It is frightening. It cannot go on, and it is not fair. This is too important to allow those opposite to keep getting it wrong. The solution is long-term investment in our primary health care, emergency departments and public hospitals. There should be no repeat of the Liberal and Nationals approach: 12 years of neglect and then a mad election-year scramble to hire 7,000 staff—a plan that lasted a day before the Premier began to walk it back.

Labor will not forget south-western Sydney. We will not forget western Sydney. And, of course, we will not forget our wonderful, diverse and growing regional communities—beautiful regions which are the heartland of our State. Look at the Central West. It can be a cradle of renewable energy and opportunity in our State if we nurture it with local TAFE investment and spread the growth by making more renewable technology right here at home. Consider the Central Coast of our State. It is one of the most beautiful places on earth. It can be an engine room of economic growth and social opportunity if the Government does the right thing.

We can do so much more, especially if we partner with local government. All our regions have so much potential to flourish and grow. So we will do things differently to the Liberals and Nationals by creating jobs in New South Wales through local procurement and domestic manufacturing, ending the obsession with offshoring jobs, training more people for regional businesses and stopping the gutting of regional TAFE. We will build infrastructure where the population growth will be and, above all, we will deliver proper health care no matter where you live.

We must begin the process of budget repair, and that begins with a solution to the Transport Asset Holding Entity train wreck. Officially, TAHE is a State-owned corporation created by the Government so the accountants could say that the cost of safely maintaining our rolling stock and our rail lines was not a cost to the budget bottom line. At least, that is the theory—or maybe even the excuse. The reality is very different. We fear it is a vehicle for privatisation of our train assets. We know it risks safety—a key finding from previous rail disaster investigations is that ownership of an asset should not be separated from the Government—and we see that it leaves our budget far worse off.

Now, to try to make it a money-spinner, they want to build hotels on top of train lines. It is spinning out of control. It cannot go on. To date, this mess has cost more than \$25 billion, including a \$5.2 billion bailout last year alone. We are on track to lose another \$13 billion over the next decade. I am sick of it, and we will put an end to it. So I can announce that the Transport Asset Holding Entity will go. NSW Labor will consult with rail safety experts on the safe return of our rail assets to Transport for NSW and its agencies. We will deliver a sound plan, similar to the model previously managed, where rail operators owned the assets that they operated. But no matter how much it has splurged and no matter how deep its debt, this Government has no mandate to introduce a land tax. There is no need to rush legislation through Parliament in September when there is an election in March.

Given a land tax will rise every time property values rise and a typical Sydney family would start by paying \$2,400 each year every year from next year, at a time when interest rates are set to skyrocket, people deserve to have their say. The Premier says this is a big reform, so we should have a big debate because there are big questions here. When we examine this proposal seriously, stripped of all the rhetoric of reform, Mr Perrottet's tax brings great additional complexity to the system without addressing the underlying problem of the balance between tax on income and tax on wealth, and—I think everyone fears this—it leaves the door open for a future Liberal government to extend this tax to everybody.

Ours is a comprehensive plan, and we will have more to say in the coming months. We will crack down on pork-barrelling. The Government should adopt our plan. We will legislate for net zero carbon emissions by 2050. In fact, our bill will be voted on straight after this speech. I look forward to outlining the first steps of our agriculture policy when I address NSW Farmers in July.

After four Premiers, four Treasurers and 12 budgets, the Liberals and The Nationals are going to ask for 16 years in Government next March. What the Liberals and The Nationals have failed to achieve in 12 years, they will not get done in 16. After the last two weeks, we can be absolutely certain that budgets 13, 14, 15 and 16 will not fix the problems that budgets 1 through to 12 created, because the Government does not even have a plan to try. For all those years in office, the Treasurer and the Premier still think they can somehow announce their way into a better future for the people of this State.

The future is not shaped by spin. It is shaped by real measures to reduce the financial burden on families struggling to make the family budget balance at the end of each week. It is shaped by specific government

decisions to ensure good, high-paying jobs are part of New South Wales' future, not a reality just for prosperous previous generations. It is shaped by an education system that is reformed and focused on preparing kids for the opportunities of tomorrow, not just patched up by measures to fix the problems of years and years of cutbacks. It is shaped by clear government principles that reject the steady drift towards privatisation and a user-pays, dog-eat-dog style economy. And the future is shaped by government finances managed with discipline and responsibility so that we build for the next decade, not just for the next election.

I commit NSW Labor to work constructively in opposition, whatever the world throws at us in the months to come. But we can only do so much from Opposition. When I listen to the people of our State—good, hardworking people; sometimes having a good-natured debate about things that are not working right; sometimes pouring their hearts out about what a struggle life has become—there is always one question that comes up sooner or later. People ask me, "Isn't there something you can do to help?" And I always say, "Yes, absolutely. Together we can change the way this works, but only if we change the government, only if we turn the page on this Government and begin anew with a government with a real and credible plan." The people of New South Wales, all of them—no matter where they live, no matter how they vote—deserve a positive vision. The key that unlocks that future is to change the government, change our direction. There is a better way.

The SPEAKER: The question is that these bills be now read a second time.

Motion agreed to.

Third Reading

Mr MATT KEAN: I move:

That these bills be now read a third time.

Motion agreed to.

Budget

BUDGET ESTIMATES AND RELATED PAPERS 2022-2023

Mr MATT KEAN (Hornsby—Treasurer, and Minister for Energy) (10:14): I move:

That this House take note of the Budget Estimates and Related Papers for 2022-2023.

The SPEAKER: In accordance with the resolution of the House, I set down debate on the Budget Estimates and Related Papers 2022-2023 as an order of the day for a later time.

BUDGET ESTIMATES AND RELATED PAPERS 2022-2023

Debate resumed from an earlier hour.

Mr KEVIN ANDERSON (Tamworth—Minister for Lands and Water, and Minister for Hospitality and Racing) (10:14): I support the 2023 New South Wales budget delivered and handed down by the Perrottet-Toole Government. This is a Government that cares about people. This is a Government that continues to drive the economy hard in order to provide a better life for those not only in the city but also in regional New South Wales. Let me talk firstly about community assets. An investment of \$37 million on community assets on Crown land will ensure safer and improved infrastructure for residents and communities and support jobs for trades and material suppliers. The 2022-23 budget provides \$20 million to deliver the Priority Service Delivery Renewal Program, as part of a \$46 million program across four years. This program will repair and upgrade Crown land infrastructure and recreational and cultural assets and will support local communities, jobs, economies and tourism. The Government, through the Minister for Planning, is embarking on a transformation plan, with Crown land being repurposed for social and affordable housing. We want to ensure that those who need and want to own their own home can realise the great Australian dream.

In relation to water, \$1.1 billion will be invested as part of the 2022-23 New South Wales budget to ensure that the State has sustainable, secure and healthy water resources both for now and into the future. We talk a lot about hospitals, roads, schools and our emergency service personnel, but also we need to ensure that we have clean, fresh, running water. We want to create a more secure water future for New South Wales by providing funding for the planning and delivery of a raft of major infrastructure projects as well as new policies and programs that will better support the community in the event of the driest periods.

Droughts will come and droughts will go. As a result of climate change, we are seeing more extreme weather events roll through. One of the biggest water investments in the 2022-23 budget is \$369.6 million over the next four years for the Safe and Secure Water Program, including \$90 million in new funding to expand the program, which co-funds vital water infrastructure projects and sewerage infrastructure projects in every corner of regional New South Wales. This budget announcement comes on top of the \$1 billion the Government has

already invested in the program it started in 2017, which supports 233 projects across country New South Wales, including 23 completed projects that are now benefitting over 300,000 people in the State.

Further, the budget includes \$19.8 million over the next three years to begin implementing the NSW Water Strategy, including delivering the State's first groundwater strategy and a dedicated Aboriginal water strategy and developing southern floodplain management plans. Some \$102.3 million, committed as part of the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal final price determination, is to be used for water planning and management and rural bulk water services in New South Wales. We will continue to ensure that water infrastructure right across New South Wales is upgraded, with \$138.6 million over four years to fund regulatory and compliance activity, including money to investigate suspicious activities and alleged breaches to water regulation in New South Wales. In other areas, there is \$102 million over two years for off-farm efficiency programs, including \$70 million for Murrumbidgee Irrigation Limited to improve water delivery infrastructure to create water savings for the environment. Every dollar counts, and when we are on a tight budget this is what we need to do to ensure that we are putting money back in the pockets of eligible farmers via water rebates.

We are rolling out record investment in regional water infrastructure, including funding for the new Wilcannia Weir, pump stations at Nyngan, Hermidale and Cobar, and five accelerated sustainable diversion limit adjustment mechanism projects in the Murray and Murrumbidgee. Water is the lifeblood of our communities, and this budget is investing in projects, strategies and initiatives that will support secure, sustainable and healthier water resources across New South Wales for decades to come. I want to ensure that we continue to deliver for the people of New South Wales. Over the next 12 months this budget will focus on people. Our people have done it tough over the last 18 months to two years, through drought, floods and COVID. We are making sure that we are people focused, particularly in terms of those who need it most.

I touch briefly on the regional New South Wales housing package. It is at the heart of the New South Wales Government's 2022 Housing Package, with almost \$328 million to improve housing supply and ensure that locals and key workers are moving to regions that they can call home. The investment will increase housing supply across the State by fast-tracking planning, building new homes, upgrading social housing, bolstering key worker accommodation and unlocking government-owned land. We know that housing is one of the biggest limiting factors in attracting workers and driving further growth in our regions, and that is why we are investing an extra \$327 million to tackle this issue with practical solutions. This includes \$174 million to deliver more than 270 new homes for teachers, nurses and police, ensuring that we look after the people caring for our communities. Build it and they will come. That is why hospitals and schools are being built right across New South Wales, in Newcastle, Sydney and Wollongong, and to the north border, south border and even west border of New South Wales.

In addition, we will be providing the workforce that will operate those facilities. That is a key component of this budget, to ensure that we have the workforce that will operate those new hospitals, ambulance stations, schools, police stations, Rural Fire Service centres and Fire and Rescue centres right across New South Wales. This budget is focused on the fact that women need and want to be part of every workforce opportunity that is available. So child care is a centrepiece of this budget, with free child care enabling women to go back to the workforce. It has been prohibitive up until now, where a significant percentage of their income is swallowed up by child care. That does not make it tenable for them to go to work. So the childcare package announced in this budget will allow women the freedom and the choice to go back to the workforce. They are a significant contributor.

We are also focusing heavily on child and adolescent mental health. When we look at the health and mental health sector, not only in regional New South Wales but right across New South Wales, the 2022-23 New South Wales budget is delivering for mental health and women. The incredible work that is being done by the Minister for Regional Health is also delivering for the people of New South Wales in this budget. It provides the biggest blueprint in this State's history to level the playing field for women, investing \$16.5 billion over 10 years, with \$4.9 billion committed over the next term of this Government.

The New South Wales budget allocates \$16.5 billion over 10 years in programs that will benefit women, including the following investments over four years: \$4.6 billion to increase women's participation in the workforce, which I have alluded to; \$1.7 billion towards introducing universal pre-kindergarten opportunities; \$1.3 billion fee relief for preschool; \$775 million towards boosting accessibility and affordability of child care; and \$32 million, which is \$30 million in grants and \$2 million in administration, to provide wraparound support for women to return to work.

This budget is focused on families. This budget is focused on those who need that support and those most vulnerable in our community. It is a fair go for all. There is \$69.4 million to improve the experiences of women in the workforce, including \$21 million to increase women's participation in the Fire and Rescue workforce, enhance workplace safety and, additionally, provide amenities for women so they can join Fire and Rescue—

amenities as basic as separate toilets and change rooms right across Fire and Rescue stations in New South Wales. There is also \$20.2 million to triple the number of women in construction by 2030, from 5 per cent to 15 per cent.

The budget also delivers enhanced paid parental leave for public sector employees, including two weeks' bonus leave where parents share leave more equally. The budget also includes \$150.5 million to increase women's health and wellbeing, including \$80 million to support affordable fertility treatments, \$40.3 million for menopause hubs and \$25 million to upgrade lighting and build female change rooms at sporting grounds and again provide the facilities for families to take part. With families attending sporting grounds right across New South Wales, they want to ensure that they have good facilities. No longer is it appropriate for a sporting ground to have a tin shed that serves as a change room, canteen, toilet and amenity. We need to ensure that these facilities are upgraded. That is why \$25 million has been allocated to upgrading lighting and building female change rooms at sporting grounds. There is also \$5.2 million to support postnatal mental health.

On regional health, frontline services are at the forefront of this budget. Regional and rural New South Wales will benefit from more than \$3 billion in health infrastructure spending over the next four years. The significant investment in health capital works in the 2022-23 New South Wales budget will deliver better health facilities for patients and their families, more jobs and improved working environments for doctors, nurses and support staff. Doctors, clinicians and allied health professionals are in very short supply in regional New South Wales. That is why this Government is focused on charting the pathways for those clinicians to go to regional New South Wales, to be recruited and to be retained in those regional centres. This investment will ensure that more of our regional communities in New South Wales can be cared for closer to home in new and upgraded health facilities—a win-win for patients and our highly-valued health staff. Importantly, at least 90 of the more than 100 health capital works projects underway in New South Wales are in rural and regional New South Wales. This record funding will mean we can turn the sod on even more new work in coming months.

The Leader of the Opposition just delivered his reply speech on the budget. His words were that he wants people in New South Wales to walk into "Sydney hospitals" and have the very best. There are many more hospitals outside Sydney that justly deserve the same service and the same treatment. Why should people be discriminated against because of their postcode? It should not happen. This Government will not allow that to happen, because the New South Wales 2022-23 budget includes funding for two major redevelopments at Grafton Base Hospital and Bathurst hospital, \$53 million for Gunnedah Hospital, and \$56 million for a state-of-the-art child, adolescent and adult mental health facility in Tamworth. This funding is in addition to other major works announced previously as part of the \$500 million investment in regional health services, including redevelopments at Cessnock, Temora, Albury, Finley, Maitland, Batemans Bay, Forster-Tuncurry and Broken Hill.

Mental health is a growing and deeply concerning issue that affects many people. The Government is caring for our communities. A record \$2.9 billion will be invested in mental health services and support for people across the State as part of the 2022-23 budget. This budget will deliver universal aftercare for anyone in the State who attempts suicide, while investing for the first time in expanding the headspace network across New South Wales. I will break down part of that investment because this is very important. There is \$143.4 million across four years for Towards Zero Suicides to fund suicide prevention initiatives, which contains the \$87 million investment in the 2019-20 to 2021-22 budgets and \$60.7 million over four years for aftercare to support people who have attempted suicide or experienced suicidal crisis. This is on top of \$9 million previously invested in a trial of aftercare from 2019-20 to 2021-22 and \$46.5 million over four years to substantially expand and enhance headspace services, ensuring they can reach even more young people across the State. This is in addition to the \$27 million previously invested in the service in July 2021.

There is \$26.4 million over four years to establish Head to Health hubs that will see multidisciplinary teams operate a No Wrong Door approach for adults experiencing mental health challenges, and \$17.9 million over four years for new child health and wellbeing community-based hubs for children to strengthen support for parents and improve early intervention. It will also increase access to multidisciplinary care and the statewide Community and Court Liaison Service for children up to 12 years and their families. Some \$5.2 million will be invested over four years for non-government organisations to help new and expecting parents access mental health support and counselling. In addition, the very important Lifeline service will receive \$28.5 million over four years to boost crisis counselling services. This funding builds on the \$25.5 million already invested since 2018-19 in supporting vital services.

We have talked about health, schools, child care, women, support for businesses and achieving home ownership—the great Australian dream. It is within reach with a Perrottet-Toole Government. We will create an affordable pathway to attaining the great Australian dream. Agriculture is also significant. I will elaborate on the more than \$1 billion allocated in the 2022-23 State budget to economic, social and environmental programs designed to build a more resilient and stronger primary industries sector. *[Extension of time]*

This is important, as we see now with the economy and the cost of living. The budget is focused on driving down the cost of living and ensuring that our agriculture sector continues to survive and thrive after experiencing one of the worst droughts on record. We need to ensure that the budget's investments in the primary industries sector, which was valued at \$20.9 billion last year, help to protect that record while creating opportunities for future growth. The New South Wales primary industries sector has the aspiration of reaching a value of \$30 billion by 2030, and the budget delivered this week supports that aspiration.

Stronger primary industries are critical not only for stronger regional communities but also for the flow-on effect to metropolitan communities. When people go to the supermarket—no matter whether it is in Ku-ring-gai, Tamworth, Broken Hill, Tweed, Coffs Harbour or Bega—they find produce from far and wide across this great State. Driving down the cost of living and allowing people to choose from a variety of foods is part of healthy living, looking after our citizens and providing new opportunities. That is why the New South Wales Government is committed to strengthening this sector now and well into the future. The drought, other natural disasters and the global pandemic have significantly challenged our primary producers, who have responded by achieving record levels of production each year for the past two years. This budget provides the programs to equip our primary producers to continue to boost their productivity and profitability, while ensuring we manage our natural resources sustainably for generations to come.

I will spend a little time highlighting what the 2022-23 New South Wales budget has provided for our agricultural sector and the flow-on effect to metropolitan New South Wales. There is \$670.6 million to support the recovery and clean-up efforts from the New South Wales floods in 2022-23, including \$295.1 million over the next two years. Our North Coast colleagues and friends are not forgotten. The recovery and the clean-up continues, and we will continue to support them. We will stand by them as they recover from flood after flood. The \$670.6 million to support the recovery and clean-up efforts is the centrepiece of what we must do to care for our communities and our vulnerable when they need us the most. There is \$182 million to fund the remaining six years of the 10-year Marine Estate Management Strategy and \$163.9 million to prepare and prevent future biodiversity threats from the north. Strengthening our borders will make sure that we have prevention and control. Those preventative measures in our biosecurity area are so critical because those threats will cripple our agricultural sector should they be introduced into New South Wales.

In the 2022-23 budget, there is \$58 million over two years to undertake repair work on State forestry roads and related infrastructure and \$52.3 million to operate prevention of food safety risks, promote compliance and deliver legislative food safety, including investigating breaches, undertaking prosecutions, managing foodborne illness requirements and safeguarding animal welfare that supports rapid, long-term resilient recovery for those affected by adverse events. Some \$34.3 million will support climate change adaption, with options for cost-effective emissions reductions without the loss of productivity, increased carbon storage and sequestration, and the adoption of energy-efficient renewable energy technologies.

This is a budget for the future. It will continue to look after those in our communities who are most vulnerable, who need to reach out for support and who believe that this is the State for confidence and prosperity. This budget works with those non-government organisations to partner with the Government and to provide the services that are so desperately needed, like core and cluster models of domestic violence accommodation pods across the State. Those measures will continue to support our people. In addition to supporting our people, the budget also supports the racing sector, which creates jobs and puts food on the table. The Government ensured that it was operating through COVID. We want to ensure that the racing sector continues across greyhounds, thoroughbreds and harness. It continues to provide jobs not only in metropolitan but also regional New South Wales.

I am proud of the 2022-23 budget for New South Wales. It is a budget for the people. It is a budget to ensure that our women and children are offered every possible opportunity and pathway. As I said at the start of my speech, it is one of the best budgets that I have seen in my time in this place. I commend the Premier, the Deputy Premier, the Treasurer and all of my colleagues for getting us to where we are today as we continue to thank those in New South Wales who have stood up and looked after their fellow New South Welshmen through very difficult times.

Ms Janelle Saffin: And women.

Mr KEVIN ANDERSON: And women. It was a sweeping generalisation. The people of New South Wales and, in particular, regional New South Wales can be comforted knowing that the Liberals and The Nationals will continue to represent their best interests in this place. We are focused on growing the economy, boosting the budget, and creating and retaining good jobs and manufacturing jobs in the State. This budget will continue to build a brighter future for everyone in New South Wales.

Mr DAVID HARRIS (Wyang) (10:43): One of the reasons I get to speak first on the Opposition side is that I usually do my budget reply speeches in instalments. I love to keep people hanging, ready for the next instalment. I do not need that flow; I can just pick up where I left off. I speak on the budget that was handed down on Tuesday from the perspective of my local electorate. There is good and bad news for my electorate. The good news is that there is more than \$30 million worth of infrastructure development across a range of projects. The bad news is that one of the biggest projects, which we have been hanging on to for the last 12 years and which was promised \$420 million in financial support just before the last Federal budget—which I will talk more about—only got \$1 million in this budget.

So there was a mixed response from my community. There was some happiness and some, "Oh, here we go, we have to wait again." I know that across the State people are going through the budget papers in quite some detail. They will find little hidden gems and some things that are time dependent. I will talk more about that when I come back the next time.

Debate interrupted.

Bills

ROCK FISHING SAFETY AMENDMENT BILL 2021

First Reading

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

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Lee Evans): I advise the House that I have received a written authority from the Hon. Mark Banasiak, MLC, advising that the member for Barwon will have carriage of the bill in the Legislative Assembly. I order that the second reading of the bill stand as an order of the day for tomorrow.

WATER MANAGEMENT AMENDMENT (FLOODPLAIN HARVESTING LICENCES COMPENSATION) BILL 2022

Second Reading Speech

Debate resumed from 19 May 2022.

Mrs HELEN DALTON (Murray) (10:46): I speak on the Water Management Amendment (Floodplain Harvesting Licence Compensation) Bill 2022 in Parliament. This vital bill seeks to protect the Lower Darling and southern basin communities whilst also saving taxpayers billions of dollars. In February the New South Wales Government sneakily handed out 132 floodplain harvesting licences to an exclusive club of mostly wealthy corporate northern basin irrigators. The Nationals have given these licences to their mates for free. It has been occurring recently from about the end of last year. Some 132 licences have been given out without the metering and monitoring that we have been asking for. Of course, we do not know how much water will be taken.

But get this: The Nationals have also changed the law to ensure that these free licences will also have a monetary value for the northern basin irrigators. This is one of the biggest transfers of wealth from the people of New South Wales to the private sector in the history of this State. To reiterate: These licences are given out for free; in the southern basin we pay for our licences. We have paid for them for years. Back in the day, when you bought your property with the water on it, that was taken into consideration with the price of the land.

This is one of the biggest transfers of wealth ever seen—from a public good into private hands. It is the biggest heist since Ronnie Biggs. My bill stops The Nationals—the modern-day Ronald Biggs—dead in their tracks. It seeks to reverse The National's law change in 2013, which provided for compensation to be paid to water licence holders if the Government cancels a water licence. That was changed by Kevin Humphries in 2013 to guarantee that there would be compensation for the water holders.

Floodplain harvesting licences are worth approximately \$2 billion according to the NSW Irrigators' Council, which is an awful lot of money. The Government is gifting those licences to northern Basin irrigators for free. Strangely, the Treasury has not reviewed the issuing of those licences, so it does not know anything about it. It has not factored that into its budget at all. The New South Wales Government has failed to conduct a regulatory impact assessment. It has thrown New South Wales best practice regulation guidelines out the window. The New South Wales Government is gifting a number of those licences to foreign companies; they are not just being gifted to Australian farmers. However, the Foreign Investment Review Board will not review those purchases. There is no oversight at all. It is not interested in water; it does not know anything about water. It is interested only in land and other things. Somewhere along the line, someone has to be responsible for the gifting of those licences to foreigners—and for the gifting of them to anyone, really.

The New South Wales Government has allowed the Chinese Government to own 7,000 megalitres of water in the Gwydir Valley. That is a fact. How many other foreign governments and foreign corporations are those opposite allowing to plunder our most valuable natural resource? We do not know, because this Government voted against my bill for a water register. Members opposite voted the bill down three times, keeping water ownership secret. The first step is to have a water registry that would outline who owns what. That is the beginning of trying to unravel the water mess that we are in. Bit by bit, over 30 years, through bits-and-pieces rule changes along the way, it has become an unholy mess. That needs to change, and the bill is the beginning of that change. We now have secrecy around floodplain harvesting licences, so the Government has not learned anything about water. Government members still like secrecy, but the floodplain licences should be on a registry so that we know what is going on.

The Southern Riverina Irrigators are proceeding with legal action against the issuing of floodplain harvesting licences. Should they be successful, the New South Wales Government could be liable for compensation to floodplain licence holders. The taxpayers of New South Wales will foot the \$2 billion bill. The reasons the Southern Riverina Irrigators are so upset about all of this are, firstly, that they have paid for their licences and, secondly, that if the water does not get into the Darling River when it is flooded, then the water does not get down the Darling to South Australia. There is a commitment that water will go to South Australia, so if they do not get it down the Darling, then they will go to general security irrigators along the Murray and the Murrumbidgee.

The new law I am introducing today will stop that. It will ensure northern Basin irrigators cannot get financial compensation for floodplain harvesting licences. But Government members are experts at blocking, stonewalling and delaying bills they do not like. They have done that three times with my water registry bill. They have blocked, delayed and done whatever they could to make sure that that bill does not come up, and this bill will be the same. I have no doubt at all that they will dream up ways that the bill cannot come to a vote. A lot of people do not understand floodplain harvesting and why it creates such controversy, so I explain that now. I will give members a little bit of background. It is very important that city MPs and people right across Australia understand what is going on with water, because we are already seeing a price hike in food. We will continue to see that—\$10 or \$11 for a lettuce. As I have said, water is our most valuable and scarce natural resource.

In the early 1990s, the State and Federal governments decided too much water was being extracted from our river system. Governments said our rivers were dying and we needed to do something about it, and they were. They came up with something called the Murray-Darling Basin Plan, which was supposed to reduce the amount of water used for irrigation and preserve more water from the environment. As a result, the New South Wales Government set a legal limit on extraction. In other words, people could not take more than they were supposed to—except that we do not know what floodplain harvesters take, because it is not metered. All future water take would need to be restricted at the level it was back in 1994, which is commonly called the cap. We had little bulldozers in 1994, and we now have massive bulldozers that can divert or move earth to extract as much water as we can. The earthmoving gear has just got bigger, better and more efficient. We wanted the earthworks staying at the 1994 level, and not increased earthworks, so that there would not be increased floodplain harvesting.

However, on-farm storages by northern Basin irrigators have increased by 142 per cent since 1994 according to research from Slattery & Johnson. That is a massive increase in on-farm storages. They have used their water storages to extract trillions of litres of water through the practice known as floodplain harvesting, diverting water onto their private dams before it even reaches the Darling River. Darling River communities have been massively impacted by that. Communities, floodplain graziers and general security licence holders on the Murray have now had their water rights eroded. We have paid for our licences, and yet we have had an erosion of our rights.

The Murray-Darling Basin Plan was supposed to be all about reducing water extraction, but there has been a 142 per cent increase in dams on private farms. Communities across southern New South Wales experienced a lot of hardship for the greater good of the Basin. The Government took water away from the southern Basin communities, forcing many farmers out of the industry. The corresponding increase in dams in the north has negatively impacted on irrigators in the southern section of the State. At the same time, this Government allowed an exclusive club of northern Basin irrigators to vastly increase their water extraction.

The Government did not monitor or measure floodplain harvesting. It has been given hundreds of millions of dollars over the past 20 years to do just that, and yet we still do not have that work done. Different apps can track water, so I do not see why the New South Wales Government cannot do it as well. In fact, the Government has allowed floodplain harvesting to flourish. While southern Basin irrigators were monitored and metered within an inch of their lives, the northern Basin has been given a free ride. It is clear that when big corporate irrigators siphon water away from our river, there are flow impacts on downstream communities. If it is in their dams, it is not flowing down the Darling.

Until the late twentieth century, the Barwon and Darling-Baaka rivers did not dry up. The rivers rarely stopped flowing, and we have seen that change in the past few years. It now dries up for months or years at a time. Water quality is often poor, with frequent algal blooms. Motor neurone disease rates are skyrocketing across rural New South Wales, which is said to be linked to the blue-green algal blooms. During the drought I had a call from a woman who had just had her first baby, and the water quality coming out of the Darling River was so poor that she did not know what to do with her baby. She did not know how she would bathe that baby, and she was bathing it in bottled water because the water coming from the Darling was so putrid.

The annual average flow of the Barwon and Darling-Baaka rivers into the Murray River has been reduced by 59 per cent since the year 2000, compared to the long-term average flows to the Murray River assumed for the Basin Plan. The Darling's contribution to South Australia's entitlement is reduced, leaving the shortfall to be made up by the Murray River. If they do not get that water coming down the Darling into South Australia, they come hunting for it along the Murray and Murrumbidgee rivers. Excessive, unregulated floodplain harvesting has contributed to the decline and collapse of horticulture industries around Bourke, Menindee and the Lower Darling. Around Menindee there used to be production of seedless grapes and blood red oranges, but not anymore. They are gone. Those industries are finished because there is no water.

It has caused towns along the river, from Collarenebri to Pooncarie, to run out of water for long periods. It contributes to the low life expectancy of Aboriginal people born in Wilcannia, which is just 37 years for a man and 42 years for a woman. That is a national disgrace in a First World country. The river is the Aboriginal people's supermarket; they live off the river. During the drought, the river stopped flowing and there was nothing there for them. It is their source of tucker and recreation. The impact of changes to the river on the lives of Aboriginal people is reflected in their life expectancy figures—37 years for a man and 42 years for a woman. I know that is not the whole story, but it is a big part of it.

Floodplain harvesting also reduces water in the Murray River that is available for irrigation. General security irrigators spent two years on zero allocation while full rivers flowed past them. The water was delivered to South Australia. For two years irrigators along the Murray River were not able to take water. That will continue to happen when it stops raining because it has not been sorted out. The environmental damage is also significant. Floodplain harvesting has contributed to fish kills and to the decline of the Menindee Lakes as a nursery for native fish. Menindee Lakes is also a breeding habitat for native birds. Floodplain harvesting contributes to out-of-season flooding at the Barmah-Millewa forest, causing the decline of the river red gum forest and Moira grass. For these reasons it is important for floodplain harvesting to be measured, regulated, environmentally sustainable and within the cap. The cap is the law. But the New South Wales Government's current plans to licence and regulate floodplain harvesting will not ensure water take is within the cap.

The modelling used to determine cap levels in each northern Basin river valley has not been independently verified. This Government keeps introducing dodgy regulations to legalise floodplain harvesting when Parliament is not sitting. It has done that three times. Basically, the Government is cooking the books. The modelling around the cap keeps changing, and it is very difficult to understand what the Government is doing. As I said, the Government introduces dodgy regulations when Parliament is not sitting, which is unparliamentary behaviour. It does so without consulting with downstream communities. The upper House has rightly overturned these regulations on three separate occasions, but this Government does not seem to care about democracy. In February the New South Wales Government sneakily granted 132 floodplain harvesting licences for an exclusive club of northern Basin irrigators. These licences allow for floodplain harvesting well in excess of legal limits. Because it is not metered or monitored, I do not know what is the water take under those 132 licences, but it can be gleaned from the number of licences that it is well in excess of the cap.

The Government does not account for the needs of downstream and Indigenous communities. In 2014 the then water Minister, Kevin Humphries of The Nationals, changed the law to allow irrigators to sell floodplain harvesting licences to the Government for financial compensation. I have mentioned this before. It is disgraceful. Lining the pockets of that exclusive club, many of whom are Nationals donors, is unfair on southern farmers and communities who have already given up so much water for the greater good of the Basin Plan. It is also a recipe for more rorts that will cost taxpayers billions of dollars. We know that Liberal-Nationals governments are the world's worst hagglers. We all remember the Barnaby Joyce watergate scandal when the Federal Government paid \$80 million to a Cayman Islands company for non-existent water in the Condamine Balonne region—\$80 million, a total scandal. This bill ensures irrigators will not be able to profit off floodplain harvesting licences.

There is no justification for compensating these irrigators. Southern Basin water users have had to cop reduced water availability without any compensation whatsoever. That was the situation in the Murray and the Murrumbidgee, where water was taken off irrigators: 15 per cent for general security on the Murrumbidgee; 10 per cent for general security on the Murray; 3 per cent for high security on the Murray; and 5 per cent for high security on the Murrumbidgee. There has been no compensation for that. The irrigators there still pay fixed fees and

charges for that water and yet in most years it does not get delivered to them. They are copping it and our communities are copping it as well because there is less product to process and transport out. It impacts on our communities and leads to hardship. The Government then uses that as an excuse to reduce services and basic rights.

For example, when the Government introduced the Murray-Darling Basin cap it reduced water allocations for southern Basin irrigators to provide for environmental flow rules. There was no compensation for those farmers, so why the hell is the Government providing compensation for its Nationals mates in the northern Basin? It is just not fair. Section 87AA of the Water Management Act 2000 provides for compensation to be paid in certain circumstances for reductions in water allocations. The Act lists floodplain harvesting (regulated river) access licences and floodplain harvesting (unregulated river) access licences as among the licences eligible for compensation. The bill deletes both those categories under section 87AA, meaning irrigators holding those floodplain harvesting licences cannot seek compensation.

Debate interrupted.

ICAC AND LECC LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2022

Returned

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I report receipt of a message from the Legislative Council returning the bill without amendment.

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY AMENDMENT (PRIVATISATION RESTRICTIONS) BILL 2021

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I advise that I have received a written authority from the member for Kogarah and endorsed by the Hon. Daniel Mookhey, MLC, authorising the member for Macquarie Fields to move the second reading of the bill.

Second Reading Speech

Mr ANOULACK CHANTHIVONG (Macquarie Fields) (11:08): On behalf of Mr Chris Minns: I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

The Fiscal Responsibility Amendment (Privatisation Restrictions) Bill 2021 is all about ending the New South Wales Coalition's obsession with selling things that do not belong to it. It is about stopping this Government from pursuing its extreme right-wing ideological agenda without consideration or thought for the longer-term economic and financial impact and the pain it will cause to consumers, households and our economy. When the Liberals run out of ideas, they just go to their ideology without thinking of the adverse consequences. That is low-brow decision-making based on a lack of analysis or understanding. This bill is about curtailing an economic agenda that makes Liberal Party donors and supporters rich while making the rest of us very much poorer. The bill holds the Government to the broken election promise made by the former Premier that there would be no more privatisations under a re-elected Coalition government.

This bill is about accountability—a word this Government, with all its pork-barrelling, rorts, rackets and excessive privatisation agenda, hates with a passion. As everyone now knows, this Liberal Government is exceptional at political spin and media management. As always, it is all spin, no substance and, consequently, no solutions. The Coalition has tried lots of different ways to market and manage the message of its privatisation agenda to make a somewhat bitter pill more palatable for an incredulous public. Let me give some examples. The former member for Bega, Andrew Constance, tried to call it a "silver bullet" for the economy. "Asset recycling" was the popular term used by former Premier Berejiklian. But nothing tops the current Premier's rhetorical overreach than his calling privatising public assets a "golden key" to opportunity for New South Wales.

When he talked about a golden key, he must have been assisting corporate boardrooms to prepare their profit statements rather than delivering the truth to the public. Acquiring a revenue-generating business—usually in a monopolistic trading environment—is definitely an opportunity for some. Imagine this: It can be a golden-key moment for corporate monopolies to make ongoing super-normal profits at the community's expense. But it is certainly not a golden-key opportunity for the hardworking and long-suffering taxpayers of New South Wales, who inevitably pay so much more and always get so much less. Let us end all the fancy branding attempts and weasel words that try to soften what is an increasingly unpopular, discredited and inequitable economic policy agenda.

For more than a decade the Coalition has relied on asset sales to solve its cashflow problems. That is a bandaid solution to a large open wound that will never heal because it is the wrong solution. Nothing better sums up this stale and unimaginative administration than its continued reliance on privatisation to get it out of financial

trouble and plug more than \$20 billion of blowouts in its infrastructure projects. But after \$93 billion in asset sales, it has left the public's cupboard bare—empty, nothing, zilch. A public asset can only be privatised once. Assets that generate revenue have been sold off, and the proceeds of sale have been spent on assets that do not generate revenue. In doing so, the Government has kicked the debt further and further down the road. It is now \$100 billion-plus and counting; it is going up and up. The New South Wales Government's privatisation gamble has created a debt balloon that will inevitably burst, with the cost falling on future generations. Our children will end up paying more for fewer and lower-quality services.

Life under the Liberal Government means paying more for less, full stop. Former chair of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission [ACCC], Mr Rod Sims—formerly an enthusiastic proponent of privatisation—publicly warned the New South Wales Government about selling public assets. He said that it can create unregulated monopolies that hurt productivity and damage the economy. Ill-considered privatisation without competition creates monopolies or monopoly-like businesses that will use their market power to gouge the wages of hardworking consumers. Funny that—a privatised, profit-maximising monopoly uses its unfettered market power to increase its profits. Who would have thought of that? The answer, said Mr Sims, is for governments to conduct public reviews of any proposed privatisations before selling off the assets, as is proposed in this bill. It is about better decision-making for the public good, not for excessive monopoly profits.

The most appalling example of this Government's privatisation policy is the sale of WestConnex. The ACCC said clearly that we should privatise for efficiency—which involves ensuring competition—or not do it at all. Competition must exist. Privatisation should not be undertaken for a short-term financial price, which inevitably the public will pay for in higher prices for no increase in value or benefit. The ACCC says not to privatise and create monopolies because it will hurt the economy and cause endless financial pain for households. So what does this Liberal Government do? It creates one. Transurban now owns all or part of the M2, the M4, the M5 South-West, the M5 East, the M7, the M8, the Lane Cove Tunnel, the Cross City Tunnel, the Eastern Distributor and NorthConnex.

Right now drivers in Sydney pay more than \$2.3 billion a year in tolls. Some families in my electorate and surrounding electorates are paying more than \$6,000 a year in tolls—a crippling amount for most families, particularly in a high-inflation environment when the cost of living is going through the roof. For example, in my electorate Sala advised me that during the past quarter he spent approximately \$700 in tolls just to drive to work. That is a tax on the commute to work. The Liberals always tax people more. They make people pay more, but they pay people less. Sydney is now the most tolled city on the face of the earth, with a toll network owned by a private monopoly that this Government created.

I turn to the substance of the bill. The Fiscal Responsibility Amendment (Privatisation Restrictions) Bill 2021 amends the Fiscal Responsibility Act 2012 to introduce minimum requirements where a public asset is nominated for privatisation. New section 8A requires that before all or any part of a State-owned asset is sold or leased, several steps must first occur. First, both Houses of Parliament need to vote in support of the proposed privatisation. Secondly, a review of the sale needs to be conducted by a parliamentary committee. The committee will make recommendations to ensure a suitable regulatory framework and consumer protections can be achieved. If not, the committee can recommend the sale not proceed. The bill applies to State-owned corporations, as outlined in subsection (6), including Sydney Water Corporation, Hunter Water Corporation, WaterNSW, Endeavour Energy, Ausgrid, Essential Energy, icare, the Transport Asset Holding Entity of New South Wales, Forestry Corporation, Landcom and the Port Authority of New South Wales.

I also make the point, which is consistent with former ACCC chair Rod Sims' public statement, that the bill does not preclude the Government from seeking to sell an asset. But for the sake of good corporate governance and public benefit, it does force the New South Wales Government to submit its proposals to public scrutiny. The bill forces the Government to listen to the views of workers, unions, industry experts, small business people and civil society leaders during a public inquiry. In other words, it forces the Government to be accountable to the public and the Parliament to ensure that public interest and public value are the only beneficiaries of privatisation. I commend the bill to the House.

Second Reading Debate

Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore) (11:18): On behalf of the Government, I oppose the Fiscal Responsibility Amendment (Privatisation Restrictions) Bill 2021, which is a political stunt, sadly, by those opposite to use the guise of fiscal responsibility to damage the good governance of this State. The object of the current Fiscal Responsibility Act 2012, which the bill seeks to amend, is to maintain the State's triple-A credit rating. It provides the fiscal targets and principles that are required to ensure good governance is carried out by the government of the day. In 2012 this Government introduced that Act after 16 long years of abysmal and irresponsible economic management of this State by NSW Labor. Who had a hand in that incredibly damaging period? It was none other than the current Leader of the Opposition, Chris Minns.

Fiscal responsibility is a core principle of this Government. It defines why the Government continues to manage our economy in good times and see it through the tough times, just as we saw throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, with key economic supports such as JobSaver. The economic challenges of the pandemic, the recent flooding and other major events have made it clear why a fiscally prudent government needs to maintain fiscal responsibility, to ensure that we have the firepower needed when disaster strikes our communities. Fiscal responsibility means developing policies not only for the current needs of the community but also for future needs. It means ensuring that our spending, taxes and infrastructure investments are justifiable and sustainable. It would not have been possible for this Government to embark on the record levels of State-transforming infrastructure that it delivered—building the roads, schools, hospitals and community infrastructure needed to secure the brighter future we need for New South Wales families—while also meeting the necessary challenges of bushfires, the pandemic and flood recovery without its highly successful asset recycling program.

It would not be possible for the people of western Sydney to have a \$5 billion fund, WestInvest, if it were not for the visionary work of this Government in building and undertaking the asset recycling of WestConnex. Fiscal responsibility should not be a partisan issue. Both sides of this House should accept that this is a fundamental principle. However, only the Opposition could come up with amendments to existing legislation that would seek to diminish an Act with the objective of fiscal responsibility at its heart. Only the Opposition could make such a cynical attempt to claim the mantle of being good economic managers. In fact, there is great irony in the Leader of the Opposition having carriage of the bill. He claims now to be a warrior against privatisation. He has used his Twitter account recently to proclaim that privatisation does not work. The irony is that he follows it up with graphs about things like wholesale electricity prices when he is talking about the transactions around the poles and wires network.

What he clearly does not understand is that poles and wires only affect network costs. But even more embarrassing, and fundamentally hypocritical, is that Chris Minns was the chief of staff to John Robertson as the Minister for Corrective Services, and Chris Minns personally oversaw the privatisation of Parklea prison. That is right, Chris Minns himself signed off on the privatisation of Parklea prison. He then comes to this House and tells us that he opposes privatisation. What gets even worse for him is that the privatisation was incredibly disastrous, with a committee of the other place finding that the rushed contract did not adequately set key performance indicators for the private company to meet. We hear from the Labor Opposition what we have heard for many decades: saying one thing and doing another. When it comes to the massive failure of the Parklea prison privatisation and the hypocrisy in delivering it, the 2008 policy manifesto of the NSW Labor conference stated unequivocally:

Labor opposes the private contract management of prisons.

In 2008 on *Stateline* John Robertson said:

You can rest assured I won't be becoming an advocate for privatisation.

Less than a year later, John Robertson himself moved to privatise Parklea prison, and he said, "Well, it's not an ideological argument. What we are doing here is running an argument about how we get maximum efficiency." The problem was that he did not get maximum efficiency because he did not do it well enough. What we are seeing here is that Chris Minns, as the leader of Labor, has studied under the tutelage of John Robertson in saying one thing and potentially doing another. Chris Minns constantly states that he opposes privatisation but, on the other hand, has been the architect of privatisation when leading the office of a Labor Minister.

That is what Labor does. It is the continued history of Labor when it has been in government to say one thing and do another. Let us look at NSW Lotteries. We have heard from those opposite, including Ryan Park, who has said, "We are not opposed to privatisation as a general rule, but we are opposed to selling income-generating assets." But what did Labor do in government? In March 2010 Labor gave a 40-year licence to run NSW Lotteries to the Tatts Group for almost a billion dollars, which was a kick in the guts for newsagencies and small businesses, and Labor had no mandate for that transaction. "In any event," a quote in the Herald said around that time, "there has been no suggestion that NSW Lotteries has done anything but a good job as an organ of government—a very nice little earner it has been, indeed."

Labor says that it would not sell income-generating assets, but it does. We cannot trust Labor on any of the promises it makes, and we particularly cannot trust it on economic promises. Throughout the history of 16 long years of failure of the Labor Government in New South Wales, it could not manage the economy. So when Labor members want to amend the Government's legislation about fiscal responsibility, we know before they even start that in their DNA they are fiscally irresponsible. The truth about Chris Minns is that when he tries to undertake these types of initiatives, like the Parklea prison privatisation, it just does not work. He is not capable of doing it. He is a substandard administrator, and it is ironic and hypocritical that he is pushing these amendments about fiscal responsibility.

The proposed amendments in the bill are not fiscally responsible, which cannot be a surprise when they come from Labor. There are already robust existing safeguards with respect to asset recycling in existing legislation. Parliamentary review is already required for most potential asset recycling candidates via the necessity to pass enabling legislation or legislative amendment. This applies to all eight State-owned corporations. It applies to any arrangement where a lease is granted over Crown land, and it applies to any concession granted to a private sector entity for a statutory function vested in a State body. Existing governance safeguards are robust and have demonstrated worth. We have seen that all sale proceeds have a well-established and well-tested governance structure overseen by a senior stakeholder steering committee. Members of the steering committee have deep transaction experience and can be relied on to make an independent recommendation to the relevant Minister.

The process is fully overseen by an external probity adviser, who provides a comprehensive report as part of the sales recommendation. In addition, the Audit Office is consulted throughout the process, and it provides impartial advice and scrutiny over the sales process. The reserve price—the price below which any offer will be rejected—is subject to significant expert scrutiny and is kept highly confidential to ensure integrity in the bidding process. Subjecting this information to a broad range of recipients fatally compromises the effect of that reserve price, and that is exactly what this amendment would do. It would undermine the State's ability to engage in commercial transactions. So which components of the existing governance safeguards does Labor want to get rid of? Does it want to get rid of the independence of the senior stakeholder steering committee's advice? Does it want to get rid of the external probity officer? Does it want to get rid of the Audit Office's consultation, reviews, advice and scrutiny throughout the process?

Does it want to get rid of the reserve price? It seems like it probably does because, when Labor was in government and it sold off assets, it did so without any of the robust governance mechanisms that this Government put in place to ensure appropriate outcomes for the people of New South Wales. Do we want to go back to those bad old days? Do we want to go back to a Labor government that delivered those kinds of failures for New South Wales? Not only could Labor not manage the sale of assets, but it also could not achieve outcomes for infrastructure delivery. So what the Liberal-Nationals Government has done is ensure that it has addressed the \$30 billion infrastructure backlog that Labor left in New South Wales. The Government's asset recycling has created value across our community. It allows us to build roads, schools, hospitals and infrastructure to ensure that New South Wales has a brighter future.

I ask those opposite: What do you want to cut that asset recycling has funded? Do you want to get rid of the \$5 billion WestInvest Fund? Do you want to stop building hospitals? Which of the hospitals do you not want to invest in? Do you want to cancel the Nepean Hospital infrastructure investment? Do you want to cancel over 200 new and upgraded schools across New South Wales, just like the 90 schools Labor closed when it was last in government? Which schools and which roads do you not want to proceed with the construction of? Do you want to cancel rail projects, like Labor had to do when it was in government because it could not manage money? It wasted a billion dollars on the CBD to Rozelle metro, with no tracks laid and no rail delivered.

Labor had one project, the Parramatta rail link, but it had to be renamed because the rail could not get to Parramatta. It ended up being called the Epping to Chatswood rail link because it only went half the way and cost twice as much. You cannot call it a Parramatta rail line if it does not even get halfway to Parramatta. Does the Labor Opposition want to cancel our investments in the Parramatta Light Rail? Do Opposition members want to cancel our investments in Sydney Metro and Sydney Metro West? Which infrastructure projects do they want to cancel? They tell us constantly that they will cancel Beaches Link, a fundamentally important piece of infrastructure. Why do they want to cancel it? It is because they cannot afford to deliver it.

Mr Paul Scully: Put it into western Sydney.

Ms FELICITY WILSON: They are not going to put the money into western Sydney. They want to cancel the \$5 billion WestInvest Fund because it is the product of asset recycling. Those opposite do not understand the fundamental fiscal management of government and how to deliver infrastructure outcomes to the people of New South Wales. So, in putting forward this bill, they completely bastardise the Government's governance system, which has given us strong and accountable practices and processes in government to undertake appropriate commercial transactions. They also fundamentally undermine the Government's ability to deliver new infrastructure projects, including income-generating projects for the people of New South Wales.

In particular, I will speak further about why it is such an issue for Labor to even consider talking about fiscal responsibility and to consider tampering with the levers of our State's approach to fiscal management. Let us take a walk down memory lane. We heard this morning from the Leader of the Opposition, Chris Minns, a fairytale about his ability to run the economy of New South Wales better than the Liberals and Nationals have done in government. Let us look at the history of what Labor does when it has the levers of the economy of New South Wales.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Ms Sonia Hornery): The member for Wollongong will cease interrupting.

Ms FELICITY WILSON: New South Wales had the worst economic and employment growth in the country when Labor led New South Wales last. The unemployment rate was above the national average for 62 of Labor's last 68 months. I know the Labor Party is not great at maths, but I can tell you that 62 months is almost the entirety of its time in office. For a decade under Labor, New South Wales had the lowest jobs growth of any mainland State. Let me remind members of the other mainland States. They are not only the powerhouse States of New South Wales and Victoria; South Australia is included. We love South Australia—it is a great place to visit—but do we think it can compete with New South Wales as an economic superpower? It beat New South Wales when Labor was in charge because that is what Labor does. Over its last two terms, Labor created just 21 per cent of all new jobs in Australia. Under NSW Labor we had the nation's worst economy. In its last 10 years of government, we had the slowest economic growth of any major State and the lowest jobs growth of any mainland State. In its last five years, we had the lowest business confidence of any mainland state government and the lowest housing growth in the nation.

We talk about housing affordability and how people from my generation are often shut out of the housing market because of the unaffordability of housing and rising costs. The Labor Party created that problem for us. By refusing to release land, unlock supply and ensure that we had housing growth here in New South Wales, it sentenced future generations to being unable to get onto the property ladder. Owning a home is one of the most crucial components for long-term financial security and stability—often even more important than superannuation. That is what Labor did. The housing affordability crisis in New South Wales, which underpins the economic wellbeing of people in New South Wales, is because of Labor's failures for 10 years. The evidence shows that New South Wales had the lowest housing growth in our entire nation for Labor's last five years in office.

Mrs Tanya Davies: Bob Carr said Sydney was full.

Ms FELICITY WILSON: Exactly. In that last five years we also had the lowest average annual rate of any State for retail trade because Labor puts pressure on small businesses and prevents them from participating in our economy, whereas the Liberals and Nationals have been sure to create the economic conditions and reduce the financial burdens on small businesses to ensure that they can maximise their trade and opportunities. The Labor Party wants to talk about debt. When Labor left office it had an undisclosed, secret, hidden, \$5.2 billion hole in its budget forward estimates, on top of the \$30 billion infrastructure backlog that I referred to earlier. New South Wales is on track to lose its triple-A credit rating because of out-of-control expenses growth. Under Labor we had out-of-control wages growth. It is interesting that those opposite want to talk in theory about public sector wages and criticise the proposal for us to give the highest boost to public sector wages in the entire country, when their track record shows that they could not manage the budget of wages for public sector employees. That cost almost an extra billion dollars in their last four years of government.

Labor introduced a vendor tax. Do people remember this? We have moved on. We have had such a great government under the Liberals and Nationals that we have tried to put out of our minds the horror of when Labor ran the State. But we must think back to it. But the risk is that we will return to the dark days if we do not recall how horrific Labor was at leading the economy in New South Wales. The Labor Party introduced a vendor tax that reduced our housing affordability even further and compounded the impact of Labor's inability to supercharge supply. It also cost construction jobs.

The Opposition introduces legislation purely as political ploys. We know that all they want to do is attack, criticise, carp and moan, when their record shows that they would fail at delivering anything for the people of New South Wales. They want to attack asset recycling but, at the same time, want the \$5 billion this Government is delivering in WestInvest. They do not know where they would find the money to meet their promises because they never have been able to find the money to deliver on their promises in the past. Those opposite broke promise after promise. They talk about imposts on families. What did they do when they promised to remove the tolls for the M4 and M5? They broke that promise after the 1995 election. Every single time the Labor Party makes a promise about your hip pocket, you know they will break it.

Things like the costs of public transport, the costs of toll roads and the contracts put together for toll roads were delivered by the former Labor Government. Let us look at the Cross City Tunnel cap. Earlier today the Leader of the Opposition talked about requiring increases in tolling over long periods of time. Let us look at what his team in Labor did when they were in government. The Labor Government entered into the longest concession contract on the Eastern Distributor toll road that New South Wales has ever seen—from the date of opening, 49 years. That was five years longer than the concession period of the WestConnex stage one project. The contract also stipulated an escalation rate of a minimum of 4 per cent per annum for a period of 49 years.

This morning the Opposition Leader talked about the problem of 40-year contracts and escalation of prices. Why did he support Labor's 49-year contracts and 4 per cent per annum escalation of costs when the Eastern Distributor was delivered? The hypocrisy is mind-blowing. The member for Macquarie Fields spoke earlier about spin and no substance. Where were the facts? What he was delivering was spin. Everything I have delivered to the House today is a fact: the substance of what Labor has done. The Labor Party had a contract on the Cross City Tunnel, with a minimum escalation rate of at least 4 per cent per annum for the first 13 years of the contract.

Let us look at the range of different hypocrisies Labor has delivered. The Labor Party wants to talk about energy prices and cost-of-living impacts. What did Labor do with gentrader in the dead of night, at the end of its term in government, when it prorogued Parliament early to sneakily push through that? Eight directors, including the former Labor Minister Michael Knight, had to resign from the boards of Delta Electricity and Eraring Energy, and Eric Roozendaal was forced to appoint his own mates to the boards just to get the sale through. The assets were sold for half their value. Those opposite, including the member for Macquarie Fields, complain about asset recycling, and the processes and governance frameworks we have in place in our Fiscal Responsibility Act, but they sold our assets with zero governance and oversight, with zero probity advice, and without the Audit Office involved. We follow good governance and probity when we make these transactional decisions. With gentrader they sold their assets for half the price and the State lost almost \$1.85 billion based on the value of those assets. That was almost a decade ago.

One can only imagine, compounded in today's figures, if Labor gets its hands on the steering wheel for New South Wales, how much of our money it will lose. How much of our money will those opposite force through in late-night deals with their mates making decisions on the boards of these organisations to make sure they can get their political outcomes? We cannot trust Labor with money. We know it; we have seen it. We see it every day of the week in other jurisdictions, and we know we cannot hand them back the chequebook. They do not believe in good governance, they do not believe in probity and they do not believe in ensuring that the funds from the assets of the State of New South Wales create new opportunities for the people of New South Wales.

This Government remains committed to asset recycling. We see in communities across New South Wales the benefits of asset recycling. Every community has benefitted, with record levels of new and upgraded hospitals, record levels of new and upgraded schools, record levels of public transport infrastructure and new projects as far as the eye can see. Those opposite delivered half a rail project at twice the cost in twice the time. We know there is only one team that we can depend upon in New South Wales to deliver economic management, and that is the Liberal-Nationals team. We remain committed to our current Fiscal Responsibility Act—an Act that ensures good governance and probity for the citizens of New South Wales and our assets. The Government will be opposing the bill.

Mr GREG WARREN (Campbelltown) (11:40): I acknowledge my shadow ministerial colleague the Hon. Daniel Mookhey for introducing the Fiscal Responsibility Amendment (Privatisation Restrictions) Bill 2021, as well as my friend and colleague Anoulack Chanthivong for his sound contribution, which is nothing short of sensible. We need this legislation because what we have seen from this Government is a fire-sale approach to public assets—it is as simple as that. I said in a previous contribution that Government members would sell their own dog. In reality, it is no joking matter anymore because this is having a serious adverse effect on the livelihoods of working people, families and businesses right across this State. If there were any legacy from this Liberal-Nationals Government, which has been in office for 12 long years, it would be tolls, taxes, fines, debt and everything associated with the serious economic issues that families are confronting today.

This Government has privatised \$93.6 billion worth of public assets since it was elected, despite former Premier Gladys Berejiklian declaring that the Government would be up-front about privatisations. The Government has continued its privatisation agenda with little public scrutiny. It is only proper that this bill be supported. This is the people's Parliament, and the assets of this State belong to the people of New South Wales. They are not mine, they are not the Government's and they are not the Opposition's; they are the people's assets. It is only right that they be scrutinised through the parliamentary process to ensure transparency and certainty. We know that the people of New South Wales do not trust this Liberal-Nationals Government with managing their assets.

I note the contribution of the member for North Shore and, frankly, I will not give it too much relevance. She spoke a lot about Labor leader Chris Minns and about the last Labor Government. It was very much a rear-view mirror contribution. No wonder New South Wales is in the state that it is in. The Government and Government members are staring into the rear-view mirror. No-one ever moved forward while looking into the rear-view mirror. I think that speaks volumes. We did not hear about future plans or any kind of fiscal responsibility from this tired, lazy, draconian, conservative Government. What we heard was negativity. I have always believed that how we approach something will ultimately determine the outcome. The approach of this

Government is negativity and adversity, which I think says it all. Families across the State are facing adversity, as is the State's economy.

As I stated previously, 15 of the 16 budgets of the former Labor Government were in surplus—one of them was not because of the effects of the global financial crisis—and I credit it for that. I will give credit to those on the other side, which I have done before in this place. However, I will not give them credit when it comes to selling off assets. This private member's bill introduced by the Hon. Daniel Mookhey seeks to amend the Fiscal Responsibility Act 2012 to introduce minimum requirements where a public asset is being privatised. The bill will implement several requirements. Before all or any part of certain State-owned assets are sold or leased, the following steps must occur: Both Houses of Parliament need to vote in support of the proposed privatisation and a review of the sale needs to be conducted by a parliamentary committee to make recommendations, including whether or not the sale should proceed. These requirements will apply to the following State-owned assets, including any of their subsidiaries, component parts or divisions: Sydney Water Corporation; Hunter Water Corporation; Water NSW; Endeavour Energy; Ausgrid; Essential Energy; Insurance and Care NSW; Transport Asset Holding Entity; Forestry Corporation of NSW; Landcom; Port Authority of New South Wales; Treasury Corporation, otherwise known as TCorp; Sydney Harbour crossing tolls; and other assets as per regulation.

This bill has been introduced because this Government simply cannot be trusted when it comes to providing certainty to the people of New South Wales about the ownership of public assets. Those opposite can make all the draconian and negative speeches they like, but there is one thing that they cannot escape: They have had—and they continue to have—a privatisation agenda. Let us be serious. If it is such a good thing, why not let the Parliament scrutinise it? If it is a good thing—and they are saying it is—let us go through the parliamentary process. What are they so afraid of? If it is a good thing, fine; bring it into the Parliament. We can talk about it and debate it and then the people of New South Wales can decide. We have these little things called elections and if the people do not agree with the agenda of the Government quite simply that Government will change, as has happened before in this State. That is part of our democratic process—something that those opposite are clearly not comfortable with. This Government likes to do things in the middle of the night and under clouds and cloaks of secrecy.

We have seen repeatedly the adverse effects of this Government's privatisation agenda. I refer the House to the examples that were given by the member for Macquarie Fields. They are facts; they are not fabricated or made up. The best proof that the Government's privatisation agenda has failed is the situation in which the people of New South Wales find themselves today. We have record-high energy prices, rising interest rates and record-high fuel prices. I acknowledge that there are various contributors to those price increases, but we know what adverse economic effects this Government's privatisation agenda has had. It would be remiss of me not to acknowledge that it simply has not worked.

Government members are calling it privatisation, asset recycling, or whatever but at the end of the day they are flogging off public assets to pay for stuff that they want to use to get re-elected. Those revenue-providing assets are gone, many of which we will never get back. That is the reality of it. If that is such a good thing and the Government truly believes it—great, support the bill. Because then we can come into this place, the people's Parliament, and debate whether we should sell the people's assets. I thank the House.

Mr GEOFF PROVEST (Tweed) (11:49): The member for Campbelltown is a very hard act to follow. One of the things that totally amazes me is the selective memory of those on the other side. Unlike the member for Wollongong, who has only been here a short time and swanned around Canberra for a while, I sat in here when the Premier of the day was Kristina Keneally—who has had a very successful career in losing elections in recent times—and there was a little thing the Labor Party introduced called gentraders. The Premier of the day prorogued Parliament. The Treasurer of the day sacked the boards of the gentraders and implanted his own people. It is a fallacy for the member for Campbelltown to say we cannot look in the rear-vision mirror and we cannot look at our previous mistakes. It always amazes me, and I have been here for a fair time now, because it is all about the good people of New South Wales. Those members opposite present in the Chamber were not here in 2015. This side of the House went to the people about the privatisation or the asset recycling of a lot of electricity providers.

Mr Kevin Anderson: For those watching at home, prorogued.

Mr GEOFF PROVEST: Prorogued—and the people chose to do that. I was here in opposition from 2007 to 2011. I was told that, at that stage, Labor had been in power for 16 years and failed to build one centimetre of new train track—one centimetre over 16 years. That is a hell of a long time. Maybe the member for Keira—who I think was the deputy secretary of transport—could shine some light on why the Labor Party failed to do that. In the short time I have been here I have seen new train tracks, the south-west metro and many great things. I am always amazed when I come to Sydney: I see cranes and 23 new metro stations. I see a massive amount of infrastructure build happening. That does not stop in Sydney. Further north, the M1—or the Pacific Highway, as southerners call it—has been completed.

Last Saturday I stood in front of a partly finished \$723 million hospital where several thousand people have already been treated. In my four years in opposition I did not see anything spent on the Tweed—no police station. I remember my good friend Tony Kelly, who was the police Minister. He came up to Tweed in 2008 and said, "We are going to build Tweed a brand new police station." That was a great announcement. My local police thought that was good. Even I thought that was good. But it took this Government to actually build it. Some 9½ years later we cut the ribbon on the new police station. Over my time I have seen the effect of recycling assets in the city and the country. It has been groundbreaking.

Have a look at what the last budget has been able to provide: All members in this place have benefited. Hospitals are being built or upgraded in the Upper Hunter and Newcastle. Things are happening in Wollongong. The list goes on and on, and I will not repeat it. The bill before the House does not hit the mark. It is trying to create fear and confusion in the wider public. I saw that firsthand in 2015 when I was surrounded by those lovely fellows from the Electrical Trades Union in black T-shirts who were telling me I was a liar, I did not know what I was doing, the sky was going to fall in, and the ground was going to open up and swallow me. They were such nice fellows. I am sure they will go well in Sunday school. Guess what happened? We privatised or we recycled some of those assets and we had more money flowing through. Whether it was in Wagga Wagga, Tweed Heads, Lismore, Broken Hill or Tamworth, more and more money kept flowing through—money that we had never seen before.

Mr Kevin Anderson: And we kept the poles and wires.

Mr GEOFF PROVEST: And we kept our poles and wires in Essential Energy. It is amazing. There are other things coming through. The Government has maintained record levels of infrastructure investment while upholding fiscal responsibility. Those words "fiscal responsibility" are important. Once again, looking in the rear-vision mirror, I remember the Labor Party on this side of this very Chamber saying it would revolutionise tickets on public transport.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Ms Sonia Hornery): The member for Wollongong and the member for Balmain will remain silent.

Mr GEOFF PROVEST: We heard from the Premier down how good the Tcard was: It was going to revolutionise public transport. We all thought that was great, sensational. About five years down the track the Labor Party realised that the Tcard system was not going to work and it had to pay out \$90 million in compensation. That was \$90 million for nothing—zip, zero, nothing. The Liberal-Nationals Government came in and we had a little thing called the Opal card. Now we are onto Opal card mark II, and it is probably the best thing we have ever done for the public transport system. It is so easy and effective. Millions of people are using it. The Tcard is only one example of a list of Labor financial disasters. The bill would likely be seen as a credit negative by credit rating agencies. It will restrain the State's financial flexibility, conflicting with the sole object of the Fiscal Responsibility Act 2012: to maintain a triple-A credit rating.

I have another bit of insight here, as my electorate borders Queensland. My very good friend Anastacia Palaszczuk and I work very closely together. Time and time again over the COVID period, many Queensland police barred entry to a number of New South Wales people, but not to us, because we were in a bubble. I was one of the bubble children. We were allowed to cross over the border, provided we had five pieces of documentation, our vaccination certificates, our passes and so on. But it was relatively good. I look at Queensland's credit rating dropping. I look at the announcement proudly made by the Queensland Premier and Treasurer on that State's spending. Queensland is spending about half, if not two-thirds, of what we are spending. It is much less. We make a big announcement in the Tweed that we are spending \$623 million on a hospital.

While on the subject of hospitals, I remind the House that this hospital is for all Australians, not just New South Wales people. My good friend the Premier of Queensland would say, "Our Queensland hospitals are for Queenslanders." No. We have a more open attitude here in New South Wales. We welcome Queenslanders. During the last election my electorate was the recipient of asset recycling. The Labor Party campaigned very hard. It was tough. No election is easy—all members know that. Labor wanted to move the hospital down to its developer mates. The leadership group assisted with that. It was going to build it. Every day those from the Labor Party stood out the front of polling booths and said they were going to build the hospital quicker and under budget. Guess what? The developer's site still has weeds and trees growing on it. It has no power, water, sewerage or roads. If the good people of New South Wales followed Labor at that election, they would still not have a hospital. We are only one year away from finally opening the hospital—how good is that?

I remember talking to some of the leading local Labor luminaries, as I would call them. I said to several of them during the campaign, "You realise that if you win and you do move this hospital, you are going to delay it by two years?" They turned to me and said, "We don't care. It's all about winning." I said, "But what about the people? What about the people you're standing out there and telling lies to? What about the people who you look

in the eyes? You're not telling the truth." That was the exact answer they got back. Unfortunately, my good colleague the Federal member for Richmond managed to just scrape over the line. I think next time The Greens will overtake her. I know she was very worried for some time but a win is a win at an election, I guess. I do not support the bill. I seek an extension of time. [*Extension of time*]

I thank Labor members for their support. I am very appreciative of their ongoing interest in and concern about this valuable speech, particularly the member for Wollongong. I know that he is deeply interested in it.

Mr Paul Scully: Give you enough rope, mate, as they say.

Mr GEOFF PROVEST: The member does not have to give me any rope, not at all.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Ms Sonia Hornery): The member for Tweed does not require any assistance from the member for Wollongong.

Mr GEOFF PROVEST: I have heard on the grapevine that the preselection of the member for Wollongong could be in doubt. The proposed amendments would impair the very object of the Fiscal Responsibility Act. Over the past decade and during the pandemic, asset recycling has helped support the State's credit rating. Our strong balance sheet has enabled the Government to embark on a record infrastructure spending program at a time when the economy and the community most need this job-creating stimulus. We respect our public servants et cetera, but that job-creation stimulus is so important. I have in my electorate approximately 4½ thousand small businesses. Most employ one or two workers, maybe three or four. They are the backbone. They are the mums and dads of our local area, whether they are running the local deli or a little contracting business, whether they are concreters, builders or, lately, ridesharing drivers. They support our local economy. I am very proud of what we have been able to do for them.

The New South Wales business chambers are also extraordinarily important. They have been our partners. I have talked to Jane Lavery from our Northern Rivers chamber on numerous occasions, particularly about border shutdowns and their effects. I know the member for Tamworth is extraordinarily close to the business chamber in his electorate. The chambers are the backbone of our small businesses, and they matter. Their opinions matter and that is what we bring to this place. I know Stephen Maher and Stephanie Cameron are from the Tamworth chamber.

Mr Kevin Anderson: They are right there.

Mr GEOFF PROVEST: They are in the public gallery? Hello. Welcome. You know exactly what we are debating. It is about fiscal responsibility. It is about understanding how business works. I applaud you and the amount of time and effort you—

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Ms Sonia Hornery): Order! The member for Tweed will direct his comments through the Chair.

Mr GEOFF PROVEST: They support their local businesses. That is extraordinarily important and is our first line of defence. I think Labor members forget them—except around election time. I usually only see the Labor candidates at the business chamber of commerce around election time. They tend to go missing for the rest of the year. In 2020 and 2021 the credit rating agencies indicated publicly that assets sales are positive to New South Wales' credit rating. Of course, those opposite are blatantly dishonest about their own privatisation record. I remind them that the Leader of the Opposition was the architect of the manoeuvre to overturn NSW Labor's platform ban on privatisation. That is right. Chris Minns was directly involved when his wife served on the legal and constitutional committee, which also comprised Joe Tripodi's brother and Noreen Hay's son.

When it comes to privatisation, those opposite should not be trusted for a second because they have shown they cannot even stand by their own principles. The Government stands by its asset recycling program and all the wealth it has unlocked for the people of New South Wales. The bill would undermine entirely the confidence that the credit rating agencies have in our State. Requiring the agency recycling transaction of State-owned assets to be subject to parliamentary approval creates procedural and commercial risk that would undermine the ability of the Government to maximise value for the families of New South Wales. It would constrain our State's fiscal flexibility and come directly into conflict with the very object of the Act. This amendment bill is fiscally irresponsible, and the Government opposes it for that reason.

Mr JASON LI (Strathfield) (12:04): I make a contribution to debate on the Fiscal Responsibility Amendment (Privatisation Restrictions) Bill 2021. I will not repeat the detailed provisions in the bill that my colleagues have already spoken about. I will, however, respond to some comments made by the member for Tweed. This bill does not seek to ban privatisation; it merely seeks to allow privatisation proposals to be considered by Parliament and puts some guardrails and safeguards in place. Let me start with some broader context. Over the course of the global pandemic we—being governments around the world—awarded large

private sector corporations that had benefited from billions of taxpayer dollars in the development of vaccines the intellectual property for those vaccines. In other words, we gave them the rights to price those vaccines and determine the availability of those vaccines.

This was a big win for the pharmaceutical sector. Indeed, the private sector has done a really good sales job. I do not have anything against the private sector; I have spent the majority of my career in the private sector. But it has done an excellent sales job to the Government. It said, "We can solve all your problems. We are cheaper, better and faster. We manage better. We have operational capability. We are more efficient." The notion that government is bad at doing things, that it is inefficient, bloated and a poor manager, is a set of beliefs that goes beyond ideology. It has become part of our culture. We remember the words of Ronald Reagan when he said, "Government is the problem" or Margaret Thatcher when she said, "There is no such thing as society" or Scott Morrison when he said, "We want government to get out of your lives".

Yet what was the experience of this type of neo-conservative ideology during the pandemic, when the people of Australia and around the world were crying out for creative solutions to this massive global problem? This political philosophy offered very little, and no real solutions to the massive crisis that the people of the world faced. What were the outcomes? We had overwhelmed health systems, dramatic failures in hotel quarantine and crises across the board in precisely those areas where privatisation and cost cutting had hollowed out public sector capability and capacity. During the floods, residents rescued their neighbours from the roofs of houses using dinghies and canoes. We see that the 40- to 50-year assault on government and the public sector has had real consequences on their ability to deliver services for the citizens of this State, this country and the world. That is particularly clear during emergencies. But, with an increasingly complex world and the march of climate change, emergencies are the new normal. What was once a one-in-100-year event is now becoming much more frequent.

This bill is good legislation. It is good legislation because it aims to place guardrails and checks and balances in place where significant public assets are proposed to be privatised. It would allow the most fundamental questions to be asked: In whose interest really is it that this asset or this service be privatised? Is it genuinely in the public interest or is it in the interests of the private sector or is it in somebody's political or commercial interest? The policy challenge is clear. These fundamental questions go to the heart of the challenges of government. What is the appropriate role of private interests in the ownership and the management of public assets? What is the right balance in the private ownership of public goods?

The macro-contextual challenge is also clear and daunting. The world is becoming increasingly complex and expensive, the demands on the Government are becoming ever greater and the expenses involved in operating the Government are getting higher and higher. Things cost money, and there is only one source of money: us. We might say, "Let's outsource it to the private sector," and, hey presto, at first blush it seems to save taxpayers money. But the reality is that taxpayers pay for it anyway as consumers—as road users who are tolled and as households whose utility bills go up and up—driven by market realities under private sector ownership and particularly private sector ownership by listed corporations, which are incentivised to increase their earnings every quarter.

The decades-old neoconservative orthodoxy of small government and privatisation has degraded public sector capability and capacity so much that citizens are suffering, and the rising costs of privately owned and controlled public assets that by definition are monopoly assets will continue. There is not a lot of competition in using toll roads or for power generation, water or public transport. The reality is that when a government privatises a public asset, it is awarding monopoly ownership to a private sector operator. So what do we need to do? We need to build the capacity of government. We need to grow the recurring capability, capacity and revenue of government, not just rely on one-off windfalls from the sale of State assets. We need a "government is good" culture. Government is helping people all the time, and we are in the business of government. We should be more confident about the ability of government.

Ms Felicity Wilson: We are confident about our ability in government.

Mr JASON LI: We should be more confident about the ability of all of us in government. Let us not be down on ourselves. People need to hear the good stories of the contribution the Government makes. Over and over again, we must reassert the importance of government—not government alone but rather government in partnership with the community and the private sector. We need to recognise that we can only do major public goods well by doing them together. All sectors of society—government, the private sector and the community—must contribute to making public goods work. Just as complete State control is not the answer, so too must we devolve ownership beyond narrow corporate interests or find different forms of corporate interest such that ownership, decision-making and, ultimately, value go to a far greater number of people.

So I support the bill, which allows important questions to be asked by Parliament: Is the particular asset or service better provided by the private sector, and why? Does the privatisation proposal properly balance private sector efficiency with the benefits of public ownership, being equity, access and democratic sovereignty? Can we

be confident that the process to win the contract is fair? Is there really competition in contracting? As I have said, once someone wins the contract, they have a monopoly. Is the value the State is obtaining for the assets fair and reasonable? Does the proposal provide proper value for the State and its citizens? What are the priority projects? Are they really the ones that the public genuinely needs, or are they the ones from which the private sector makes the most money or from which politicians win the most votes? How do we set and legislate standards around procurement, delivery and service? Most fundamentally, before the privatisation decision is made, have we clearly analysed and weighed not just the long-term cost implications but also the impact on employment, environment and cost of living?

We should have privatisation impact statements that ventilate and explore those hard questions, because the private sector is ultimately not driven primarily by the public interest; it is driven by the interests of shareholders. Only the Government is, or should be, fundamentally driven by and accountable to the public interest. That is why requiring Parliament to approve a privatisation proposal is a very good thing. I commend the bill to the House.

Mr JAMIE PARKER (Balmain) (12:14): On behalf of The Greens, I support the Fiscal Responsibility Amendment (Privatisation Restrictions) Bill 2022. We welcome the bill. We believe it does not go far enough, but we note that it was strengthened by an amendment The Greens moved that plugged a loophole and ensured its passage through the upper House. It identified that under the original drafting of the bill the Government could sell an asset from one of the listed entities to a newly created government entity and then sell it to the private sector. That is now no longer possible, and I appreciate the efforts of all members who collaborated to ensure that amendment was passed.

Our position is very clear, and the bill is an important step forward for the Opposition and for the House to consider. We have heard about some of the very poor decision-making that happened under the former Labor Government, and there have been sufficient mea culpas to recognise that times have changed in the past 12 years. What we saw was disgraceful. We saw the sale of the lotteries and the gentraders. The sale of waste services to the private sector denied the State opportunities to ensure that they were managed in an efficient way. We also saw ridiculous decisions like the metro to Rozelle—\$500 million spent on a project that was abandoned and did not even go to the Cabinet.

It does not pay for us to lament that. But the bill recognises a very important step in our political environment here in New South Wales because it represents a halfway house that the Opposition has come to. Opposition members cannot bring themselves to absolutely oppose privatisation, but they will go halfway and say, "Well, we want the Parliament to examine it." Some people can say proposals will never get up if they have to go through this process and other people can say, "We still support privatisation." I believe it represents an important step forward, in a cautious way, that attempts to identify and grapple with the reality of privatisation. So many words are used to try to avoid "privatisation". Franchising is basically about partially privatising bus services, which many people have seen. My electorate labours under a private operator. We have also seen the term "asset recycling".

The bill acknowledges that, for the public, there is very rarely any upside at all to privatisation. A sugar hit of investment can be spent, and at least the Government recognises that money from privatisation should not be spent on recurrent costs but as an investment to increase productivity and provide infrastructure for the community. But in the long run, privatisations have a very negative implication. Isn't it incredible that we are now seeing that with Transurban and the private motorway system? We were given the spin in the business case—"Oh, look! It's going to be incredibly beneficial to the State if we build these motorways and then privatise them." But we now have a bidding war about how much money the parties can spend subsidising those motorways.

The original view was that having the private sector run those systems—privatising them—would mean a lower cost to the Government. We are now seeing both Labor and the Coalition spending half a billion dollars in the next two years on so-called toll relief, which is in fact subsidising the tollway operator to promote people getting into their cars. We are saying we want to support people to get into their cars and drive, which is the opposite of what all good city planning is about. We will see Labor increase the amount of what they call toll relief, or subsidisation, and then the Government will seek to match that. We will have a very negative cycle of massive subsidies for the private monopoly provider that is Transurban, and who is laughing? Transurban is, all the way to the bank.

It seems to us that we are better off having assets in State control and making sure that we have those opportunities, because many assets are sold below their true value. There are often higher prices and charges. We have seen a significant loss of earnings in a whole range of areas that have been privatised. Most importantly, it hits the regions the hardest. That is one of the reasons The Nationals have their kind of agrarian socialist approach, which is to privatise the profits but socialise losses and make sure that we can have as much public control as possible. They know that because their economies on the whole are generally more fragile than, say, my electorate

of Balmain, where issues of investment and employment are not as important as they might be in far western New South Wales. The reason they fight so hard for public ownership is because they know that, on the whole, they can ensure that the public benefit flows to the public rather than private benefit flowing to the listed company and its shareholders.

Under those privatised models, a rational private company will take actions to support its shareholders. There is often under-investment in infrastructure and, most importantly, democratic control of the economy is diminished. We are such big fans of democracy in the political sphere, but we are afraid to talk about democracy in the economic sphere. There is totalitarianism in the economic sphere. There is no democracy in companies. They act in a way which is anathema to the way we expect our political democracy to be run. The Greens believe this sense of democratic control of the economy needs to be highlighted. For example, there has been a lot of criticism of bus privatisation or franchising. The Greens call on both sides of this House to make sure that when those contracts expire those assets go back into public hands. It is not enough to say, "Maybe in the future we'll look at it before we privatise." Let us look at the privatisation decisions that have been made and reverse them. Why can we not make that commitment?

The Greens took that policy to the last election and believe it is an important policy that parties should take to the next election. We know that privatisation is a significant problem, so let us reverse it. We heard the Leader of the Opposition talk about problems with electricity in the private sector. Bring electricity supply back under State control. It is one thing to complain; it is another to talk about how we can take steps systematically, carefully, thoughtfully and strategically to make sure we can bring these monopoly businesses back under the control of government. We are talking about critical, key pieces of our economy—monopoly providers—which, rightly in our view, sit with government and democratic control. It is incredibly important that we have openness and accountability in government and when it comes to so many of these organisations. We cannot get an insight into how our electricity is being managed or how our private tollways are being managed because under privatisation there is not the same type of accountability and openness that democracy provides. It is important that accountability and openness be introduced into those very important elements of our economy.

The Greens welcome the bill. We supported it strongly in the upper House and we support it here. The Greens recognise it is an important step forward for Labor. Those opposite keep talking about Labor 12 years ago. We need to recognise that things have moved on. From The Greens' perspective, it is not enough for the Government to say that it will get a committee to look at it. How do we reverse these privatisations? How do we bring these elements of public transport and so on under democratic control? Finally, I acknowledge the Hon. Daniel Mookhey, in particular, for the work that he has done on this important bill.

I also want to acknowledge the efforts of the union movement to turn around what I know they saw as a disappointing period 12 years ago under Labor. I encourage them to continue working on The Greens and working on every party here to make sure this Parliament reflects what the working people want—that is, no privatisation. They want the organisations that used to be controlled by the government back in government hands, and we want to make sure we can give the best to our community. The Greens want to give the best to our community, support good quality, high-paying union jobs and ensure that the decisions this Government made are not only condemned but, wherever humanly possible, reversed.

Mr JUSTIN CLANCY (Albury) (12:23): I welcome the opportunity to speak in opposition of the Fiscal Responsibility Amendment (Privatisation Restrictions) Bill 2021. The bill amends the Fiscal Responsibility Act 2012 to require that a joint parliamentary committee reviews any proposed sale, disposal or lease of a State-owned asset and a report of that review be tabled in each House of Parliament. New subsection 8A (1) (c) provides that the proposed transaction is then approved by resolution of each House of Parliament. In speaking to the bill, there are a couple of aspects I wish to focus on. First, the bill is not fiscally responsible. Second, I want to outline the importance of asset programs—the ability for any organisation, whether a government or a business entity, to be able to make decisions around its assets that will work to benefit our communities and infrastructure. I will outline how the New South Wales Government's sale, divestment and recycling of assets has played a large part in the infrastructure program for the people of New South Wales.

I want to touch on the role of government and the role between the Executive and the Legislature. At the end of the day, this is fundamentally about the importance of the role of the Executive. The Executive is elected by the people to carry out the affairs of the State of the day. The bill takes away that imprimatur from the Executive, and we need to be careful with that. There have been bills before this House earlier that sought to take that function away from the Executive. The Executive is elected by the people to carry out that function. The object of the Fiscal Responsibility Act—which is the Act the bill modifies—is to maintain the triple-A credit rating of the State of New South Wales. Fiscal responsibility is a cornerstone of good government; the Liberal-Nationals Government understands and embraces that. Fiscal responsibility minimises interest expenses and maximises the amount available to spend on services and infrastructure over time. It means that the

Government is able to do its work today to secure a brighter future for the people of our State and for New South Wales families. Fiscal responsibility enables New South Wales to raise debt readily in times of crisis, such as we have experienced over the past few years.

In the context of the ability to raise debt and the importance of asset sales, I want to address the member for Strathfield's comments. The member spoke of the role of "big government" and asserting the importance of government and of not being afraid of big government. The challenge is that the Opposition speaks of big government being the way for the people of our State, but then how do they go about that? The Opposition talks about asset recycling being something they do not support. At the same time, they talk about continuing to grow services. Labor has not outlined how they would fund more services without recycling assets. It can be inferred that if the Opposition does not propose to decrease services or decrease infrastructure spend, then the only way to fund more services is through increased taxes. That is the elephant in the room that Labor is not prepared to acknowledge.

I have spoken about the importance of being fiscally responsible. The other important aspect that must be focused on when considering the bill is the role that the asset program plays in terms of decision-making and what it allows the Government to achieve for the people of New South Wales. The Government's asset recycling program has delivered around \$50 billion in proceeds. That has been critical in sustainably funding over \$178 billion in infrastructure investment since 2011. Infrastructure asset recycling has enabled 23 per cent of the Government infrastructure program from 2011 to 2021. It must be remembered that State and local public investment has contributed 0.4 percentage points to State final demand over the past year, which is more than 2 ½ times the long-run average.

An element that has been spoken of today is the benefit to the community. When regional MPs in particular consider the importance of being able to make decisions about divestment and recycling of State assets, we look at what the New South Wales Government has been able to achieve through the Snowy Hydro Legacy Fund. The Government has reinvested \$4.2 billion into regional New South Wales. That is not a sugar hit; it is realising a 20-year economic vision for regional New South Wales and setting it up well and truly for the future. Aspects of that relate to water security, digital connectivity, activating regional locations, improving freight linkages and rail and road transport connections. As a regional member, I appreciate the importance of water security for our State. As a former chair of the Legislative Assembly Committee on Investment, Industry and Regional Development, I saw firsthand the importance of water security for our State during the committee's drought inquiry.

I am absolutely passionate about digital connectivity. In regional New South Wales, the barriers and headwinds that we face are all about connectivity, whether it be road or digital connectivity. We must continue to focus on digital connectivity. We can achieve that through divestment of an asset to realise funds for further investment in regional New South Wales. Again, as chair of the Committee on Investment, Industry And Regional Development, I saw firsthand the benefits of the Special Activation Precincts [SAPs]. The committee travelled to Parkes and Bowman. The assets being built off the back of funds generated through divestment of other assets will make a significant difference for regional New South Wales. The SAP at Parkes is a good example of that. It will become a fundamental crossroad of freight linkages connecting the eastern seaboard and the west.

We have seen firsthand the work that is being done as a result of that funding and how it will drive regional New South Wales forward. One of the main sources of funding for necessary infrastructure investment to ensure our State has a brighter future is asset recycling. It can provide funding in two ways: first, by repaying the debt already owed by the business being sold and enabling the Government to reborrow that amount for new infrastructure projects; and, secondly, by providing additional net proceeds. The State's credit rating operates by placing a limit on the amount that the State can borrow. As such, the Government has to ensure that its valuable resources are invested in the most productive infrastructure priorities for the community.

The 2021-22 half-yearly review included a record \$110.4 billion infrastructure program. Under the Treasurer's budget announced yesterday, that will continue to grow. Investment is being made right across our State, particularly in regional areas, such as the \$885.1 million over four years for the Newell Highway upgrade. The Government is investing in assets that will continue to grow our State: \$3.2 billion over four years for the Great Western Highway upgrade, \$52.7 million for the Regional Small Police Station Program and \$391.3 million for the SAP that I mentioned as part of the Snowy Hydro Legacy Fund. [*Extension of time*]

We have also invested \$835.6 million over four years in the regional rail fleet. I acknowledge the contribution of the member for Balmain.

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER: I ask that the Clerk stop the clock. I hate to interrupt the flow of the member for Albury. However, I anticipate that visitors present in the public gallery will move off shortly. I welcome those visitors to the New South Wales Legislative Assembly. They are teachers and carers of the Les Powell School, who are visiting Parliament today to look at the *HOPE Butterfly Installation* in the

Fountain Court, in which they participated. It is hard to miss the exhibition, which is making a huge impact. I congratulate everyone involved. For the information of our visitors, the House is considering a bill called the Fiscal Responsibility Amendment (Privatisation Restrictions) Bill 2021. I know it sounds very exciting; it could well be. It is a significant bill, which has emanated from the Legislative Council. We will soon move on to other business. I bring to the attention of our visitors what we are doing in the Chamber because it may not have been immediately obvious. I thank them for visiting and hope they have a wonderful day.

Mr JUSTIN CLANCY: I will dwell on the bill for a little longer. I also acknowledge the Les Powell School and thank them for their attendance and their works on display in the Fountain Court. Many members on both sides of the Chamber have commented on them. I was speaking about the importance of being able to divest assets and invest the proceeds in further infrastructure and growth for our State. I mentioned the member for Balmain and commented that absolutely there must be scrutiny of asset sales. At the end of the day, that scrutiny plays a significant role but should not impede the ability of the Executive of the day to make decisions to benefit the community, particularly regional New South Wales. The benefits of the Snowy Hydro Legacy Fund are a prime example of the Government utilising funds from the divestment of an asset to invest further in the growth of the community and the State.

I mentioned Special Activation Precincts. Another important example is the \$11.9 billion for health infrastructure—planning and delivering new and upgraded hospitals. The Government is investing \$9.2 billion in education and skills infrastructure. My regional community knows how important it is for us to invest in health. I have been prosecuting the case for health development in Albury-Wodonga. Yesterday we heard the announcement of a new school for Thurgoona. That asset will be in the growth corridor of Albury and will realise benefits for our community. This will be achieved through this Government's extensive infrastructure program. The role of the Executive is to make decisions about investment through divestment of assets and recycling investment for the benefit of the community.

Debate interrupted.

ANIMAL RESEARCH AMENDMENT (RIGHT TO RELEASE) BILL 2022

First Reading

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

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER: I advise the House that I have received a written authority from the Hon. Emma Hurst, MLC, advising that the member for Sydney will have carriage of the bill in this House. I order that the second reading of the bill stand as an order of the day for tomorrow.

Motions

SMART DRUM LINES

Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal) (12:39): I move:

That this House:

- (1) Notes from the week commencing 21 March 2022, 15 new Smart-Management-Alert-in-Real-Time [SMART] drum lines will be deployed daily across Central Coast beaches between MacMasters and Forresters beaches, with a further 15 planned to be deployed shortly.
- (2) Acknowledges SMART drum lines are the most effective tool for catching target sharks and maximising survival of all animals caught on gear.
- (3) Thanks the Minister for Agriculture and Western New South Wales for listening to the Central Coast communities' concerns regarding beach netting.

I am pleased that the member for Wyong and the member for The Entrance are in the Chamber. The member for Wyong is a member of a Surf Life Saving club. From the outset I confirm that Surf Life Saving Central Coast is a huge supporter of the drum line program that is being introduced on the Central Coast, along with the 8,000 volunteer surf lifesavers that do an incredible job. We heard only a week or two ago that over one million people visited Central Coast beaches in the last season, and there was not one drowning on a patrolled beach, which is something Central Coast members of Parliament are particularly proud of. I put on the record my thanks to those incredible Surf Life Saving volunteers, including the member for Wyong, for the work they do keeping our beaches safe.

But it is not just about keeping people safe from drowning. Sharks play a major part in our aquatic community, so to speak, especially on the Central Coast. We have all seen the drone footage of shark life around beaches like Avoca and others on a regular basis. The number of sharks proliferating around our beaches goes to show how healthy our waterways are on the Central Coast. The New South Wales Government's Shark

Management Program is the largest and most comprehensive in the world. On the Central Coast a suite of new technologies has been rolled out in recent months. Since 21 March 2022, 15 SMART drum lines have been deployed daily, when weather permits, between MacMasters and Forrester's beaches, with a further 15 deployed since May from Pebbly Beach to Bateau Bay.

That is a total of 30 drum lines being deployed daily across the Central Coast area, providing increased protection for swimmers and surfers at our beaches. Two new shark listening stations have also been deployed at Killcare and Avoca beaches, which means that Central Coast locals and visitors can now receive real-time alerts from tagged sharks via the SharkSmart app, available on phones and smart watches or by following @NSWSHarkSmart on Twitter. I note that the member for Tweed is in the Chamber; I am sure he will make a valuable contribution to this discussion. As soon as the weather improves and the swell calms down, a third listening station will be deployed at Soldiers Beach, which is an outstanding beach—the member for Wyong is a member of that surf club, so I know he will be very happy. The tagged shark listening stations provide real-time updates of tagged sharks close to key swimming and surfing locations as well as important insights into the movements of target sharks in our waters, including shark habitat use and feeding patterns.

"SMART" stands for "Shark-Management-Alert-in-Real Time". The SMART drum lines consist of an anchor, two buoys and a satellite-linked GPS communications unit attached to a hook baited with one sea mullet. A trigger magnet is attached to the communications unit. There has been a lot of misinformation spread by some nefarious people about drum lines indiscriminately killing sea life. That is far from the truth; in fact, nothing could be further from it. We are seeing a removal of the outdated net system, which everybody in the Chamber realises is a 100-year-old technology that indiscriminately kills any bit of sea life that happens to swim into it. Central Coast Council has moved a motion to look at removing the nets, and I am fully supportive of the removal of nets from beaches right across the Central Coast. The sooner we utilise the smart technology in these drum lines and remove those nets from our community, the better off our marine life and beaches will be.

When an animal takes the bait and puts pressure on the line, the magnet is released, alerting contractors that there is an animal on the line. Once alerted, the team responds within 30 minutes to tag and release the shark or other marine animal that happens to have taken the bait. Predominantly sharks are the main users of these baits. Target sharks are tagged, relocated approximately one kilometre offshore and released, allowing the Department of Primary Industries [DPI] to collect data about sharks and their seasonal patterns of movement along the New South Wales coast. SMART drum lines are set at least 500 metres offshore at a depth of between eight and 15 metres and are collected at the end of each day. The drum lines are set up beyond the surf break to intercept sharks as they naturally move up and down the coast.

To ensure that the Central Coast community was aware of the upcoming SMART drum line deployments, Department of Primary Industries staff met with Central Coast Council in March, providing them with multiple briefings and a communications pack that included maps, a frequently asked questions fact sheet and videos ahead of the rollout. DPI also deployed digital screens at beaches such as Toowoona Bay, Soldiers and Terrigal to play SMART drum line educational videos. I was at Terrigal when the SMART drum line screen went up, and the number of people who were taking notice of that information and downloading the app was pleasing to see. Information and knowledge are power, and people are fully informed about the movements of these sharks.

In addition to the Central Coast, 18 other local government areas up and down the coast of New South Wales have SMART drum lines deployed, including Tweed, Ballina, Richmond Valley, Clarence Valley, Coffs Harbour, Port Macquarie Hastings, MidCoast, Newcastle, Lake Macquarie, Northern Beaches, Waverley, Randwick, Sutherland, Wollongong, Shellharbour, Kiama, Eurobodalla and Bega Valley. The SharkSmart education and engagement team has taken the SharkSmart trailer along the coast, attending high-profile events such as the Bondi Ocean Lovers Festival, Narooma Oyster Festival and many more. All beach users know that the ocean is the natural environment of sharks, and we are respectful of that environment. But it is also important that we roll out this technology, which has minimal impact on other sea life while targeting those sharks. Targeting and tagging programs are a great way to keep our community informed about shark movements.

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER: I call the member for Wyong.

Mr Geoff Provest: Speaking of sharks.

Mr DAVID HARRIS (Wyong) (12:46): I am not sure how to take that. I am pleased to lead for the Labor Opposition on this motion and say from the outset that Labor supports it. I will move an amendment, which I will explain shortly. It is a positive amendment, and I am sure those in the National Party will support it with great gusto. Labor supports science and technology. There are great advances to be made by doing things in a smarter way, and that is why Labor backs SMART drum lines. They not only serve to protect the public from shark attacks but they have also proven to be effective in reducing unintended kills of marine life.

As the member for Terrigal said, "SMART" stands for "Shark-Management-Alert-in-Real Time". SMART drum lines consist of an anchor, two buoys and a satellite-linked GPS communications unit attached to a hook baited with one sea mullet. A triggering magnet is attached to the communications unit. When a shark takes the bait and puts pressure on the line, the magnet is released, alerting the boat crew and Department of Primary Industries scientists that there is an animal on the line. Once alerted, the team responds immediately, within 30 minutes, to tag and release the shark or other marine animal. The SMART drum line technology was subject to a number of trials. One area the Opposition has been critical of is the amount of time that it has taken to roll out this technology up and down the coast.

The Opposition has always supported better ways of managing shark populations and was willing to back the Government every step of the way. I acknowledge my good colleague the Hon. Mick Veitch in the other place, who has been a strong supporter of this. Last night I had a great discussion with him about this issue, and he has been very supportive of this. It was his great advice that led me to the amendment that I will move. Trials of SMART drum lines started way back in 2015 and were still going on four summers later in 2019. The Opposition is unsure why the Government delayed the rollouts, yet one always has to wonder when the one and only John Barilaro is involved. His is a name that comes up all the time. We have worked out that the Government staffers have a drinking game. When Government members say the words "brighter future", the staffers all take a drink.

Mrs Leslie Williams: Point of order: My point of order concerns relevance. Clearly the member's comments have nothing to do with the motion before the House. I ask that the member be brought back to the motion.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Greg Piper): I thank the Deputy Speaker for her point of order. It was a slight deviation, an aberration, in an otherwise reasonable contribution from the member for Wyong. However, I ask the member to be mindful of the sensitivities around such matters.

Mr DAVID HARRIS: I was merely pointing out that we have a drinking game on this side—when John Barilaro is mentioned, we have a drink.

Mr Geoff Provest: I have seen your drinking game from time to time.

Mr DAVID HARRIS: I am a teetotaler, so I am not involved. This is the relevance of my remarks. The then Deputy Premier announced in September 2021—a month before he decided to retire from politics—in typical modest fashion, that the world's largest shark management program would be rolled out last summer, with funding tripling to \$22 million. Maybe the former Deputy Premier had his new job on his mind rather than the job at hand. The press release promised that this summer season there would be 100 SMART drum lines in nearly every coastal council area. The one problem was that many of the drum lines were not rolled out until the very end of the summer season, including at Little Bay, where the most recent tragic, fatal shark attack occurred. This is typical of the Government. There is the splashy press release, the big commitment and then a failure to adequately follow through.

Nevertheless, the Opposition looks forward to the use of SMART technologies into the future when it comes to keeping our beaches safe and reducing the impact on our marine life. The drum line is just part of a suite of technologies, including drones. I think around 50 beaches are now patrolled by drones that are operated by local surf lifesaving organisations. Let us roll that out more and more. The President of Avoca Beach Surf Life Saving Club, Garry Clarke, whom I have known for a very long time, is one of those drone operators. I note that he was recently named the Central Coast lifesaver of the year, which is very well deserved.

A shark listening station, which was raised by the member for Terrigal, is another non-invasive way of detecting dangerous sharks. Every day on patrol we get out the app to make sure it is safe to go swimming off beautiful Soldiers Beach. We are going to get a listening station. My only concern is that if it is operating while I am trying to requalify, it might pick up my heavy breathing. I hope that does not set off any alarms. This motion is about the use of SMART technology, but we need to back this with a commitment to getting proven technology out in the field as soon as possible. That leads me to my proposed amendment. I hope that the Government will support it. I mention the great work of Niall Blair, a former Minister for Primary Industries, who started the use of drum lines with an inquiry and did a wonderful job of getting it off the ground through trials.

Mr Adam Crouch: Is that the amendment?

Mr DAVID HARRIS: No. I will shorten the amendment. I want to make sure that when we are talking about this technology, we acknowledge the great work of Niall Blair and his inquiry. The Hon. Mick Veitch, my friend and colleague in the other place, said it was important that his contribution be appropriately noted in the motion. I move:

That the motion be amended by inserting a new paragraph after paragraph (2):

- (3) Acknowledges the former Minister for Primary Industries, the Hon. Niall Blair, MLC, who led New South Wales reform.

I thank the Minister for Agriculture for listening to the Central Coast community's concern regarding beach netting. We hope that the Government can support the amendment and give the Hon. Niall Blair the kudos he deserves for his role in rolling out this technology.

Mr GEOFF PROVEST (Tweed) (12:53): I support the motion moved by my colleague the member for Terrigal. My support of this very valuable motion is rather personal. In my electorate, sadly, over the past few years we have lost two people from shark attacks. I give my condolences to their families. The rollout of the Shark-Management-Alert-in-Real Time [SMART] drum lines is so important. Just north of my electorate, in Queensland, that lovely Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk recently has started a trial. Unfortunately, she is still netting her beaches. I think that we have caught three humpback whales, a number of turtles and a number of dolphins in the nets.

I have been out on the boats with Fisheries officers when they are laying the SMART drum lines. They are only out there in daylight hours. There are issues with getting contractors to go out and check the lines, which takes about 30 minutes. But the use of drum lines is very important because every shark caught is tagged and monitored. Currently, I believe around 390 great white sharks, numerous bull sharks and also tiger sharks have been tagged. They are the three species tagged. I hope I am not the only diver in this Chamber. I am an avid diver around Cook Island. I have been in the water and seen a 12-foot tiger shark about three metres away. They are magnificent animals but you get a cold chill down your back when you see them.

My surfing community is very supportive of the lines, and my environmental friends think they are very good because they have a very low kill rate—a number that is able to be counted on one hand. Also, the rate of catching other animals, such as turtles, is low. I think we got one last year. It is all about tracking the sharks. The bull sharks come up our estuaries, which is where many of the attacks happen. One of the tiger sharks' chief foods is green turtles, which are around Cook Island. The great whites come there during the winter, when water temperatures drop. I have seen a number of them from a boat. The biggest one, a female, was about 14 feet long. They are magnificent, they are the apex and we should do all in our power to protect them. So I thank the member for Terrigal for bringing this motion forward.

I will inform the landlocked members in this House about listening stations. A tagged shark that comes within 500 metres of a station sets off an alarm. I strongly advise people to download the SharkSmart app if they are around the ocean. The only downside is that I have a great white that loves to swim around my listening station at about three o'clock in the morning. You will need to put your phone on silent to get a good night's sleep. The program is heavily supported and is a way forward. We now know more about the sharks than any other country in the world. Skin and DNA samples are taken to track them. The great whites are very hard to track. Some of them like to have a holiday in Tasmania, some like to go to New Zealand, some like to go to the islands and some like to go to northern Queensland. They are unusual but magnificent animals and they perform a valuable role in our ecology. I support fully the motion moved by the member for Terrigal and praise him for bringing it forward.

Mr DAVID MEHAN (The Entrance) (12:57): I make a brief contribution to this motion. I note that Labor is supporting the motion, which relates to the installation of Shark-Management-Alert-in-Real Time [SMART] drum lines off the beaches of the Central Coast. Currently, 15 operating SMART drum lines have been anchored off the Central Coast and 15 more are to be put into operation, including off the beaches of The Entrance. Insofar as SMART drum lines enable us to replace the netting, which has been the traditional method of protecting our beaches from sharks, I welcome the initiative and welcome the progress forward in finding ways not only to give people peace of mind and to protect people at our beaches from shark attack but also to ensure that we do not have a negative impact on wildlife.

The netting program figures I have before me indicate that 60 per cent of the animals entangled in the last netting season, from 2018 to 2019, died before they were released by contractors and that 94 per cent of the animals caught in those nets were non-target species. Anything that can get us away from that sort of mass destruction of wildlife is to be welcomed. SMART drum lines are one of the many ways we can achieve that. The drum line is anchored off the coast. There is a hook attached to it. When an animal is caught, a signal is sent to a contractor, who releases the animal and tags it if it is a shark so the shark can be tracked. The results so far indicate that the impact on non-target wildlife is much less. The NSW Shark Management Program includes devices with the ability to track sharks off our coast, such as listening stations and drones, as well as further engagement with the community. All of these things will go together to better protect our beaches from sharks, allow more peace of mind for our community and have less impact on the environment.

Ms TAMARA SMITH (Ballina) (13:00): I make a contribution on behalf of The Greens. We support the motion put forward by the member for Terrigal. My community has probably experienced this more than most—and certainly the member for Tweed has had a similar experience—but when I was first elected in 2015

we had the tragic loss of life of Tadashi Nakahara, and during my term we have had a number of shark bites. Our community was absolutely devastated by that, and we have gone through a very long process. In the early part of 2015 there was a push by the Government to install mesh shark nets on the North Coast. Fortunately, the community spoke very loudly against that because we know more than most that the ocean is a wilderness. The idea of hanging a mesh net, floating around in the ocean, that will somehow prevent encounters by humans with sharks is ludicrous, and the science is very clear on that.

I was part of the shark inquiry and a number of processes, and I was thrilled to see the shark attack file at Taronga Zoo and the record over the past 100 years or so. It is very sad and there is no shying away from the fact that we do not want to see anyone hurt or lose their life, but it was interesting to note that it happens about once a year—but try telling that to the family of someone who has been injured or killed. I understand that CSIRO is doing incredible work in white shark research. We think that SMART drum lines are a good measure, particularly when you compare them with mesh nets.

I give a massive shout-out to No Shark Cull and Sea Shepherd and the work that I have done with them. Out of my own salary I helped to fund a trial of shark spotting at Wategos Beach in partnership with shark spotters from Cape Town. That was a fascinating experience, and it showed that it was viable because it was high enough. But, of course, there was an incredible community-based organisation that put together a whole volunteer-based program, like Surf Life Saving, that could have spotters on any beach where surf is up and eyes in the sky with drones. But it never got funded. It never got taken up.

We know that, at the moment, technology is the best hope we have. But I remind the Government and the member for Terrigal that, without adequate resourcing for the Department of Primary Industries, the drum lines will not work. It is a baited hook, and we certainly do not want to see baited hooks in marine parks. We certainly want to make sure the Department of Primary Industries has all the resources necessary to rescue and tag sharks in a timely fashion, or they will drown. So The Greens welcome the continued use of SMART drum lines as opposed to mesh nets in New South Wales, and I do not think we will have a problem with the motion mentioning Niall Blair. However, for quite some time The Nationals insisted on using mesh nets in the North Coast and our community said, "No way".

Mrs LESLIE WILLIAMS (Port Macquarie) (13:04): I am really pleased to support my colleague's motion on SMART drum lines. In doing so, I acknowledge the amendment of the member for Wyong acknowledging the former Minister for Primary Industries, the Hon. Niall Blair, who led this reform in New South Wales. I am confident Government members will support the amendment; I think all of us appreciate the work the Hon. Niall Blair did, particularly this initiative, which has had such a positive impact on coastal electorates, including Port Macquarie.

In February this year drum lines were installed off the Port Macquarie coast. In fact, two days ago four sharks were caught and released off Port Macquarie. That is definitely a sign that the process works and there are some really good outcomes in terms of making sure that our beaches are safe and that there is minimal impact on sea life. The member for Wyong briefly mentioned the other technologies that we are using to complement the SMART drum lines, in particular the shark listening stations, which do an incredible job and complement the other significant initiatives that the Government has put in place. For example, we have a shark listening station off Lighthouse Beach. I was looking at some of the stats. Between December 2016 and October 2019, there were 5,744 detections off Lighthouse Beach, including 107 white sharks, 19 bull sharks and two tiger sharks, to name just a few. That is incredibly significant. Of course, when we know where the sharks are by using the listening station technology, and when we continue to encourage our community to use the SharkSmart app, it all provides a complementary package to make sure our beachgoers are safe.

I know that the member for Terrigal will agree that our beaches are pretty important to us, not only to our locals but also for our tourism economy. People come to places like Port Macquarie and Terrigal for the beaches, but we need to make sure those beaches are safe. I commend the New South Wales Government's Shark Management Program. It has invested an additional \$85.6 million into various mitigation programs for the next four years to reduce the risk of shark interactions through detections using drones and other technology, the VR4G tagged shark listening stations that I have talked about and, of course, SMART drum lines.

Community engagement is always critically important when rolling out new technology and new initiatives. As well as engagement, we need education and research. All of the technologies that we are using are gathering data at the same time. As the member for Tweed mentioned, we probably know more about sharks and shark behaviour than anywhere else in the world. That makes for a good and promising future, not just for the sharks but for our beachgoers as well. Again, I commend the member for Terrigal for bringing this motion to the House. I know that he continues to engage with his community on all important issues and particularly on something like this, which he knows very well will have such a positive impact on people using our beautiful marine environment. Again, I thank the member for Terrigal and I support the amendment.

Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal) (13:08): In reply: I acknowledge from the outset that the Government will absolutely be accepting the amendment put forward by the Opposition. It acknowledges the former Minister for Primary Industries, the Hon. Niall Blair, who led this important reform with regard to SMART drum lines. Paragraph (3) will become paragraph (4), which will read:

Thanks the Minister for Agriculture and Western New South Wales for listening to the Central Coast communities' concerns regarding beach netting.

I thank all members for their valuable contributions: the member for Wyong, the member for Tweed, the member for The Entrance, the member for Ballina and, most recently, the excellent member for Port Macquarie. This is a complete game changer in how we deal with shark activity up and down the New South Wales coast. The technology is the envy of the world, and I am sure that many other States will look to follow our lead. I give a shout-out to Charlie, Jenny, Teagan and Felix, who visited Parliament House today from Victoria. Victoria will be looking at what New South Wales is doing to lead the way with this technology. Residents along the Victorian coast know that sharks play a big part in water activities. This world-first technology is accompanied by additional innovations, such as drone rollouts across New South Wales, working in conjunction with listening stations and drum lines. We are dealing in a collective, cohesive way with shark activity up and down our coastline.

As I said before, last season more than one million people visited the beaches of the Central Coast. We must do everything we can to ensure their safety while protecting our vital ecosystems. People must feel comfortable that they are in an environment where they can swim safely and enjoy themselves. The member for Ballina, the member for Tweed and the member for Port Macquarie emphasised that point. People visit coastal areas such as Port Macquarie, Terrigal and Ballina and Soldiers Beach because of the fantastic ocean environment on the eastern seaboard. I again congratulate the Government on providing the funding to roll out the SMART drum lines and the community engagement program that goes with it.

I was in Terrigal when the Department of Primary Industries installed the LED screens, and throngs of people were collecting information. I note the member for Tweed has entered the Chamber. I thank him for his contribution to the debate. I acknowledge the people who tragically lost their lives in incidents involving sharks. Our hearts go out to their families. We need to balance prevention measures with protecting our coastline ecosystem in areas like the Tweed, Port Macquarie, Ballina, The Entrance and Wyong. I again commend the work of the Government and the additional funding that the member for Port Macquarie mentioned in her speech. Millions of dollars in additional funding has been committed to continue the rollout and to support the SMART drum line systems that we have in New South Wales.

This is welcomed by our surf lifesavers—the people who use our beaches every day during peak season. They know the system works. That is why the bill is supported unanimously. I thank all members for their valuable contributions to the debate. This is how we acknowledge the good work that has been done and the good work that will be done. We will continue to fund these programs, collect the data and make informed decisions about how best to protect our environment, while at the same time protecting the public to the best of our ability. I give a quick shout-out to Garry Clarke, who is a drone pilot at Avoca Beach and President of the Avoca Beach Surf Life Saving Club. He was recently named the Central Coast Surf Lifesaver of the Year. I thank him and all his team for the great work they do with their drones to keep people at Avoca Beach safe. I again acknowledge the great work that the Government is doing with SMART drum lines.

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER: The member for Terrigal has moved a motion, to which the member for Wyong has moved an amendment. The question is that the amendment be agreed to.

Amendment agreed to.

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

Motion as amended agreed to.

SERVICE NSW WETHERILL PARK

Mr GUY ZANGARI (Fairfield) (13:13): I move:

That this House:

- (1) Acknowledges the significant wait times of up to an hour before customers enter the Service NSW centre Wetherill Park foyer in order to receive a wait time ticket.
- (2) Notes customers wait in blistering heat and pouring rain just to enter the foyer of the Service NSW centre Wetherill Park.
- (3) Acknowledges customers have additional wait times added to their outside wait time once they enter the Service NSW centre foyer.
- (4) Notes the increasing population has added extra pressure to Service NSW staff at the Wetherill Park centre.

- (5) Calls on the Government to open a Service NSW centre in the Fairfield central business district to assist residents in the Fairfield CBD to access government services.

I move this motion as a result of many constituents coming to my office to speak about their experiences gaining access to Service NSW in Wetherill Park. I have listened to the many issues they have had, including waiting outside the centre before they can enter to get a ticket to be attended to and a lack of public transport options to travel from the CBD and the outer extremities of Fairfield to Wetherill Park. On top of that, families are experiencing pressures using technology at home to access the online Service NSW portal. I would like to work with the Government and with Minister Dominello and his staff to help them come up with a solution to the problem and bring Service NSW to the Fairfield CBD.

Residents of Carramar, Villawood, some parts of Chester Hill, all parts of Yennora, old Guildford, Fairfield East, Fairfield and Fairfield West used to have access to a Roads and Traffic Authority [RTA] office in the heart of Fairfield, which was constructed by the former Labor Government. It was a best-practice, modern facility with plenty of parking—there was a council car park at the back. This Government shut it down and sold it—flogged it off. Now poor Community Services, which does a wonderful job in our area, occupies the former RTA premises. That means constituents in the areas I have mentioned—and I neglected to mention the electorate of Cabramatta—must make the difficult journey to Wetherill Park.

A few years ago a humanitarian intake increased the population of the local government area [LGA] by thousands. In addition, it has the biggest industrial area in the Southern Hemisphere. If that is not a perfect storm for residents trying to access Wetherill Park, I do not know what is. It is extremely difficult. I have put questions on notice to the Minister about language accessibility for our culturally and linguistically diverse communities. Surprisingly, only a few languages are spoken at the Service NSW desk, which makes it very difficult for people from the 133 different nationalities who reside in the Fairfield local government area and speak 80 different languages. The response I get is that they can call an interpreter or jump online. People do not have access to online portals like the Government thinks they do.

One solution is to bring services back to the CBD. Government services revitalise a CBD. They bring people to the CBD and encourage small business owners to invest there. Unfortunately, we have lost many government services. They have bled out of the CBD, which has led to a decline in patronage for many businesses. We need a double-pronged approach to revitalise the Fairfield CBD and bring in government services. Service NSW is one government service that is needed desperately. At the moment, people struggle to get to Wetherill Park from the Fairfield CBD, and then wait up to an hour to get a ticket and be triaged to the relevant services. It is not just the RTA anymore; people need to access Maritime or the Working with Children Check. There are many different New South Wales Government agencies at the centre. We realise that COVID has had an impact on customer numbers and there must be social distancing. We get that. But right now there are issues with people getting in and actually accessing services. As I said before—and I will say it again—I am willing to work with Minister Dominello to resolve this issue. I am willing to work with the Government to come up with a solution for the residents in the Fairfield electorate.

Wetherill Park is located in the north-western extremity of the LGA. It is very difficult to get to for someone who is from Villawood, Carramar or Yennora in the south-western extremity of the LGA. I realise that the Government has opened up Merrylands. It is new et cetera, but it does not solve the problem of accessibility for older people, mobility-impaired people, vulnerable people and, particularly, people of non-English-speaking backgrounds who have difficulty going to a Service NSW desk because there is no-one to converse with in their language. The motion is very clear. I acknowledge my learned colleagues the member for Bankstown and the member for Cabramatta, whose electorates are very close to where I am talking about. They will speak to this motion and call on the Government to bring a Service NSW centre to the Fairfield CBD so that constituents are not disadvantaged by the tyranny of distance in the Fairfield local government area.

Mr KEVIN CONOLLY (Riverstone) (13:20): I respond to the entreaty from the member for Fairfield, my good friend on the other side of the Chamber, who is representing his community. As a passionate supporter of Service NSW, I appreciate the support he offers for what is a really good service that this Government has introduced. It has vastly improved service delivery to people in lots of ways since the old days of the Roads & Traffic Authority office and separate utilities or instrumentalities in different places. For the thousands of people watching this broadcast, I point out that motions are put on the *Business Paper* some months in advance. The good member for Fairfield put this one on the *Business Paper* on 23 March. A lot has happened in three months.

Members will cast their minds back to 2022. In March we had just come off the back of the Omicron wave that hit us so hard through January and February. I have no doubt that the experiences the member for Fairfield was hearing about in his office were real. People did experience longer wait times. They were outside queuing because they could not queue inside. There were issues like that all across our community. In dealing with COVID, we had density limits for people inside buildings and the 1.5-metre separations. As we came out of that Omicron

wave, we still had isolation rules for close contacts. People were off work because somebody else in the family was sick with COVID. They did not necessarily have it themselves, but it played havoc with lots of workplaces. We all experienced that. It was frustrating for everybody. I am sure it was intensely frustrating for the staff of Service NSW at Wetherill Park, just as it was in lots of centres, that people could no longer queue in the foyer in comfort. They had to be pushed outside. They had to be a metre and a half apart and all of that. And there were not as many staff on duty at given times to serve them because of isolation rules.

Fortunately, that was three months ago; that is not the reality today. We are all thankful for that. Since then—and I did hear the member for Fairfield allude to it—this Government has been rolling out more Service NSW centres progressively across the State. I think we committed 10 for this term. Six have been delivered. The other four are well advanced. The plans are fully in place to meet that commitment. One of those centres at Merrylands has had a direct impact on the service levels for Wetherill Park. The time performance has already shown a measurable improvement because that neighbouring service centre has opened. I was given some distances. Merrylands is about five kilometres from the Fairfield CBD. It is a reasonable distance, given the localities of Service NSW centres across the State. I wish I had something within five kilometres of Stanhope Gardens, where my office is. The good news is that I am going to get one at Tallawong shortly. The Government is rolling them out, but many places in Sydney let alone the rest of New South Wales do not have one within five kilometres. That is a pretty reasonable distance.

The member quite rightly raised another issue, which Service NSW needs to take into account. Where rapid population growth is occurring, the Government needs to respond to that with service levels. The big increase in population in the south-west of Sydney is not really in the Fairfield or Wetherill Park areas. It is somewhat further south, in Leppington and Edmondson Park and places like that, which are exploding. The good news is that one of the recently opened Service NSW centres is at Edmondson Park. Again, that is a simple process of assessing where the need exists and making sure that we address that. People will make their own decisions about which of those centres to access, depending on where they live, their form of transport, what is convenient for them, what time of day it is, and whether they are working in the CBD. All of those things come into play. Service centres around the Fairfield community are available, including the ones that I have mentioned at Merrylands and Wetherill Park, but there is also Liverpool, Parramatta, Auburn. It depends where people are working. Maybe they are going south-west to the Edmondson Park region. The Government will continue to roll them out in population growth areas so that all communities are appropriately served and have access to government services.

The member makes some good points about his community. He is sticking up for them and I respect that. I am sure his offer to work with the Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government will be welcomed so the language or technology issues can be addressed in the localities where there is a need. That is a positive contribution to make to try to improve service levels. Different parts of Sydney have different language communities; we all know that and the focus is different for each of us as members. But if the member for Fairfield has particular learnings or insights, I am sure the Minister will be open to hearing about them. If there is a particular gap in service provision at Wetherill Park that needs to be plugged, that can be a useful contribution and would be appreciated.

As I said, the good news is the Government is delivering on its commitment relating to service centres. Merrylands was the 112th service centre to open in New South Wales. A number of others in the pipeline will meet the Government's current term commitment. I am sure there will be more in future. With regard to building a new service centre, I am informed that potential new service centre site locations are conducted using a modelled approach that analyses factors and measures such as growth opportunities that consider transient population, customer demand and Service NSW transactional growth within particular local government areas [LGAs], and network optimisation that balances the allocation of existing resources and Service NSW points of presence. Other considerations include social opportunities and needs within LGAs, the Government's obligation to the New South Wales economy, and geographical influences such as public transport points of presence, which the member raised. Service NSW acknowledges that there is not a service centre in the Fairfield CBD; however, a large number of services can be conducted online or via the contact centre. Therefore, people do not have to visit a service centre in person. If they do, there are options within south-western Sydney and those will increase as population grows.

Mr NICK LALICH (Cabramatta) (13:27): As the hardworking member for Fairfield has mentioned, our local multicultural communities deserve far better than what they have at the moment. Both the Wetherill Park Service NSW and Liverpool Service NSW centres are routinely inundated to the point that long queues form and capacity limits force constituents to stand outside in all types of weather for up to an hour before being able to enter the building. Despite their long waits outside, once they enter the building they need to get a ticket and sit down—or stand up if there is no room—and have a long wait again to be able to get to a counter. The member for Riverstone is old enough to remember what I am going to say. He is a bit younger than me, but he has been around quite a while and I think he will relate to the area I will talk about. The first time I walked into a Service NSW

office, it reminded me of the old cattle holding yards we used to have at Flemington—cattle were everywhere. I could not see, although the centre did not have the smell that we used to have at Flemington. I used to go past there every day and I can tell the House that it stank. There were people everywhere; one could not hear oneself speak. I had no idea where I should be or which counter to expect to be called to. That was a few years ago, and it has not improved much since. The establishment of Service NSW was sold to the public as an efficient one-stop shop, as those opposite closed one government office after another and amalgamated them into Service NSW.

We had a local office of the Roads and Traffic Authority in Fairfield CBD, which worked well until the Government closed it down and sold the property to private enterprise. That was the start of the Government getting rid of all of our properties and the \$93.6 billion of asset sales that have gone on since that time. We need a Service NSW office in Fairfield due to the population increase in our area of some 12,000 people, who were just dumped on us by the Federal Government for humanitarian reasons. I have no problem with that, but no further funding was given to them. No further public services were given to us to help those people or to help the area improve. We just had to get on with life as best we could.

We need a Service NSW office in the CBD of Fairfield as a matter of urgency. I call upon the Minister to look at this request as an urgent matter. If the Minister does not believe what I am saying, I ask him to come out to Wetherill Park or Liverpool and stand there for an hour and have a look at how many people go through those places. I ask him to walk inside and see how many people are inside, as well, and how long it takes them to get served in our area. Not all of our people speak good English. They take time, and that holds up the line. I hope the Minister is listening.

We have said from day one that the Service NSW changes will not work as prescribed, and here we are. Several years on, Service NSW remains capable of handling only very basic applications and tasks. Anyone in this Chamber who has ever sought a resolution to any kind of non-standard or difficult inquiry would know that Service NSW cannot assist them. They will instead be referred to the agency's head office, as no other local office exists. That in turn forces local residents, many of whom do not drive, to travel extensive distances, because their local centre is simply a jack-of-all-trades and master of none. [*Time expired.*]

Ms WENDY LINDSAY (East Hills) (13:32): This Government is committed to building what matters to make life better and continues to pioneer innovation by delivering better services sooner and closer to home. This Government is committed to building a brighter future for the families of New South Wales, and Service NSW has a clear vision—to be recognised as the distinctive leader in the provision of government transactional services. Service NSW has become an award-winning New South Wales government agency that delivers one-stop services for its customers and businesses and strives to deliver the New South Wales Government customer commitments to the highest standard every time it interacts with customers. How good is Service NSW? It is awesome.

Service NSW makes it easier for customers to access government services via its network, made up of Service NSW centres, mobile service buses and contact centres. People can dial 13 77 88 anytime and access the website, as well as what almost everyone in New South Wales is now using on their phone—the Service NSW app. It also provides a business concierge service for metropolitan and regional areas and a dedicated digital business platform. Under Labor, one Roads and Traffic Authority [RTA] office would be placed in a heavily populated area. Customers would have to block out half a day, take leave from work and sometimes sit around with the wrong ticket for one appointment, only to be met with awful customer service. Remember those days? I remember wasting many hours at Padstow RTA, only to be met by someone who was usually grumpy or completely unhelpful. Service NSW has been an absolute revolution in the way people interact with government.

As members are aware, Service NSW has also played a critical role in supporting communities, businesses, individuals and families who have been impacted by crises such as floods, fires and the COVID-19 pandemic. I commend the staff at Revesby Service NSW, in my electorate of East Hills, because they did an outstanding job throughout the pandemic in servicing the local constituents of East Hills. I also note that in 2019 the Government committed to 10 new Service NSW centres across the State, Revesby being one of them. Engadine, Roselands, Edmondson Park and Merrylands have all been delivered, with North Sydney and Tallawong—as the member for Riverstone mentioned earlier—about to be delivered very shortly. Glenmore Park, Northmead and Randwick-Eastgardens are being delivered and will open very shortly.

Over 58,000 people have come to Revesby Service NSW since it opened in August 2021, and 30,000 of those people have come from East Hills while 20,000 of them have come from other areas like Bankstown and Chester Hill. The member for Fairfield sometimes visits, even though Bankstown has its own Service NSW centre. That is how good Revesby Service NSW is, in the mighty electorate of East Hills: They come and visit me down in Revesby.

In relation to the Wetherill Park Service NSW, there are obviously other Service NSW centres near Fairfield, several of which are within the 10-kilometre radius. Before the Revesby centre was built, it was six kilometres for the constituents of East Hills to go to Bankstown, 19 kilometres to Miranda or 12 kilometres to Liverpool. Having the Revesby centre has definitely assisted us, but before that we had to go a long way to visit a Service NSW centre. With three Service NSW centres being within a five-kilometre radius of Fairfield, I oppose the motion.

Ms TANIA MIHAILUK (Bankstown) (13:36): I take this opportunity to make a brief contribution, and I thank the member for Fairfield for moving the motion. I understand why the member for Fairfield has moved the motion, and I appreciate the words of the member for Riverstone. Yes, there were some additional pressures after the Omicron variant that required people to go to Service NSW for a variety of reasons, whether it was to get their essential work permits during COVID or to acquire licences or other types of paperwork during that period. There is no doubt there were pressures, and we saw queues across many of our Service NSW branches.

But it is important to appreciate and understand that those queues are still there, and for a very good reason—because this Government continues to short-staff a number of Service NSW branches, including in my electorate of Bankstown. The member for East Hills boasts about the Revesby Service NSW, but she also mentions that a large number of people who are not from the electorate of East Hills are attending the Revesby branch. There is a reason for that—it is sometimes impossible to see staff at Service NSW at Bankstown. That is why people are turning around, getting back into their cars and driving over to the Revesby branch instead—or, in fact, catching buses to Revesby.

That is the problem—the decision by this Government to short-staff some branches as it sees fit. In others, where there is a marginal seat, in its usual pork-barrelling way it thinks, "Well, we'd better make sure that there's more staff at one branch and less staff at another." That is happening. Union delegates out there can tell those opposite that that is the case. There is no doubt that members opposite are very focused on East Hills at the moment, but they are not so focused on the electorates of Fairfield, Cabramatta, Granville or Bankstown. They are very focused on the electorate of East Hills. We know that. That is why I can understand and appreciate why people are going down to the Revesby branch but why they are not necessarily having the same experience as at some of our Service NSW branches.

It is important that this Government understands that when former Premier Barry O'Farrell made the decision to set up Service NSW, he decided to do so by removing a whole host of government branch operations that were held across south-western and western parts of Sydney. It was not just the Roads and Traffic Authority centres that had to go. Fair Trading offices had to go. A whole range of government offices were shut down in parts of south-western Sydney and western Sydney and replaced by Service NSW branches, which are very far and few between.

When big regional communities like south-west Sydney only have one branch at Wetherill Park or another in Liverpool to look after areas like Villawood, Chester Hill and the areas around Fairfield and Cabramatta, it is difficult. It is not surprising that people are struggling to get information. Not everybody can access online services. Recently a constituent in my electorate tried to access her Dine & Discover vouchers. She went five times to Service NSW. Each time, the online system supports were down and she was sent home. She was 89 years of age. It was an absolute disgrace. It shows that the system is under pressure. It is not good enough, and this Government is not doing enough to support south-west Sydney.

Ms ROBYN PRESTON (Hawkesbury) (13:41): I thank the member for Fairfield for giving notice to move this motion in the Chamber today so that the Government can oppose it. This debate gives me the opportunity to elaborate on the amazing transformation that New South Wales has seen with the creation of Service NSW centres. Back in 2013 New South Wales opened the first Service NSW centre in Kiama. It was a revolutionary concept that was the brainchild of the then finance Minister, Dominic Perrottet. The focus was on "service"—a concierge would greet customers, make them feel special and direct them to the right counter that would assist with all their needs. I can recall my mother, who is now 92, ringing me up and saying, "I have just had the most wonderful experience at Service NSW at their brand new centre." She is a Fairfield girl; I am an ex-Fairfield girl. So I am at a loss at the fact that the member for Fairfield has moved this motion, especially because of paragraph (5) of the motion:

- (5) Calls on the Government to open a Service NSW Centre in the Fairfield central business district to assist residents in the Fairfield CBD to access government services.

I remind the member that there are three service centres approximately five kilometres from the Fairfield CBD and a total of seven within a 10-kilometre radius. That includes a service centre at Merrylands, Liverpool and Wetherill Park, all within about five kilometres, as well as a service centre at Parramatta, Auburn, Bankstown and Silverwater—need I go on? That is all within 10 kilometres. The electorate of Fairfield is 28 square kilometres in

area and has all those Service NSW centres to choose from. Compare that with Hawkesbury. I put this to the member for Fairfield: In an area of 3,171 square kilometres, how many Service NSW centres does the Hawkesbury electorate have? It has one in Richmond. And guess what? People are so appreciative of that.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Ms Sonia Hornery): Order! The member for Hawkesbury will relax and Opposition members will cease interjecting.

Ms ROBYN PRESTON: Can we stop the clock?

Mr Guy Zangari: No.

Ms ROBYN PRESTON: People in the Hawkesbury area are so appreciative because, every time they visit a centre, they know they have their issue resolved in a timely manner. The member for Fairfield talked about the old Fairfield Roads and Traffic Authority [RTA] centre being best practice. Best practice? I used to have to take annual leave for half a day at Fairfield to get my driver licence renewed. I would be sitting in there for four hours. How is that best practice? I can now go to a Service NSW centre—if I do not want to do it online—and it is all available at my fingertips. Acting on a 2019 State election promise to add 10 more permanent centres, the New South Wales Government has since delivered five of those centres at Revesby, Engadine, Roselands, Edmondson Park and Merrylands, and the 113th centre is opening up at North Sydney very soon. The remaining four centres—which will be located at Glenmore Park, Northmead, Randwick/Eastgardens and Tallawong—are in progress and on track to be delivered by 2023. Need I go on?

Digital technology has allowed us to work in a more agile and smarter way. I know some people still need to go to a Service NSW centre. That is why there are so many centres to choose from in neighbouring electorates as well. Customers can manage their digital driver licence and vehicles. It is a one-stop shop. People can get their licences and birth certificates digitally, and a whole range of issues can be dealt with in one place. I would have thought that would be so convenient. It goes to show that the New South Wales Government is a digitally inclusive government. However, we will also always have non-digital options available to those people in the community who do not feel comfortable. I will not be supporting this motion before the House.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Ms Sonia Hornery): I draw to members' attention that, according to rules, I will leave the chair at 2.00 p.m. and the House will resume at 2.15 p.m.

Ms JULIA FINN (Granville) (13:45): By leave: I thank the member for Fairfield for bringing this motion before the House. We have heard extensively from Government members in this debate about the Merrylands Service NSW centre. The Merrylands Service NSW centre only opened in the past few weeks. It has made barely a dint. It was certainly not available at the time that the member for Fairfield raised this issue in the House. In 2016 this Government closed the Merrylands motor registry and only opened the Service NSW centre a couple of weeks ago after much lobbying from me and the community as a whole. It is the only promise the Government made to the Granville electorate at the last election that it has kept. It would be great except for one thing: The centre will not accept cash.

Merrylands CBD is largely a cash economy, and Merrylands Service NSW is a government office that will not accept legal tender for transactions. No wonder there is a giant queue at Wetherill Park. It is filled with everyone who came to Merrylands and saw the sign that said, "We do not accept cash for transactions." It is ridiculous. I had complaints about this even before the centre opened. A sign on the hoarding said, "We will not accept cash." People complain to me about how their elderly relatives cannot go to the centre because they do not have cards. It is a ridiculous situation.

Service NSW is supposed to be open and available to all citizens of New South Wales to assist them in conducting government transactions, but at the Merrylands Service NSW centre customers who only use cash are not welcome. An elderly person who still has a passbook account, still goes into the bank and has never had a key card or a credit card in their life or someone who has just come to Australia from Afghanistan—like many people in Merrylands—and does not have credit cards, does not do electronic banking, does not speak English fluently and only accesses the internet in Dari can go into a Service NSW centre and find out that cash is not accepted.

Cash is legal tender. It is ridiculous that any government service will not accept cash for transactions. It discriminates against huge sections of the population. As I said, Merrylands is largely a cash economy. Members will not believe the comments I get about this ridiculous situation. The comment that I thought was most priceless was, "Are you kidding? This is not Vacluse. We use cash here." It is true. It is ridiculous, and I urge the Minister to allow legal tender—cash—to be used at Merrylands Service NSW. That will mean hiring someone to pick up the cash and take it to the bank, but creating jobs is a good thing to do. Accepting legal tender for government transactions is something that should always be done.

Mr GUY ZANGARI (Fairfield) (13:49): In reply: I thank the members representing the electorates of Riverstone, Cabramatta, Bankstown, East Hills, Granville and Hawkesbury for their contributions to debate on this motion. Especially I thank the members representing the electorates of Riverstone, East Hills and Hawkesbury for their wonderful copy-and-paste ministerial speeches. This motion is about me as the local MP saying to the Government, "I want to work with you." I want to work with Minister Dominello. He is not a bad bloke. He is not good at keeping data or securing passwords, but he is a good bloke. Minister Dominello, I want to work with you. I want to work with the Government to fix the problem our local vulnerable, elderly and mobility-impaired communities have when accessing Service NSW.

As the member for Cabramatta rightly said, sometimes our experience at Service NSW is like being at a cattle yard. There are people everywhere, waiting, swanning around, not knowing where to go. Is it ticket B35 or C36? They do not know where to go. The member for Bankstown knows very well that the connectivity with public transport is not that great in the extremities of her electorate, which borders the Fairfield electorate. Why not have a Service NSW centre in the CBD? The member for Hawkesbury said the Fairfield CBD is five kays away from the Service NSW centre at Merrylands, but she is wrong. The centre in Merrylands is 7.1 kilometres from where the Fairfield RTA centre used to be. It is difficult to get to if you are traversing through the traffic on The Horsley Drive or going around the back of the old store sheds in Yennora. Those members opposite just do not know the intricate geography. Yes, the electorate might be 27 square kilometres—but do you know what? High-rise apartment buildings are popping up and there is a bigger population there.

The member for Granville mentioned a funny thing—actually it is not funny, it is serious—there is no cash held at the Merrylands centre. The Government has taken a leaf from the Neville Bartos line in *Chopper*: "Cash? There's no cash here." How ridiculous is that? There is no cash. "I'm sorry, sir. I'm sorry, ma'am. Cash? There's no cash here." It is legal tender. How ridiculous that people are now excluded for carrying legal tender. What country is this where everyone is just expected to tap and go with their phone or get their credit card out? Not everyone has access to that.

I say to the Government and my good friend Minister Dominello—who needs a little bit of backing up data and password security 101 training—that I will work with him. I will work with Service NSW to get a solution to a problem for the residents I represent in the Fairfield electorate. It is as simple as that. I am very disappointed that the Government is going to vote against this motion. That is fine; I will go back to my community and say, "The Liberals and The Nationals just don't care. They don't care about you." We will continue to fight it. This is not the first time I have raised this issue in the House. I will continue to do so until we get a solution to the problem of this service not being in the centre of the Fairfield electorate.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Ms Sonia Hornery): The question is that the motion be agreed to.

The House divided.

Ayes33
Noes39
Majority.....6

AYES

Aitchison, J	Finn, J	Mihailuk, T
Atalla, E	Harris, D	O'Neill, M
Bali, S	Harrison, J	Parker, J
Catley, Y	Hoenig, R	Piper, G
Chanthivong, A	Holland, M	Saffin, J
Cotsis, S	Kamper, S	Scully, P
Crakanthorp, T	Lalich, N	Voltz, L (teller)
Daley, M	Li, J	Warren, G
Dib, J	Lynch, P	Washington, K
Donato, P	McDermott, H	Watson, A (teller)
Doyle, T	McGirr, J	Zangari, G

NOES

Anderson, K	Hancock, S	Preston, R
Ayres, S	Hazzard, B	Provest, G
Butler, R	Henskens, A	Roberts, A
Clancy, J	James, T	Saunders, D
Conolly, K	Kean, M	Sidgreaves, P

NOES

Cooke, S
Coure, M
Crouch, A
Davies, T
Dominello, V
Gibbons, M
Griffin, J
Gulaptis, C

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

Singh, G (teller)
Smith, N (teller)
Taylor, M
Tuckerman, W
Upton, G
Williams, L
Williams, R
Wilson, F

PAIRS

Barr, C
Car, P
Haylen, J
Mehan, D
Minns, C
Park, R
Tesch, L

Speakman, M
Toole, P
Evans, L
Stokes, R
Perrottet, D
Elliott, D
Bromhead, S

Motion negatived.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Ms Sonia Hornery): I shall now leave the chair. The House will resume at 2.15 p.m.

Members

MEMBER FOR THE ENTRANCE

MEMBER FOR TAMWORTH

MEMBER FOR MANLY

MEMBER FOR MOUNT DRUITT

MEMBER FOR BATHURST

The SPEAKER: I will start by wishing the member for The Entrance a happy birthday today. Members representing the electorates of Tamworth, Manly, Mount Druitt and Bathurst have upcoming birthdays before the next sitting period. I hope they have wonderful celebrations planned.

*Visitors***VISITORS**

The SPEAKER: I extend a very warm welcome to guests of the member for Lismore from the Australian Red Cross, in particular, Julie Perkins, Team Leader, First Nations Team, and Glen Crump, Indigenous Community Engagement Officer. I also welcome guests of the member for Manly—Adele Heasman, Maya Edge and Lee Furlong. Also joining us today are guests of the member for Blue Mountains—Ben Hancock, AK and Sophie. Welcome to you all.

*Question Time***MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY**

Mr CHRIS MINNS (Kogarah) (14:18): My question is directed to the Premier. Given New South Wales has missed out on over 4,000 jobs due to decisions to offshore manufacturing and it has contributed to New South Wales losing 42,000 manufacturing jobs in a decade, will the Premier agree that returning local manufacturing to New South Wales through minimum content requirements is a good thing for New South Wales?

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

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET (Epping—Premier) (14:19): This Government is all about "Made in New South Wales". That is exactly what we do. We make everything in New South Wales. That is why New South Wales currently has the lowest unemployment rate in the history of the State. There are more people in work in New South Wales than ever before. New South Wales is leading the way. I have often said budget day is my favourite day of the year. But budget reply day is my second favourite day—

Mr Matt Kean: It is now our favourite.

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: It is now our favourite, because didn't that budget reply disappoint? It was a budget reply that promised so little but delivered even less. What a complete snoozefest. The Government handed down a budget—

Mr Ryan Park: Point of order: My point of order is taken under Standing Order 129. If the Premier does not believe in building it here in New South Wales, he should just say so. Stop the guff and just say so.

The SPEAKER: The member for Keira will resume his seat.

Mr Ryan Park: Tell the people of the Illawarra, the Hunter and western Sydney. Just say so.

The SPEAKER: The Clerk will stop the clock. The member for Keira knows that that is not the way to take a point of order. I call the member for Keira to order for the first time. I call the member for Ku-ring-gai to order for the first time. I am tired of him telling me how to adjudicate in this House. The Premier has the call.

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: As I said, the Treasurer handed down a budget this week that delivers for everyone across New South Wales. Today's budget reply delivered for absolutely no-one. The Liberal-Nationals Government is building a brighter future for the people of New South Wales. What did we see today? Labor's new—

Mr Greg Warren: Point of order: My point of order is taken under Standing Order 129. The question was not—

The SPEAKER: The Premier is being relevant. There is no point of order.

Mr Greg Warren: —a request for the Premier to get up and crow about the Government's failures. It was: Does the Government support manufacturing in New South Wales?

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

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: What we saw today was the launch of Labor's new campaign: "NSW Labor will have more to say later". I can see the banners: "We'll have more to say later". Did that focus group work well?

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

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: Did the focus group work well? It rolls off the tongue.

Mr Ron Hoenig: Point of order—

The SPEAKER: The member for Heffron has the call. The Premier will resume his seat.

Mr Ron Hoenig: My point of order relates to relevance. The Premier is nowhere near the subject of local manufacturing, which is a directly relevant requirement in the question that was asked of him.

The SPEAKER: I remind the Premier of the question.

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: I think it is better for the focus group than, "We're working on it", "We'll get back to you later". I love it. Great launch. It is going to go very well for the Opposition.

Ms Jo Haylen: Mr Speaker?

The SPEAKER: The Premier's time has expired. The member for Summer Hill has the call.

Ms Melanie Gibbons: The clock was still ticking down. She interrupted the Premier, Mr Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Order! The Premier's time had expired. I waited several seconds. The member for Summer Hill has the call.

GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT

Ms JO HAYLEN (Summer Hill) (14:23): My question is directed to the Premier. Given Metro Northwest and the convention centre used steel imported from overseas, the late and over-budget New Intercity Fleet was built in Korea and our defective ferries were built in China and Indonesia, and given the CEO of Infrastructure NSW—

Mr Alister Henskens: Point of order: My point of order is taken under Standing Order 128 (2) (a). This is question time; it is not statement time. It is not necessary to regurgitate a whole lot of facts in order to ask a question. Facts must be "strictly necessary to render the question intelligible". That is what the standing order says

and that is what the member should be held to. Instead of making long, tedious statements, she should ask a question.

Mr Ron Hoenig: To the point of order—

The SPEAKER: I will hear from the member for Heffron on the point of order. I have the benefit of a written copy of the full question. I appreciate that it was provided to me.

Mr Ron Hoenig: Unfortunately, the Leader of the House did not hear the full question. Unless those statements of fact are put to the Premier, any answer he gives will be unfair. He is entitled to that information to be able to answer the specific question asked of him by the member for Summer Hill. It is not an unfair trick question. It contains specific facts. It is necessary for the Premier to give a tangible reply that the House will understand about significant public policy issues.

The SPEAKER: I am happy to rule on the point of order. Sometimes there is a fine line between providing context and breaching Standing Order 128. In this case, it is excessive. I do have the benefit of having the text of the whole question. I give the member for Summer Hill the opportunity to truncate the question.

Ms JO HAYLEN: My Premier—

[Interruption]

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

Ms JO HAYLEN: My question is directed to the Premier. Given the CEO of Infrastructure NSW recently said during budget estimates that he is "not aware of any policies which specify either preferring local materials over imported materials or setting particular targets", how can the Premier pretend that his Government has any credibility when it comes to supporting local jobs through local procurement?

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET (Epping—Premier) (14:26): Oh Jo, my Jo, that is exactly what we are doing. When we are building \$112 billion of infrastructure and—as referred to in the first iteration of the question, which was ruled out of order—raise projects like the Sydney Metro Northwest, including its tracks, we are investing record amounts of infrastructure right across the State. A lot of that infrastructure has been manufactured right here in New South Wales. That is why there is a false view that the rustbelt state of Victoria is the manufacturing capital of the country. It is not. New South Wales manufactures more than anywhere else in the country. Why? It is because we build more. Members opposite ask about projects that they promised and cancelled five or six times.

Ms Kate Washington: Where are our trains in New South Wales?

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: Where are the trains? Exactly! You raised the New Intercity Fleet with your union mates, taking them out of action to improve the lives—

Ms Jo Haylen: Point of order: My point of order is taken under Standing Order 129. The question clearly asked about the Government's policies and the statement of the CEO of Infrastructure NSW, not about what the Opposition is proposing.

The SPEAKER: The Premier may continue.

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: When we build more, naturally we procure more. That is why businesses right across our State are doing much better under the Liberals and The Nationals than under any Labor government in the country. More people are in work in New South Wales on our government projects than anywhere else in the country. The member for Newcastle loves the Newcastle light rail. This Government has more local manufacturing than anywhere else in the country because we are building more than anywhere in the country. What we hear from the Opposition is a Labor Party that does not manage money well, that talks rhetoric. That is why it delivers absolutely nothing. The workers of New South Wales are always better off under the Liberals and The Nationals. Why? Because they are in work. That is the difference. Under the Liberals and The Nationals, New South Wales has the lowest unemployment rate in recorded history.

STATE BUDGET

Ms WENDY LINDSAY (East Hills) (14:29): My question is addressed to the Premier. Will the Premier update the House on how the Government is securing a brighter future for New South Wales?

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET (Epping—Premier) (14:29): What a slogan—"Brighter Future". It is so positive, so uplifting and so upbeat.

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

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: "We'll come back to you later." Forget the Labor Party; it is the Labor Party. Forget the sound bites. Let the Liberals and The Nationals on this side of the House deal with substance.

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

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: The member for Canterbury was asking what we have delivered. Let us talk about what we have delivered and what we are delivering. Since coming to government in 2011, we have delivered 188 new and upgraded schools and announced the delivery of 160 more over the next four years. Our early childhood education policy is not nation leading; it is world leading—universal preschool for all young children one year before school. What about the budget reply speech today? On Tuesday when those opposite heard about our great policy from the Treasurer, they were going copy-paste, copy-paste. Is it Control C then Control V? We will throw that in.

Mr Ron Hoenig: Point of order—

The SPEAKER: The member for Port Stephens will remain silent.

Mr Ron Hoenig: My point of order is taken under Standing Order 129. The Premier was not asked about any of that or about what the Leader of the Opposition might have said in his budget reply speech. He was asked a tedious, repetitious question about a brighter future—

The SPEAKER: I will allow the Premier to continue.

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: He tried to copy our policy. We are also offering preschool relief and childcare reforms.

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

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: Yesterday I noted that rating agency Standard & Poor's backed in not only the budget but also child care as an economic game changer in New South Wales.

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

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: Members do not have to take it from me; they can take it from the ratings agency. Under the great health Minister, we have delivered 170 new and upgraded hospitals since coming to office. That is 170 in 11 years. Over the next four years, it will be 130 under the Liberals and The Nationals, in addition to 10,000 new Health staff and 2,000 new ambos. Who would have thought that we could do even more in Health? We found a way.

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

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: Let us see what we have done for transport and roads since coming to office. [*Extension of time*]

Clearly the member for Summer Hill is a fan of the Sydney Metro Northwest. We have built it. We have delivered the South-West Rail Link, WestConnex, NorthConnex, the Inner West Light Rail, the CBD light rail, Newcastle light rail, 41 new suburban trains, and Princes and Pacific Highway upgrades.

Mrs Melinda Pavey: Princes Highway.

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: I got there. That is what we have delivered. There is just so much; it is overwhelming. This budget has allocated \$77 billion over the next four years for transport and road projects: Parramatta Light Rail, stage one; Parramatta Light Rail, stage two; Sydney Metro West; fast rail; Great Western Highway upgrades; regional rail fleet; Western Harbour Tunnel; Sydney Metro Western Sydney Airport; M4 and M5 tunnels; Sydney Gateway and M6 Motorway; and Coffs Harbour bypass. It does not stop. In fact, there are more cranes in New South Wales skies than anywhere else in the world—382 cranes. Half the cranes in Australia arrive here in New South Wales, which is double that of Victoria.

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

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: It is seven times the number of cranes in Los Angeles, which has the most in the United States. It is double the amount in New Zealand. There is cost-of-living support in the budget, as members know. There are 70 cost-of-living measures putting \$7 billion in the pockets of working families across our State. There are Back to School vouchers, which parents are going to love. There is the Energy Bill Buster.

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

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: It does not stop. The Government's new housing policy delivers more social housing than ever before. Our stamp duty reform gives first home buyers the choice of paying up-front

stamp duty or an annual charge. There is the shared equity scheme for teachers, nurses and fireies. It does not stop. The budget is so great, by the greatest Treasurer.

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

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: A brighter future.

STATE BUDGET

Mrs NICHOLE OVERALL (Monaro) (14:35): My question is addressed to the Deputy Premier. Will he update the House on how the Government is building a stronger and safer New South Wales?

Mr PAUL TOOLE (Bathurst—Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional New South Wales, and Minister for Police) (14:35): I thank the member for Monaro for her question and for the work she does in her region in advocating for a stronger and safer New South Wales. Today I was pleased to announce that the New South Wales Government is taking yet another big step towards cracking down on organised crime, with new powers and tougher penalties targeting money laundering and unexplained wealth. The Government's reforms represent the toughest laws that this State has ever seen. The reforms will help law enforcement better target organised crime networks, dealing with the foot soldiers all the way up to the Mr Bigs. They are designed to strike organised crime at its financial base to stop criminals from enjoying the ill-gotten gains of their actions and from reinvesting those funds to fuel further crime.

Our reforms will lead the world in targeting the use of dedicated encrypted devices to avoid law enforcement. We know that those devices are used to plan serious crimes. Encrypted devices are used for the smuggling of drugs and firearms. They are used for money laundering and, in some cases, they are used to plan murders. For the first time, the new reforms will make it an offence to possess those kinds of devices and allow us to better target high-risk individuals who use them to carry out crimes. The message to gangs out there is very clear: If you think you can hide your ill-gotten gains, you are wrong. If you think you can avoid detection by using encrypted devices, you are wrong. Police are out there every day working to dismantle these networks, and the Government is making sure that they have the powers they need to do so.

Yesterday I issued a challenge to the Leader of the Opposition. I said to him, "Tell us what your vision is for the people of this State. Tell us what your vision is for the people of regional New South Wales." Today we heard his budget reply speech, and I have to say that he gets an F.

Mr Greg Warren: Point of order—

Mr PAUL TOOLE: He gets an F because it failed the people of this State. It failed the people of regional New South Wales. He has forgotten about the people in New South Wales.

The SPEAKER: I will hear the point of order. The Clerk will stop the clock.

Mr Greg Warren: I take a point of order under Standing Order 129. The Deputy Premier is being totally irrelevant to the question. Mr Speaker, I ask you to bring him back to the question.

The SPEAKER: I will hear further from the Deputy Premier.

Mr PAUL TOOLE: I am speaking about a safer and stronger regional New South Wales, and a brighter and more secure future. This week the Government announced a budget that spoke about transforming the regions after the past decade. The budget delivered by the Treasurer has transformative reform. [*Extension of time*]

I listened to the Leader of the Opposition. We heard nothing about wages. We heard nothing about infrastructure and barely anything about jobs. We heard even less about the regions. What did we hear? We heard something about the Central West. Labor wants to make the Central West the cradle of renewable energy for New South Wales. As a proud resident of the Central West, I can tell those opposite that the regions are much more than that.

The SPEAKER: The Treasurer will remain silent.

Mr PAUL TOOLE: The regions are not just going to be seen as a power station for Sydney.

The SPEAKER: The member for Canterbury will come to order. The member for Hornsby will come to order.

Ms Anna Watson: Point of order—

Mr PAUL TOOLE: We are not going to see our prime agricultural land plastered with wind turbines and solar farms.

The SPEAKER: The member for Shellharbour rises on a point of order. The Deputy Premier will resume his seat.

Ms Anna Watson: I take a point of order under Standing Order 130. The Deputy Premier is debating the question, not answering the question.

The SPEAKER: I will allow the Deputy Premier to continue.

Mr PAUL TOOLE: I am speaking about a safer and stronger regional New South Wales and about how the Government has a vision for agricultural land. What I heard this morning was not a vision for agricultural land.

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

Mr PAUL TOOLE: Through the Government's investment, we are seeing a high-tech medical precinct in Orange, a partnership with IBM in Bathurst, advanced manufacturing in Narromine and Australia's first critical minerals hub is near Dubbo. That is what innovation looks like. We have lazy rhetoric from the Opposition. It is just trying to appease the Greens in Sydney; that is all those opposite are trying to do. The Government will continue to represent the people of this State, and I cannot wait. Are we going to wait much longer? Is it now going to be some policy that Labor puts up in August? Is it going to be in September or October? [*Time expired.*]

The SPEAKER: I call the member for Keira to order for the third time. I remind members that today is the final sitting day for quite a while. I do not want to remove any members from the Chamber, but the level of disruption today has been high. I will start getting stricter with members.

TRANSPORT ASSET HOLDING ENTITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

Ms PRUE CAR (Londonderry) (14:41): My question is directed to the Premier. Given the Transport Asset Holding Entity puts passenger safety at risk, is draining the budget when it can least afford it and is only serving to help sell off public assets and build hotels, will the Premier finally admit that creating TAHE was a mistake and join with Labor in safely abolishing it?

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

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET (Epping—Premier) (14:41): I completely reject the premise of the question. TAHE is not putting safety at risk.

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

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: It is in line with the asset holding structures in Queensland—

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

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: —and in Victoria, both Labor States.

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

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: We thought we would get a major transport policy out of the Leader of the Opposition's budget reply, but we got an accounting policy. I am sure they are talking about that in Londonderry. I am sure they are talking about TAHE in Londonderry today, while we are talking about building a brighter future for the people of New South Wales.

Ms Prue Car: Do you know what they're talking about, Dom? Land tax.

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

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: You know you don't get another budget reply? That was it. It was a bit disappointing, wasn't it?

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

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: I mean, we weren't disappointed. We were happy. When it comes to TAHE, as I have said, it is in line with Queensland and Victoria. It is a better way of managing assets. It improves safety. It is something that the Government worked on and that has been in every single budget probably for the past eight or so budgets. When it comes to transport policy, an accounting policy is pretty poor. There was no news today in relation to how Labor is going to build new infrastructure projects across the State. The Leader of the Opposition did not name one. It was the big moment we had been waiting for, for six months—the 100-day plan. There was not a policy. We then got to the budget reply. We had to wait until the budget reply before we got a policy. We got to the big day today, and there was nothing.

Mr Ron Hoenig: Point of order—

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: We on this side of the House have a positive plan for the future of our great State of New South Wales.

The SPEAKER: I will hear the member's point of order. The Clerk will stop the clock because the Premier is being relevant.

Mr Ron Hoenig: The Premier was asked a specific question about TAHE.

The SPEAKER: And he has addressed it.

Mr Ron Hoenig: He is not being directly relevant to the question.

The SPEAKER: I am satisfied that the Premier is in order.

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: I always answer questions. I was directly relevant straightaway.

Mr Ron Hoenig: Talk to the Speaker. Don't talk to me.

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

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: I have lost my train of thought now. I answered the question. The difference between the Liberals and the Nationals is that we continue to build a brighter future for the people of New South Wales. What we saw today were sound bites, no substance, no direction, no policy, no vision and no principle. On this side of the House, we will continue to build—

Mr Ron Hoenig: Point of order—

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: You should kick him out.

Mr Ron Hoenig: Sit down, Mr Bean.

The SPEAKER: The member for Heffron will resume his seat. The member has forfeited his right to take a point of order. The Premier will continue.

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: We will continue to build a brighter future for the people of New South Wales. Labor should get out of the way as we continue to deliver for every single person across our great State.

STATE BUDGET AND FAMILIES

Ms GABRIELLE UPTON (Vaucluse) (14:45): My question is addressed to the Treasurer, and Minister for Energy. Will the Treasurer inform the House on how only the Liberal-Nationals' budget is delivering for New South Wales families?

Mr MATT KEAN (Hornsby—Treasurer, and Minister for Energy) (14:45): I thank the member for Vaucluse. We know that earlier in the week the Leader of the Opposition commissioned emergency polling to find out what to say in the budget reply. My message to the Leader of the Opposition is, "Ask for your money back. You would have been better off outsourcing to it the Twitterati again. You would have had a better result."

Mr Ron Hoenig: Point of order: The Treasurer is not being directly relevant to the question asked.

The SPEAKER: I am satisfied the Treasurer was making introductory comments but will now come to the question.

Mr MATT KEAN: Absolutely, Mr Speaker. There has never been a more vacuous, vapid or inconsequential budget reply in the history of New South Wales. No-one has promised so much and delivered so little as the Leader of the Opposition. That is because he is all spin and style, and no substance.

Mr Ron Hoenig: Point of order: The Treasurer has ignored what the Speaker indicated previously. He has just kept going. They are not introductory remarks. They are not an answer to the question.

The SPEAKER: I ask the Treasurer to come directly to the question, please.

Mr MATT KEAN: What we have done on this side of the House is deliver plans to help families across New South Wales realise their hopes and aspirations. That is exactly why we outlined one of the biggest reforms, not only for social policy but for economic policy. Our childcare reforms will enable 95,000 more women to enter the workforce or work more hours. That will mean we will grow the overall size of our economy by about \$17.1 billion every year. What was the childcare policy announced by the Leader of the Opposition today? What was the women's policy announced by the Leader of the Opposition today? Absolutely nothing. Leadership is about more than patting dogs at railway stations and growing mullets. It is about doing hard work and detailed policy work.

Mr Michael Daley: Point of order: The Speaker has ruled two or three times now. I do not think the Treasurer has improved his demeanour or his delivery at all.

The SPEAKER: I uphold the point of order. The Treasurer will come back to the question.

Mr MATT KEAN: I was talking about how we are delivering for families. We are delivering unprecedented investment to ensure that every single child in New South Wales is able to access universal preschool in the year before they start school. We know that by investing in our kids we are investing in the future of New South Wales. Didn't the budget reply show one thing that no-one thought was possible. It showed that the Leader of the Opposition has made—

Mr Michael Daley: Point of order—

The SPEAKER: The Clerk will stop the clock.

Mr Michael Daley: It is the same point of order.

The SPEAKER: The point of order is not upheld on this occasion. The Treasurer will continue.

Mr MATT KEAN: Chris Minns did what we thought was impossible: He made Jodi McKay look like JFK. I can see him channelling caucus now—

Ms Gabrielle Upton: Mr Speaker, I request an extension of time for the Treasurer.

The SPEAKER: I will give the Treasurer another two minutes. I do so on the basis that it is not to be an attack on the Opposition. It is to be more directly relevant to the question.

Mr MATT KEAN: We are helping families in New South Wales by ensuring people can get into the property market sooner than they otherwise would have. We are doing that by lowering the up-front cost of getting into the housing market—transformative reform to bring forth home ownership much sooner for so many first home buyers in this State. But we are supporting also our nurses, our police, our teachers, our single parents and, of course, single elders, who find it so hard to enter the property market. We know that owning your own home is owning a slice of this State, and that is exactly what this Coalition Government is delivering. We are supporting families right across New South Wales.

We want to make sure that every family is able to enjoy an outstanding environment, because we believe that we should be handing our planet to our kids better than we found it. That is one thing that will unite the Liberals and The Nationals: building a better, brighter future for everyone. That is exactly what our budget delivered. We on this side of the House believe in taking decisive and responsible action on climate change. How many times did the Leader of the Opposition mention climate change in his budget reply? Doughnut, because the Leader of the Opposition is all spin, no substance—

Mr Michael Daley: Point of order: The Speaker's words were "I do so on the basis it is not to be an attack on the Opposition".

The SPEAKER: I uphold the point of order.

Mr MATT KEAN: We have painted a big vision for this State, to build a brighter and more prosperous future for every single person in New South Wales. We threw down the gauntlet to the Leader of the Opposition, who said he wants the next election to be a battle of ideas. Well, he has none.

WATER LICENCES

Mrs HELEN DALTON (Murray) (14:51): My question is directed to the water Minister. In response to the recommendations and criticism by the Select Committee on Floodplain Harvesting in 2021, will the Minister continue to approve billions of dollars in compensable new water licences to the detriment of the Darling River, to those communities and the law?

Mr KEVIN ANDERSON (Tamworth—Minister for Lands and Water, and Minister for Hospitality and Racing) (14:51): Rather than waste the Parliament's time—it is Thursday afternoon—I refer members back to 7 June where we talked about water licences, the availability of information at a Federal level, the availability of water licences at a State level and who has jurisdiction over which. I reiterate to the member for Murray that that information is available for a small administrative fee on the Federal Government website—www.somethingaboutwater.federal. If she goes to the State website, she will get the same. It is available. If the member wants to know where the licences are, it is all there for her.

STATE BUDGET AND MANUFACTURING

Ms ROBYN PRESTON (Hawkesbury) (14:52): 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 budget is reducing cost of living and supporting local manufacturing?

Mr STUART AYRES (Penrith—Minister for Enterprise, Investment and Trade, Minister for Tourism and Sport, and Minister for Western Sydney) (14:53): I thank the member for Hawkesbury for her question. In this budget \$8 million is going to the Rural Fire Service facility at Hawkesbury for the fire patrol centre.

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

Mr STUART AYRES: What great advocacy by the member for Hawkesbury in delivering for her community from this budget. Let's talk about the cost of living and the Leader of the Opposition—slick; I love it. He is so slick all the time, but when you get to the substance it is never quite there. Let's start with tolling. In our budget there is \$520 million worth of toll relief. In the budget that was offered today, there is the value of the toll collected on the Sydney Harbour Bridge and the Sydney Harbour Tunnel allocated to toll relief. That is \$130 million—a 60 per cent reduction in toll relief for people right across Sydney, including all those people in western Sydney. It does not matter whether you are on the M2, the M5 or the M4, the simple fact of the matter is, if you want to drive on a road under Chris Minns, you are going to be paying more for it than what you will under Dominic Perrottet. The reason why we know that is because Slick told us today. This guy is so sleek, but when it comes to the substance, there is absolutely nothing there.

And it gets better. I know that the member for Hawkesbury asked the question about manufacturing. I was really interested in the content position of the Leader of the Opposition today when he said that he wants to make sure that 50 per cent of the content on transport projects is made in New South Wales. So I thought I would have a look at a project they talk a lot about—the ferries. Let's go to the ferries. I recall that I might have said this in the last sitting period. The ferries: 63 per cent of the content in the Emerald and River class ferries, built in Port Macquarie, comes from New South Wales. If the Leader of the Opposition wants to build 50 per cent of them, then he can export another 13 per cent overseas. He should stop saying these things are built overseas when more would have been built here under our own policy.

The SPEAKER: The Clerk will stop the clock. I call the member for Summer Hill to order for the first time. I call the member for Terrigal to order for the first time. All members will come to order.

Mr STUART AYRES: I am even being polite, because 77 per cent of the material cost for those two ferries comes from Australia. Sixty-three per cent—

Mr Paul Scully: Point of order—

The SPEAKER: The clock has been stopped.

Mr Paul Scully: My point of order is taken under Standing Order 129. Ferries are not rolling stock. They do not go on tracks.

The SPEAKER: The Minister may continue.

Mr STUART AYRES: So we are not quite sure what our policy position is now. Thanks very much. I know the Leader of the Opposition does not know what his policies are. I know that his frontbench does not know what his policies are. The member for Wollongong has just proved that. And while we are at it, I thought I would go through a couple of things, because I have heard about the steel stuff that the Opposition asked about in the first question. For Sydney Metro Northwest, 100 per cent of the steel—roughly 7,000 tonnes used to reinforce tunnels—was sourced in Australia. For the north-west skytrain, 90 per cent of all steel—550 tonnes of structural steel—was sourced in Australia. [*Extension of time*]

For the Princes Highway-Gerringong upgrade, the steel was sourced from Australia. For the Foxground and Berry bypass, the majority of steel was sourced from Australia. For the Wynyard Walk, 1,500 tonnes of steel were sourced from Arrium steel. For the Barangaroo ferry, 800 tonnes were sourced from Australian steel. For the M4 widening, the majority of steel to support the girder installations was sourced in Australia. All of these are projects that the Leader of the Opposition and those opposite have consistently opposed. All of the Australian steel, all of the jobs, all of the things that we have done to drive down the unemployment rate in New South Wales, they have opposed over and over again.

What we got today was Slick at his absolute best—up there looking good, nice, sharp suit, looking all smooth. But when you get to the substance, there is absolutely nothing there. If you are a resident in western Sydney—because you know how passionate I am about western Sydney—there is not one road, not one rail line

and, in fact, not even support for the Parramatta Light Rail stage two. Because guess what? The Leader of the Opposition is still looking into it. He will still be looking into it in a month's time; he will be looking into it after the election. This is a guy who has no substance whatsoever.

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

Mr STUART AYRES: There is not one school, not one road, not one rail line—there is absolutely nothing. In fact, he stood up and delivered his budget reply speech, quoted population in three areas and then said he would not do anything about it, because that is what he has: absolutely nothing. Just to round it out, because I am a big fan of the member for Londonderry, she had an opportunity to tell people in her community that she would build Jordan Springs High School and she let them down.

SENIOR TRADE AND INVESTMENT COMMISSIONER TO THE AMERICAS

Mr ANOULACK CHANTHIVONG (Macquarie Fields) (14:59): My question is directed to the Premier. Did the Premier or his office advise the Minister for Enterprise, Investment and Trade or his office that the appointment of John Barilaro as a senior trade and investment commissioner should not go to Cabinet in any form?

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET (Epping—Premier) (14:59): I will respond to that very clearly. As has been advised, it is as the Minister for Enterprise, Investment and Trade said yesterday when he informed me in relation to the appointment. As he had said, it is not necessary or appropriate for such appointments to be approved by Cabinet given the positions are senior public service executive positions—

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

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: —appointed by the CEO following a merit recruitment process. Cabinet approval would have raised risks in terms of the actual or perceived noncompliance with the merit principle in the Government Sector Employment Act 2013. Having regard to these factors, the advice that we have received is that the Cabinet could not, as I have said previously, intervene in that process. As I said this morning, in relation to the substantive matter, this morning I have asked the Secretary of the Department of Premier and Cabinet to provide me with a report. I will review that report and I will make it public.

STATE BUDGET AND HEALTH

Mr JUSTIN CLANCY (Albury) (15:00): My question is addressed to the Minister for Health. Will the Minister update the House on how the Government's record investment in world-class health services is securing a brighter future for the people of New South Wales?

Mr BRAD HAZZARD (Wakehurst—Minister for Health) (15:00): I thank the member for Albury and Parliamentary Secretary for his question. I know in his role as Parliamentary Secretary, he is certainly trying to ensure, through substance, that we secure a brighter future for the people of New South Wales, particularly in the Health area, including for all the people of Albury. This morning I listened intently to the alleged budget in reply speech from the Leader of the Opposition. I was particularly interested to hear what he would say about Health. It made me turn to an article that I had in my office about what the qualities of a leader are, and the *Forbes* magazine puts as one of the top two criteria integrity, based on truth—truthfulness. What I heard was blatant dishonesty. There was absolutely nothing solid. There was nothing of substance. There was nothing tangible in what he said about the New South Wales Health system. For not one moment did he actually thank any of the staff who have worked through the one-in-100-year pandemic—not one word.

Mr Greg Warren: Point of order—

The SPEAKER: The Minister for Health will resume his seat.

Mr Greg Warren: My point of order is taken under Standing Order 129. The question was not about the Opposition Leader's budget reply speech; it was about health services.

The SPEAKER: We are well over a minute into the answer. The Minister will come to the question.

Mr BRAD HAZZARD: What I was talking about was securing a brighter future. What we are talking about is the exact investment that the Government has made and that the Leader of the Opposition misled the Parliament about this morning. What I was particularly concerned about made me turn back to something in the Herald last year where the Leader of the Opposition said, "I probably still couldn't deconstruct a complicated finance sheet, but I could tell you when someone's bullshitting."

Mr Greg Warren: Point of order—

Mr BRAD HAZZARD: That is what we heard this morning from the Leader of the Opposition.

The SPEAKER: The Minister will resume his seat.

[Interruption]

Mr Greg Warren: My point of order is taken under Standing Orders 129 and 73.

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

Mr Stuart Ayres: To the point of order—

The SPEAKER: The Clerk will stop the clock. I have just ruled on the point of order. Does the member have—

Mr Stuart Ayres: I do.

The SPEAKER: Given that I have stopped the clock, I will hear the member, because he does not make frivolous points of order.

Mr Stuart Ayres: Under Standing Order 129, the Minister has the capacity to compare and contrast our position with that of the Opposition on a day in which the Leader of the Opposition has given his budget reply speech.

The SPEAKER: I am satisfied. I gave the Minister well over a minute and then asked him to come back more directly to the question. There is now less than a minute to go and I instruct him to speak directly to the question.

Mr BRAD HAZZARD: I am speaking directly about the comparison, on budget day, between what the Leader of the Opposition said this morning and what is true, and what the Government is doing. This morning the Leader of the Opposition also said—this was his solution to the health problem—"the solution is long-term investment in primary health care". That is GPs. That is a Federal Government responsibility. It has got nothing to do with you. Then he said, "in our emergency departments in our public hospitals". Nothing to do with the hospitals, just the emergency departments. He gave no credit at all to the fact that it was the Omicron period that he was referring to, the one-in-100-year pandemic. We are providing a brighter future and we are doing what Labor never did—

Mr Ryan Park: Point of order—

The SPEAKER: The Minister's time has expired. The member for Albury was on his feet seeking further information. I will hear the point of order.

Mr Ryan Park: My point of order relates to Standing Order 129. We are happy to talk about record elective surgeries, record times to get into emergency departments, record times to get an ambulance—

The SPEAKER: I have heard enough.

Mr Ron Hoenig: To the point of order—

The SPEAKER: I will hear from the member for Heffron. I make the observation that the member for Keira is pushing it. That is not the way to take a point of order. I remind the member for Keira that he is on three calls to order.

Mr Paul Toole: I would have thrown him out.

The SPEAKER: The member for Keira is on three calls to order. This is his final warning.

Mr Ron Hoenig: The Minister for Health has departed from being directly relevant to the question. A number of points of order have been upheld. The Minister should not be granted an extra two minutes.

The SPEAKER: I will grant the Minister an extension of two minutes. The Minister for Health will confine his remarks to health and not make a general attack on the Opposition. I do not mind the Minister making a comparison between the Government and the Opposition if he is speaking directly to matters of health.

Mr BRAD HAZZARD: I will follow your instructions, Mr Speaker, and make a comparison. Having listened this morning and having suffered for 16 years in this place watching what Labor did—

Mr Paul Scully: Point of order—

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

Mr BRAD HAZZARD: —I ask this question: How many hospitals and how many health facilities did the Labor Party build in south-west or western Sydney?

Mr Paul Scully: The Minister is 10 seconds into resuming his answer. Mr Speaker, you have asked him to be relevant to the question and he has decided not to.

Opposition members: Six!

The SPEAKER: The Minister will resume his seat. The Clerk will stop the clock. I know it is the last day before the break and members are trying to end the session on top, but my patience is running out. I have asked the Minister for Health to speak about health, and he will do that now. I do not mind him making a comparison, but it has to be about health.

Mr BRAD HAZZARD: The question I asked—and I will ask it again—as I recollect from those horrible 16 years of Labor, was: How many hospitals, how many health facilities were built in south-west or western Sydney in 16 long years?

Opposition members: Six!

The SPEAKER: The Clerk will stop the clock. I call the member for Canterbury to order for the third time. I remind the member for Keira, the member for Canterbury, the member for Londonderry and the member for Rockdale that they are on three calls to order. I am going to make an unusual move—the previous Speaker used to do this—and indicate that any member who is on a call to order is deemed to be on three calls to order. That includes the Treasurer, the member for Ku-ring-gai, the member for Castle Hill and the member for Terrigal on the Government side. Any member who is on a call to order is now on three calls because I am ready to direct members to leave the Chamber.

Mr BRAD HAZZARD: In the time the Coalition Government has been in power—that is nearly 11 years—new hospitals have been built all across western and south-western Sydney; there is the three-quarters-of-a-billion-dollar investment at Blacktown and Mount Druitt hospitals; the latest stage of the redevelopment of Campbelltown Hospital, \$700 million—the member for Campbelltown loves that hospital—the Liverpool Health and Academic Precinct, three-quarters of a billion dollars; Nepean Hospital, over a billion dollars; and the Children's Hospital, the Westmead redevelopment, over \$1.5 billion. None of this was built by Labor because those opposite did nothing over their 16 years in government. In fact, how many hospitals or health facilities have the Liberal Party and the National Party—

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

Mr BRAD HAZZARD: —redeveloped or built or are building? Is it one?

Government Members: No.

Mr BRAD HAZZARD: Is it five?

Government Members: No.

Mr BRAD HAZZARD: Is it 10?

Government Members: No.

Mr BRAD HAZZARD: Is it 20?

Government Members: No.

Mr BRAD HAZZARD: Is it 25?

Government Members: No.

Mr BRAD HAZZARD: Is it 30?

Government Members: No.

Mr BRAD HAZZARD: Is it 40?

Government Members: Yes.

Mr Michael Daley: Point of order—

Mr BRAD HAZZARD: That is how to build the health system—not the way you guys did it.

The SPEAKER: The Minister has concluded his answer.

Mr Michael Daley: Could I be so kind—

The SPEAKER: I remind the member for Maroubra that he is on three calls to order. He will resume his seat.

SENIOR TRADE AND INVESTMENT COMMISSIONER TO THE AMERICAS

Mr TIM CRAKANTHROP (Newcastle) (15:09): My question is directed to the Premier. Given yesterday the Premier said, "it would not have been lawful for me as Premier to intervene in any step of the process", did any of the Senior Trade and Investment Commissioner positions go to Cabinet?

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET (Epping—Premier) (15:10): That is a good question. They did. The advice that I have received from our legal counsel is that there were six appointments. Two appointments were submitted to Cabinet. The advice I have received is that they were submitted to Cabinet in error. The correct process, as advised by the Department of Premier and Cabinet, was followed in relation to the subsequent four appointments.

STATE BUDGET AND WATER INFRASTRUCTURE

Mr CHRISTOPHER GULAPTIS (Clarence) (15:11): My question is addressed to the Minister for Lands and Water, and Minister for Hospitality and Racing. Will the Minister update the House on how the budget is investing in our communities by building water infrastructure?

Mr KEVIN ANDERSON (Tamworth—Minister for Lands and Water, and Minister for Hospitality and Racing) (15:11): It is on the internet. It is not that hard when you put a budget together that looks after the water communities across New South Wales. I thank the member for Clarence for his question and inform him that investment in water infrastructure by this Government is at record highs and continues to flow. There is a \$1.1 billion investment as part of the 2022-23 budget to ensure our State has sustainable, secure and healthy water resources both now and for the future. Our investment will help create a more secure water future for New South Wales through planning and delivery of a huge list of major water infrastructure projects from border to border, from the coast to the west, as well as new policies and programs that will better support those communities in the driest of times. We know that climate change gives us more extreme weather events. That is why we have to make sure we have regional water infrastructure, like the new Wilcannia Weir, pump stations at Nyngan, Hermidale and Cobar, and our accelerated water security projects. We have already started to invest in safe and secure water programs, the infrastructure that is needed to make sure that water continues to flow through aging pipes, water treatment plants and wastewater treatment facilities.

I listened intently to the Leader of the Opposition's budget reply speech. I was hoping that he would commit to the water commitments we have made to ensure the State has safe and secure water going forward. Unfortunately, he did not say anything that was familiar to me. Then I went back in time to the man who was a former shadow water Minister and I hoped he would have something relevant to say, but unfortunately not. He went back to the future to 2014 and talked about Hunter Water and Sydney Water being sold—misleading the people of New South Wales yet again. As we have heard time and again today, not only did the Leader of the Opposition fail to match our commitment, he wheeled out the same scary campaign that Labor did in 2014. No fresh ideas, nothing new, stale water, going backwards, no pumps, no flow, zero. It is back to the future from 2014. Despite the groundhog day and those same antics by the Opposition, Hunter Water is still government owned. Sydney Water is still government owned. Labor has a brand new leader, but it is the same old Labor. But under the Perrottet-Toole Government we will have fresh, clean running water for a brighter future.

TORANA ESTATE

Mr GREG WARREN (Campbelltown) (15:14): My question is directed to the Minister for Lands and Water. Given that Sydney Water's failure to provide sewerage to the Torana Estate and other land in Austral is causing emotional and financial distress to families trying to build their dream homes and is subsequently causing many to face financial ruin and the loss of their life savings, what is the Government doing to fix this plumbing stuff-up?

Mr KEVIN ANDERSON (Tamworth—Minister for Lands and Water, and Minister for Hospitality and Racing) (15:15): I acknowledge and thank the member for Campbelltown for his question. We are committed to continuing to meet the development at the Austral-Leppington precinct. I am pleased to inform the House that the New South Wales Government has facilitated a solution with Sydney Water that will avoid sunset clauses being activated in the Torana Estate land purchases. Sydney Water is working with the Torana Estate developers to fast-track a temporary solution for those land purchases. This temporary solution, I can assure the member for Campbelltown, will involve the installation of an interim wastewater main by the developer to service 77 lots. I will further add for the member's benefit that I have asked Sydney Water to continue to investigate opportunities for adding additional capacity ahead of permanent servicing connections in 2026. It will keep developers updated as more information becomes available.

STATE BUDGET AND PRIMARY INDUSTRIES

Mr DAVID LAYZELL (Upper Hunter) (15:16): My question is addressed to the Minister for Agriculture, and Minister for Western New South Wales. Will the Minister update the House on how primary industries are the big winners in this year's budget?

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Shellharbour will come to order. She is on the edge.

Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS (Dubbo—Minister for Agriculture, and Minister for Western New South Wales) (15:16): I thank the member for the question. I am pleased to say that this year it is a massive budget for the bush and a massive billion-dollar budget for agriculture and primary industries, which is fantastic. We all know that the farmers are the ones that keep us going—the wheat, the rice, the fruit, the veg, the beef, the wool, the lettuce. It is our farmers that keep us going, so they deserve to be recognised. Of course, I too listened intently to the budget reply speech from the Opposition leader. We were all on the edges of our seats. In fact, there were a few things circulating today, which I think a few people received.

Mr Anthony Roberts: Table it.

Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS: I might table it. It is NSW Labor's agriculture policy document—a blank bit of paper. Was there any mention of biosecurity? No. Was there any mention of preparing farmers for future droughts or floods? No. What about the Opposition leader's plans to address timber shortages to help us out for the future? Nothing. In fact, it was reminiscent of Simon & Garfunkel. Members will know where I am going: *The Sound of Silence*. The Opposition leader's position on the \$21 billion primary industries sector is that he will address it in his July speech to the NSW Farmers conference. That is commitment. Our farmers are not only recovering from flood but they are also leading the sector in that recovery. And the Opposition leader's scenario is "Don't quite know yet what I'll do, but when it comes to July, I'll have something to say about primary industries"—a fantastic commitment. Based on what we have seen so far, it will be a very dry July, which some people will appreciate.

Mr Stephen Kamper: Don't go into comedy, mate.

Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS: I thank the member for Rockdale. It certainly shows that only The Nationals and Liberals in government can actually look after primary industries. Out of our billion-dollar budget, there is \$164 million for biosecurity, doing what we know we need to do to protect our future. There is \$295 million to keep protecting our farmers who are recovering from the floods. We will make sure we do that in a direct and meaningful way over the next couple of years. We are also investing in farm forestry, the ultimate renewable. There is \$28 million to support farmers who are increasing their farm forestry. A great example of that is Norm Arkell from Mendooran. He has diversified and is using farm forestry. He is truly a mixed farmer and, with farm forestry, he has actually managed to invest in his property again and help recover from things like drought. There is \$180 million for our marine estate management and \$86 million for world-leading shark mitigation. There is \$12 million for the Farm Business Resilience program. Only those on this side, The Nationals and Liberals in government, will continue delivering a brighter future for farmers.

RENEWABLE ENERGY

Ms TAMARA SMITH (Ballina) (15:20): My question is directed to the Minister for Energy. Given the Minister's commitment to New South Wales becoming a renewable energy superpower, what is he doing to support small community-owned energy retailers like Enova Community Energy in the Northern Rivers, which this week went into voluntary administration and had to sack 28 full-time employees as a direct result of the unfair advantage of the large gentailers in the energy market?

Mr MATT KEAN (Hornsby—Treasurer, and Minister for Energy) (15:20): Firstly, I acknowledge the member for Ballina and the work she does in supporting renewable energy initiatives. I very much appreciate her sincere advocacy. Before I talk directly about Enova, I want to say that this Parliament, in a multipartisan way—with the support of The Greens, the Labor Party, the Liberals and The Nationals, and the Independents—legislated one of the biggest energy reforms in the nation. We did so because we believed in setting ourselves up for a brighter and more prosperous future. We know, as we saw last week, that our aging infrastructure is becoming less reliable. The best way to deal with that is to build new, modern infrastructure, and the Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap does exactly that. It brings in the new generation, storage, transmission and firming that are going to be required to keep the lights on and drive electricity prices down, not only for families across New South Wales but for every single business.

These policies were supported in a multipartisan way by everyone apart from the shooters party. Everyone in Parliament wanted to make sure that we set our industry, families and businesses up for the best future possible. We know the world is moving to a low-carbon future. The big markets that have underwritten Australia's

prosperity for generations are looking for clean energy. They are looking for materials built on the back of clean energy. This policy does exactly that. What we need to see is small, innovative retailers like Enova Community Energy. They are critically important. We need them so that we have got a competitive retail market in New South Wales. The Government is disappointed to hear that it has entered into voluntary administration. That is particularly challenging for Enova staff.

There is a national scheme in place to make sure that when energy retailers go into administration, their consumers are protected. This scheme is known as the Retailer of Last Resort scheme, which makes sure that customers always have a retailer and receive supply. To ensure ongoing competition in the market, New South Wales has joined with other States and Territories to ask the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission and the Australian Energy Regulator to report back to energy Ministers in July on recent market dynamics, with a particular focus on bidding behaviour. We need to ensure that all participants in the market are complying with their obligations under energy and competition law. The Government looks forward to receiving the results of that urgent body of work. *[Extension of time]*

For the benefit of the member for Ballina, I have spoken to the Federal energy Minister, Minister Bowen, about this exact issue: that a number of our smaller retailers have been impacted by the credit crunch that has been occurring as a result of the huge increase in wholesale electricity prices and the introduction of the price cap. We need to protect those small retailers, otherwise we are going to undo a decade's worth of competition reform in the energy sector. That is not something that anyone wants to see because that means less competition and higher prices for consumers. Minister Bowen and I are aligned on this. We want to work through these issues. We are looking at various options, for example, potentially an underwrite of small retailers. That is one of the ideas that I floated with Minister Bowen, and he also has a number of initiatives. We will get together with all the energy Ministers around the country to make sure we protect our small energy retailers so that we can continue to have a competitive market, which is not only in the interests of consumers but also in the interests of businesses in New South Wales and across the country. I thank the member for Ballina for her interest.

STATE BUDGET

Mrs SHELLEY HANCOCK (South Coast) (15:24): My question is addressed to the Treasurer, and Minister for Energy. Will the Treasurer update the House on how the budget has big ideas for a better, brighter future for New South Wales?

Mr MATT KEAN (Hornsby—Treasurer, and Minister for Energy) (15:24): I certainly can. I thank the member for South Coast for her outstanding leadership, her outstanding advocacy on behalf of her community and her outstanding work as a member of this place. She is unrivalled as not only one of the hardest-working MPs but also one of the most decent and most awesome MPs. I thank the member for South Coast for all she has done to serve our community and our State for so long. The Government has just handed down a budget built on big ideas to improve opportunities for women across New South Wales, so that no woman has to choose between having a career and having a family. That is exactly what our childcare policies do. The budget also delivers big ideas when it comes to ensuring that our kids get the best start in life.

Members on this side want to make sure that every child is set up for success, which is exactly why we are rolling out universal pre-kindergarten for every child in the year before they start school—not just so they can realise their dreams but also because we want them to dream bigger in the first place. This budget provides opportunities for everyone to enter the housing market. We want to make sure it is as easy as possible for young people, singles, nurses, police, teachers and older seniors to enter the housing market, because owning one's own home is the pathway to wealth in this country. We want to support people to be able to do that.

We want to make sure that it does not matter where people live in this State. Whether it be in the cities or the bush, the west or the east, the south or the north, people are entitled to get the best-quality health care available. That is why we invested in a health army of 10,000 additional staff to fortify our health system as we come out of COVID. We are changing the way we deal with COVID. We are living with the virus, but that means more presentations to our hospital system. It means more nurses and doctors out of action as they take time off to get better. We want to support our health workers. We are investing in our health system so that it is resilient against any shocks the future may throw at us. The budget delivers on our promise to hand our planet to our kids better than we found it, because all members in this Parliament should be united on that. That is why we are investing in renewable energy and in our national park estate. *[Extension of time]*

Government members care about the future of this planet, and we are doing everything we can to safeguard it for future generations. We are backing the bush in this budget because, again, it should not matter whether people live in the city or the bush. They are entitled to the same level of services, and this budget delivers billions for the bush. We want to stand by our rural and regional communities who have done it so tough, battling floods, droughts and plagues these past few years. We are backing them like they have backed us. We are building the

roads and railways of the future, which are the future arteries of this State, improving travel times for families and improving the productivity of our economy. This is an infrastructure government, and it was an infrastructure budget that Government members delivered.

Importantly, we are investing in science and technology, because we want to turn our ideas into the jobs and opportunities of the future. We want the best ideas generated here, driving jobs and setting this State up for a brighter future. When the Leader of the Opposition saw our big ideas, what did he tell caucus? He said, "Let's go small." We waited for 100 days and he asked us to wait a bit longer, so we did. He said the budget reply would be his opportunity to outline his plans. Did we see a climate policy from the Leader of the Opposition?

Government members: No.

Mr MATT KEAN: Did we see a health policy from the Leader of the Opposition?

Government members: No.

Mr MATT KEAN: Did we see a policy on women from the Leader of the Opposition?

Government members: No.

Mr MATT KEAN: Did we see an environment policy from the Leader of the Opposition?

Government members: No.

Mr MATT KEAN: Did we see a transport policy from the Leader of the Opposition?

Government members: No.

Mr MATT KEAN: Did we see a housing policy from the Leader of the Opposition?

Government members: No.

Mr MATT KEAN: And was it worth the wait?

Government members: No.

Mr MATT KEAN: He really is Can't-do Chris.

Petitions

PETITIONS RECEIVED

The SPEAKER: I announce that the following paper petition signed by 10,000 or more persons has been lodged for presentation:

Manning River Permanent Entrances

Petition requesting the Legislative Assembly call on the Government to fund a permanent navigable entrance to the Manning River between Harrington and Manning Point and a further permanent entrance at Farquhar Inlet, received from **Mr Stephen Bromhead**.

The SPEAKER: I set down debate on the petition as an order of the day for a future day.

Business of the House

SUSPENSION OF STANDING AND SESSIONAL ORDERS: ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr ALISTER HENSKENS: I move:

That standing and sessional orders be suspended this day to permit:

- (1) The House to consider, at any time following the conclusion of general business, any messages from the Legislative Council regarding Government business.
- (2) The House to continue to sit after the conclusion of private members' statements to consider any messages from the Legislative Council regarding Government business, including the option for the Speaker to leave and resume the chair on the ringing of one long bell.
- (3) The House to adjourn without motion moved.

Motion agreed to.

*Documents***REGISTER OF DISCLOSURES**

The SPEAKER: In accordance with clause 21 of the Constitution (Disclosure by Members) Regulation 1983, I table the Register of Disclosures by Members of the Legislative Assembly – Primary Returns of the Members for Bega, Monaro, Strathfield and Willoughby as at 23 June 2022. I order that the document be printed.

*Community Recognition Statements***METROPOLITAN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS SPORTS ASSOCIATION**

Mr GUY ZANGARI (Fairfield) (15:32): In 1967 the Marist Brothers, Christian Brothers and Patrician Brothers formed the Metropolitan Catholic Schools Sports Association [MCS] to provide students from the western suburbs with the opportunity to participate in a high-profile school sporting competition. I had the honour to coach at three MCS schools during my time in Catholic Education, namely Parramatta Marist Westmead, Patrician Brothers' College Fairfield and St Paul's Catholic College Greystanes. I fondly recall many great games in the sports I coached, travelling around the MCS network to meet the most amazing athletes and coaches. The MCS family gathered on Friday 17 June to formally farewell and acknowledge the association's achievements over 55 years. It was truly a memorable night, with stories of legendary characters, players and matches forming part of the evening's festivities. The outgoing president, Mr Peter Wade, delivered the final farewell and presented MCS principals with a commemorative framed jersey. I thank the staff of Parramatta Marist Westmead for hosting the event at the iconic Morley Centre. It was a fitting farewell to the MCS after 55 years of sporting competition.

WEST TIGERS LISA FIAOLA CUP SQUAD

Mr PETER SIDGREAVES (Camden) (15:33): I congratulate Elderslie High School students Ashley Carroll and Imogen Nies on securing a spot in the Wests Tigers Lisa Fiaola Squad for 2022. The Lisa Fiaola trial squad complete four weeks of training leading up to the gala day. From there, 25 players are selected to be part of the Lisa Fiaola Squad. The squad works as a stepping stone to the club's successful under-18 Tarsha Gale side and then, long term, to the senior Harvey Norman NSW Women's Premiership side. I once again congratulate Ashley and Imogen on that wonderful achievement and wish them both all the best as they showcase their talent at the Wests Tigers.

RHIANNAN IFFLAND

Ms YASMIN CATLEY (Swansea) (15:34): I acknowledge Rhiannan Iffland for being named the Lake Mac Sports Star at the 2022 Lake Mac Awards. The Lake Mac Awards celebrate the amazing accomplishments of local athletes, artists, environmentalists, volunteers and ambassadors, and recognise the contribution they have made to their local community. Rhiannan is an outstanding athlete who regularly performs and excels in her chosen sport of cliff diving. At this year's Red Bull Cliff Diving World Series she was again undefeated, which allowed her to claim her fifth consecutive world title—amazing. This accomplishment proves that Rhiannan is a hardworking athlete who consistently strives to do her best. Rhiannan has made a great contribution to the local sporting community and should be very proud of what she has achieved. I congratulate Rhiannan on being named the Lake Mac Sports Star for 2022 and I wish her all the best for future competitions.

WIRADJURI ELDER UNCLE MICHAEL LYONS

Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra—Minister for Emergency Services and Resilience, and Minister for Flood Recovery) (15:35): I take this opportunity to extend a huge congratulations to Wiradjuri Elder Uncle Michael Lyons and thank him for his continued efforts in keeping the Wiradjuri culture alive within the Narrandera area. Uncle Michael Lyons is an artist, musician and maker of traditional artefacts. Through his business, Sandhills Artefacts, he teaches Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people about First Nations culture, respect and Aboriginal knowledge of the local area, passed down from his own family who have traditionally resided in the Narrandera area. The sustainable arts business has been running for over 30 years, with two cooperative galleries onsite and regular Wiradjuri cultural tours held for the general public, especially tourists, corporate tours, schools and local visitors. Uncle Michael Lyons teaches ancient techniques of turning raw wood into traditional items. I congratulate Uncle Michael Lyons and thank him for his fantastic and important work within the Narrandera community.

RUGBY LEAGUE PLAYER MIA MIDDLETON

Mr DAVID HARRIS (Wyang) (15:36): I congratulate Mia Middleton on being selected for the Harvey Norman NSW Women's Under 19s representative rugby league squad to play against Queensland in the Under 19s State of Origin match at Leichhardt Oval today. The men's and women's matches will be broadcast on the Nine

Network and Fox Sports. The teams represent the next generation of rugby league stars progressing through the pathways system. It is the first time that pathways games have been played for both the men's and women's teams after the past two years were disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic. I have known Mia since she was a young nipper at Soldiers Beach Surf Club. I used to train her in beach sprints and flags. She is a talented, athletic young lady. I know that her mum, Jo, and dad, Craig, will be so proud of Mia's efforts. The good news is that NSW Rugby League has funded a bus to take students from Mia's former high school, MacKillop Catholic College, to Leichhardt Oval to watch her play. It is an exciting time for all involved. Go the Blues! I hope Mia scores a few tries.

CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIP COMPETITOR RYAN BINSKIN

Mrs LESLIE WILLIAMS (Port Macquarie) (15:37): I applaud the sensational efforts of MacKillop College student Ryan Binskin for placing first at the NSW Combined Catholic Colleges Cross Country Championships held on 7 June at Eastern Creek. Ryan Binskin has what it takes to become a future professional athlete if his results at the championships are anything to go by. Setting a pace unmatched in the Secondary 18 Years Boys Cross Country Championship, Ryan thundered across the finish line in first place, recording a time of 27 minutes and 24.3 seconds. Ryan kept an average pace of eight kilometres throughout the track event to secure his blistering win against a field of talented young athletes. NSW Combined Catholic Colleges comprises 12 dioceses and associations from across New South Wales. More than 1,800 students from primary to secondary school qualified for the cross country championships, recognising the hours of training and commitment they invested to attend this iconic sporting event on the annual calendar. It was a proud moment for MacKillop College Port Macquarie and, indeed, for Ryan's family. I congratulate Ryan on his outstanding achievements and wish him all the best for the rest of the competition season.

MATER FOUNDATION CHARITY DINNER

Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect) (15:38): On Friday 17 June 2022 I was pleased to attend the Mater Foundation Charity Dinner, organised by the Raystech Group, at Doltone House, Jones Bay Wharf. It was a successful fundraising event, with \$43,888 raised in donations for the Mater Foundation. The donors who contributed to the fundraiser included LONGi, Antaisolar, Akcome Australia, APsystems, Yingli Solar and Nebulas Energy. One in five Australian women will suffer from mental health issues around the time of the birth of their baby. The Mater Foundation has developed a facility called Catherine's House, where mothers and their babies will be looked after until they are well enough to go home. The construction of Catherine's House is historic and will be the largest of its kind in Australia. I congratulate the Raystech Group, including Johnson Xu, the business development manager and general manager of Raystech commercial and industrial division, on successfully organising the fundraiser.

NETBALL PLAYER LINDA MCLEOD

Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS (Dubbo—Minister for Agriculture, and Minister for Western New South Wales) (15:39): I congratulate Dubbo's Linda McLeod on being recognised with life membership of the Western Region Academy of Sport. Linda has always had a love for netball, and has established herself as one of the State's most knowledgeable coaches. She joined the academy in 1996 as an assistant coach, a role she continued until 1998, before becoming head coach in 1999 through till 2002. This was the first of Linda's three stints in the position of head coach with the Western Region Academy of Sport netball program. She returned in 2005 and again in 2016, and still holds the position today. Linda's coaching talents have been widely recognised. She was awarded the Western Region Academy of Sport Coach of the Year in 2017. Netball NSW has also recognised her coaching talents, offering her a role as the assistant coach for the Netball NSW open side, and in 2002 and 2003 she was the head coach for the New South Wales under 17s side. Her commitment to the Western Region Academy of Sport has transformed the academy into a truly elite pathway for regional athletes. I commend Linda for her ability to inspire and encourage.

MAITLAND REGIONAL ART GALLERY

Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland) (15:40): I congratulate the Maitland Regional Art Gallery on two great achievements at the Museums and Galleries National Awards and the Museums Australasia Multimedia and Publication Design Awards, which were both held on 17 June 2022 at the National Museums Conference. *A Conspicuous Object – The Maitland Hospital* et al was awarded a highly commended in the Interpretation or Learning Initiative Level 2 category. The judges' comments stated:

An innovative and powerful way to interpret the history of a hospital through art. The exhibition serves as both interpreter and collector of memory. Using broad community input to drive the project the gallery turns what could have been a dry display about hospital history into a beautiful experience of art and creativity. The collection of community stories serves an important archival goal, and the website, social media, interviews and art and object displays provide multiple avenues for enjoyment.

The Conspicuous Object website was awarded a highly commended in the Program Website Design category. The judges said it was a "content rich site with a relatively intuitive navigation".

HAWKESBURY ELECTORATE SPORTS CLUBS

Ms ROBYN PRESTON (Hawkesbury) (15:41): I congratulate the 10 Hawkesbury sports clubs who received funding for new equipment, programs and facilities under the New South Wales Government's Local Sport Grant Program. More than \$47,000 in total funding was awarded to the following clubs in the Hawkesbury electorate: Oakville Raiders Baseball Club, for the purchase of a defibrillator; Powell Park Tennis Club, for remediation of its tennis court; Western Wildcats Netball Club, to start a brand new netball club; Sydney Vaulting Group Inc, to enhance the movie area to increase safety and skills; Windsor Paddlesports Club Inc, for the purchase of two Stroke2max kayak ergometers; Hawkesbury Carriage Driving Club Inc, for establishment; Toyosports Car Club of NSW, for the purchase of a portable amenities unit for female competitors and spectators; Sydney Off Road Racing Inc, for a new website; North West Magpies Junior Rugby League Club Incorporated, for field equipment in support of game day matches; and Richmond Ex-Servicemen's Soccer Club, for an upgrade to the female change rooms.

SYDWEST MULTICULTURAL SERVICES CEO ELFA MORAITAKIS

Mr STEPHEN BALI (Blacktown) (15:42): Elfa Moraitakis is the CEO of SydWest Multicultural Services [SydWest]. Elfa has an extensive background in the community services sector, spanning over 25 years. Her impressive leadership skills, strategic direction and aptitude for problem solving has substantially benefited the lives of refugees, migrants and vulnerable communities over her 13 years at SydWest. Elfa is active across the Blacktown and western Sydney community by leading SydWest to be the voice for the voiceless. She advocates for and provides policy development advice to Federal and State governments and their agencies, councils, peak bodies, and businesses and community groups. SydWest is a leading organisation for cultural diversity issues in the western Sydney region. It has assisted and empowered thousands of newly arrived refugees, humanitarian entrants, and culturally and linguistically diverse individuals to become valued members of their communities. Elfa's leadership of this organisation has ensured that the Blacktown community remains unconditionally supported when facing adversity. In particular, I thank Elfa for her leadership and support during the pandemic.

GRESFORD SHOW NINETIETH ANNIVERSARY

Mr DAVID LAYZELL (Upper Hunter) (15:43): I congratulate Gresford Show on its ninetieth anniversary this year. That milestone was achieved in the face of adversity after wet weather limited the 2022 show to a one-day event on Saturday 12 March. The resilience of organisers was rewarded with blue sky. The decision to have free entry brought the community out to celebrate. Highlights included Taylor McKenzie being named the Gresford Show Young Woman of 2022. The steadfast commitment of Pavilion Committee patrons Delma Lawrence, Margot Capp and Marion Jordan was recognised during the show's opening celebration. The produce and cookery pavilion auction raised \$2,613 to assist flood victims. A sponge cake fetched \$500. The ninetieth anniversary celebration dinner was attended by special guests General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove, former Governor-General of Australia; and Lady Lynne Cosgrove. Sir Peter delivered a captivating speech.

QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS LIST RECIPIENT MARGARET TAYLOR

Dr MICHAEL HOLLAND (Bega) (15:44): I congratulate, sincerely, Tathra resident Margaret Taylor, who was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in the 2022 Queen's Birthday Honours List. Ms Taylor has dedicated her life to helping the community. For over four decades she served in the Department of Education, teaching both here and overseas. Ms Taylor has authored multiple children's educational books on literacy, health, Indigenous language, primary industry, resource management, and civics and citizenship. She travelled to Timor-Leste to assist in education in health, hygiene and language. One of her most significant educational resources is a book on the Yuin language, which can be found in schools across the Bega Valley. Ms Taylor established the Bega Rotary business group and is former chair of the Bega Business Council and the Australian National University medical students program.

PARALYMPIAN JASMINE GREENWOOD

Mrs SHELLEY HANCOCK (South Coast) (15:45): I pay tribute to 16-year-old Jasmine Greenwood, who has worked and trained extremely hard to achieve so much over the past 10 years. Most recently, Jasmine won a silver medal at the Tokyo Paralympics. Jasmine has set her sights on achieving gold at the upcoming Commonwealth Games. The South Coast community will be cheering her on. Of course, the training regime is brutal. Early mornings in the pool before school and again in the afternoons plus training in the gym have certainly paid off for young Jasmine, and most certainly will in the future. Many years ago when I first met Jasmine and

her mum, I was impressed by Jasmine's perseverance and dedication to her sport. I know her family and the community love and respect her as a swimmer and as a person. I wish Jasmine good luck in Tokyo.

COOGEE ELECTORATE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS LIST RECIPIENTS

Dr MARJORIE O'NEILL (Coogee) (15:46): This year's Queen's Birthday Honours recognised some of our hardest working and most dedicated local community members. I congratulate everyone who has been awarded and recognised. In the eastern suburbs, several people have been recognised for their service to the community. I acknowledge the late Christine Josephine Sharp, formerly of Bronte, who was recognised for significant service to arts administration in a range of roles. I congratulate Professor Stephanie Louise Watson, who was recognised for service to medicine; and Dr Andrew Kuper, who was recognised for distinguished service to the impact investing industry, global business leadership and financial inclusion. I congratulate Professor Basil John Donovan, who was recognised for service to medicine; Leslie Loble, who was recognised for service to public administration and education; and Professor Phoebe Phillips from the University of New South Wales, who was recognised for service to pancreatic cancer research. We are so honoured to have people like them in our community.

TAMWORTH MENTAL HEALTH CARERS SUPPORT GROUP

Mr KEVIN ANDERSON (Tamworth—Minister for Lands and Water, and Minister for Hospitality and Racing) (15:47): I recognise a special group in the Tamworth electorate who has time and again delivered for their community. I hold them closely for their advice and guidance. I do so because they have more lived experience than anyone in their fields. The Tamworth Mental Health Carers Support Group has been advocating for the mental health needs of the Tamworth and north-west communities for almost 30 years. Their drive, advocacy and commitment to their community will deliver the very best in mental healthcare facilities for Tamworth. This year's budget confirmed that Tamworth will soon be home to a two-storey, state-of-the-art Better Banksia Mental Health Unit, which will look after our adults and kids. That is what our community wanted and expected. I sincerely thank and congratulate Don and Di Wyatt, Annie Warden, Gail Zammitt, Joan Wakeford, Lyn Bentley, Marg Rankin and others, who have been instrumental in delivering an outstanding outcome for the people of Tamworth and the entire north-west.

TRIBUTE TO FRANK VINCENT

Ms TRISH DOYLE (Blue Mountains) (15:48): In August 2021 members of the Blue Mountains community were saddened to learn of the death of Frank Vincent. Frank was a distinguished leader in the Rural Fire Service. Recently we commemorated his life and his brigade. In 1968 Frank joined Mount Victoria Brigade and remained a member of that brigade when it amalgamated with the Blackheath Brigade. Frank served as captain of Mount Victoria from 1976 for 12 years and president of Blackheath-Mount Victoria. He was made a life member for his service to the brigade and the Rural Fire Service. In 1988 Frank served as a deputy group captain until 1995 when he became group captain. He was also awarded the NSW RFS Long Service Medal with clasps commemorating his many years of service to the RFS. In 2007 Frank was awarded the commissioner's Certificate of Commendation. He gave 50 years of service to the RFS. Frank was knowledgeable, competent and hardworking. His air of calm was renowned. There was much to admire about him. To Frank's family I offer the condolences of the entire community. I thank them for sharing Frank with the service. He will always be remembered. Vale, Frank.

QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS LIST RECIPIENT JILL FINCH

Mr MARK TAYLOR (Seven Hills) (15:49): I acknowledge and congratulate Jill Finch, who was recently recognised with an Order of Australia Medal for her service to community history. I have had the pleasure of meeting Jill on a number of occasions to discuss her role with the Prospect Heritage Trust, of which I am a patron. Jill is a fantastic community leader who has a passion for local history. She has been a member of Blacktown City Council's Combined Historical Societies Advisory Committee since 1991. In 2006 Jill received the Heritage Volunteer award from the Heritage Council of NSW, and in 2003 she received a Centenary Medal. Jill has been a long-time member and driving force behind many local initiatives that strive to preserve the heritage of the local area, making Jill a fantastic recipient of OAM honours. It is always a great honour to recognise local members of the community like Jill Finch who serve our community in many terrific ways.

TRIBUTE TO SARINA NAVARRA

Mr GUY ZANGARI (Fairfield) (15:50): I pass on my sincere and heartfelt condolences to the family of the late Mrs Sarina Navarra, who was called to rest on 12 June 2022. Sarina Navarra was born on 4 March 1946 in Poggioreale, Sicily, Italy. Sarina was the matriarch and co-founder of the Navarra Venues group. She was the beloved wife of Filippo; mother of Giovannino, Maria and Salvatore; a grandmother and great-grandmother; an auntie; a sister; and a friend to many. On 23 June 2022 Sarina's Catholic funeral mass was held at St Mary's

Cathedral, Sydney, under the ministry of the Most Reverend Bishop Terry Brady, Auxiliary Bishop of Sydney, together with concelebrating priests. Sarina was an inspirational woman to those who knew her. She was a beautiful woman who always entered a room with a big smile and will be sorely missed by all. Vale, Sarina Navarra.

ENVIRONMENTALIST PAT HALL

Mrs WENDY TUCKERMAN (Goulburn—Minister for Local Government) (15:51): I recognise the extraordinary work and aptitude of Ms Pat Hall. Ms Hall's compelling interest in the environment and wildlife was inspired by her grandfather and began early in her life. During her school life she developed many friendships and an interest in Indigenous culture. In 1979, after travelling through Europe, Ms Hall returned to Australia and settled in the Southern Highlands. She attained a position with the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service [NPWS]. She took on a number of roles in her professional journey. One of those was as part of the team that built the visitor centre at Minnamurra Rainforest and Fitzroy Falls, and delivered educative programs to schools throughout the region. In 2015 Ms Hall retired and went on to become a volunteer with NPWS, where she took a lead role in the glossy black cockatoo project to celebrate Bundanoon's 150th anniversary. More recently Ms Hall initiated the Bush Tucker Gardens in the highland schoolyards. I thank and congratulate Pat.

CENTRAL BLUE MOUNTAINS ROTARY GARDENER MARGARET BROWN

Ms TRISH DOYLE (Blue Mountains) (15:52): Margaret Brown has generously given 15 years of her time to being a member of the dream gardening crew for Central Blue Mountains Rotary. The team is responsible for making the Centenary Garden at the Blue Mountains District Anzac Memorial Hospital what it is today. Full credit and praise must go to Margaret for her continued efforts in making the garden a place for all to enjoy, especially those who are ill. Margaret's love for and knowledge of gardening is clear in every plant on display. The thanks of the community go to Margaret and her fellow Rotarian gardening crew for their weekly Monday gardening program. Their diligence and tenacity in creating a beautiful space for all has seen the purpose of the garden, established in 2005, fulfilled. The many patients at and visitors to the Blue Mountains hospital are forever grateful for this space of beauty, calm and tranquillity. I pay tribute to Margaret for the time she has generously given over the past 15 years continuously pruning, sweeping, weeding and caring. She is a gem.

ROLFE STREET RESERVE

Mr JAMES GRIFFIN (Manly—Minister for Environment and Heritage) (15:53): I acknowledge the dedication and initiative of a group of volunteers who have worked to improve and maintain Rolfe Street reserve. Two Palms Park, as it is unofficially known, is named for the two Canary Island palms planted in 1944 by a returned serviceman believed to have fought in the North African campaign during World War II. The palms have stood proudly ever since and have grown into the hearts of the local community. Special thanks go to Peter Barr, Michelle Stewart, Andrew Reilly, and Brian and Lynda Ralph for their efforts to help maintain the Rolfe Street reserve. As the member for Manly and Minister for Environment and Heritage, I look forward to working with them to continue preserving this piece of our beautiful local history for future generations to enjoy.

TRIBUTE TO FAITH SAFER

Mr ALISTER HENSKENS (Ku-ring-gai—Minister for Skills and Training, and Minister for Science, Innovation and Technology) (15:54): I acknowledge the recent, sad passing of an outstanding and selfless person from Turramurra, Easy Care Gardening volunteer Faith Safer. For many decades, Faith volunteered with Easy Care Gardening as well as other community organisations, including the Red Cross and local schools. Easy Care Gardening is a charity that helps maintain the properties of older people who need assistance, as well as people with disability. I acknowledge the efforts of its volunteers in the Ku-ring-gai and Hornsby areas more broadly. The efforts of Faith Safer will be treasured not only by the people she knew personally, but also by the residents of my local community who benefited from her service for decades, as well other local volunteers. In recognition of her life, a service was held at St James Turramurra Anglican church last year. I extend my condolences to her family and friends. Vale, Faith Safer.

BLOOD DONOR ANGELA BROOKE

Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS (Dubbo—Minister for Agriculture, and Minister for Western New South Wales) (15:55): I recognise Dubbo high school teacher Angela Brooke, who has been donating blood since she was legally allowed to. She has gone to the Dubbo Lifeblood centre for the past 10 years and last week donated for the 200th time. Motivated to donate blood because of sick people in her own family, Angela said she enjoys giving blood and believes it is very beneficial to a range of people right across the community. The Dubbo Lifeblood centre is well known for its friendly and helpful staff, as well as its milkshakes, sausage rolls and sweet treats for people giving blood. I think that might be part of the reason Angela keeps going back. The statistics show that only one in 30 people give blood, but one in three people will need blood products in their lifetime.

Dubbo alone needs 130 donors each week to be able to treat patients with blood cancer. It is fantastic that Angela recognises the potentially life-saving act of donating blood regularly. Donors really are the lifeblood of our community. Thanks again to Angela for her 200 donations.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL WINTER APPEAL

Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore) (15:56): I recognise the extraordinary efforts of my local community, which has helped donate over 60 hampers for the St Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal. The winter appeal assists with providing emergency accommodation and financial support, as well as material assistance, for those who may be fleeing domestic violence or who are sleeping rough on our streets. With the help of Blessed Sacrament Catholic Primary School Clifton Gardens and The Classic Cupcake Co in Mosman, our community has rallied to provide a range of donations, from personal items to essential pantry items and hamper treats. Thank you to Anna Eden and the team at The Classic Cupcake Co for allowing the shop to be a drop-off point for the community. I am sure that, as hamper items were dropped off, more than a few of their delicious cupcakes left with some happy customers, just as they did with me and my staff. A special thank you to all the parents, staff and students at Blessed Sacrament, especially principal Leanne Meehan, for coordinating the appeal, putting everything together and delivering the hampers to St Vincent de Paul.

TARALGA SHOW SOCIETY

Mrs WENDY TUCKERMAN (Goulburn—Minister for Local Government) (15:57): I recognise the Taralga Show Society. I acknowledge with pride the recent nomination and selection of the Taralga Show Society as the winner of the AgShows NSW Resilience Award in April 2022. The Taralga Show Society was lucky enough to hold its 2020 show just prior to the commencement of the lockdown. Prior to its 2021 show, a COVID-safe plan was developed in order to safeguard attendees and participants. Incredibly, many more people attended the show than was expected, and the gate takings were at a 130-year high. Agricultural shows are a great investment in our local communities. They enrich community participation and support individuals and groups to come together, which can be beneficial for the health and wellbeing of many. I thank the Taralga Show Society and congratulate it on its untiring work, especially through the pandemic. I applaud the society for the recognition it has received as the recipient of the AgShows Resilience Award. Well done, Taralga.

QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS LIST RECIPIENTS UPPER HUNTER

Mr DAVID LAYZELL (Upper Hunter) (15:58): I congratulate the Upper Hunter electorate's recipients of the Queen's Birthday Honours for 2022. Anne Frost of Stroud received the Medal of the Order of Australia in the General Division for service to the performing arts. Mrs Frost's professional career has included being a director, performer, producer and writer for theatre for 40 years. Her career was recognised with the City of Newcastle Drama Association Outstanding Achievement Award in 2001 and 2007. The late Marian Effie Crawley, formerly of Gloucester, was acknowledged with an OAM for her service to the Gloucester community. Effie was involved with organisations including the Gloucester Brownie and Guide Association, the Gloucester Sub-Branch of the RSL, the Gloucester Legacy Welfare Group, the Gloucester Historical Society, the Gloucester Floral Art Group and the local show association. Irene Chetty received a Public Service Medal for outstanding public service to the Muswellbrook Shire Council in water and wastewater management. Fred Turner of Singleton was acknowledged with the Australian Fire Service Medal for the time and effort he has devoted to the Rural Fire Service since 1983.

WELLINGTON CAVES

Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS (Dubbo—Minister for Agriculture, and Minister for Western New South Wales) (15:59): I congratulate Dubbo Regional Council and the Wellington Caves. Last week the Wellington Caves *Ancient Landscapes* exhibit took out the Permanent Exhibition or Gallery Fitout award at the annual Museums and Galleries National Awards. The awards, known as the MAGNAs, recognise excellent work nationally in the categories of exhibition, public programs and sustainability projects. The judges for the awards noted that the exhibition has excellent and ethical engagement with the local Wiradjuri community and the scientific and research community, which are custodians of different information and knowledge around the caves and their history. The *Ancient Landscapes* exhibit highlights the multi-layered significance of the Wellington Caves reserve and offers visitors an insight into the changing face of the site from the past to today. I am delighted that our State Government invested over \$4 million to help make this a reality. I thank the caves staff for everything they do to make the visitor experience a memorable one. The *Ancient Landscapes* exhibition truly is a jewel in the crown of the Wellington Caves. Everyone should get there. Well done.

WESTMEAD HOSPITAL PALLIATIVE CARE WARD

Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect) (16:00): I am very proud to say that, after putting much pressure on the New South Wales Government, our community has won the campaign to achieve palliative care funding

for western Sydney, especially at Westmead Hospital. On 14 October 2021 the Western Sydney Local Health District chief executive announced that the Westmead Hospital palliative care ward would be reopened. After over a decade of neglect, the New South Wales Government finally announced a \$743 million increase for palliative care over the next five years. This package aims to employ an extra 600 hospital staff, boost hospital capacity and implement best-practice models for palliative care. The package is also designed to support partnerships with non-government organisations and primary care and aged-care services. The other \$93 million in funding will establish dedicated palliative care units at Nepean and Westmead hospitals. Congratulations to the leadership team of the Westmead Push for Palliative Care group, especially Dr Philip Lee and Anna Pelle, on successfully campaigning to secure the reopening of the palliative care ward at Westmead Hospital.

WILD LIGHTS AT TARONGA ZOO

Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore) (16:01): After a two-year hiatus due to COVID, I recently had the pleasure of joining with supporters of Taronga Zoo for a special Vivid Sydney preview of Wild Lights at Taronga Zoo. Wild Lights is an immersive and inspiring experience where guests can explore the zoo after dark on an illuminated night walk whilst connecting with wildlife and conservation. This year's theme, "Where nature shines", showcases a shared planet, connecting the wildlife of the land, sky and sea. I acknowledge Simon Duffy, the executive director of Taronga Zoo, and Anna Town, head of business development services at Cushman & Wakefield. With a strong focus on accessibility, Wild Lights featured three never-before-seen, purpose-built, inclusive installations contributed by Cushman & Wakefield. I thank the company for its support in ensuring inclusivity and accessibility for all. There is an array of fascinating light displays, including native and exotic animals, from lions and gorillas to the humble brush turkey—which was a favourite of many residents of the lower North Shore. Congratulations to Taronga Zoo on creating another successful experience for this year's Vivid festival.

Rulings

POINTS OF ORDER AND PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER (16:03): The Speaker has asked for a statement to be brought to the attention of the House. The Speaker reminds members about a few key features of the practice and conventions concerning points of order and private members' statements. First, while the standing orders give all members the right to take a point of order at any stage of proceedings, it is not an opportunity to raise points of order that seek only to interrupt the member speaking or the proceedings of the House. Secondly, previous Speakers' rulings have consistently established that, while private members' statements can cover wide issues of public policy, they must also have a clear link to a member's electorate or constituents. To avoid doubt, the Speaker suggests that members establish this link early on in their private members' statements.

Private Members' Statements

STATE BUDGET AND LONDONDERRY ELECTORATE

Ms PRUE CAR (Londonderry) (16:04): I speak this afternoon about the impact of the State budget for 2022-23 on the electorate of Londonderry. Unfortunately for the growing communities in western and north-western Sydney that I represent, a few issues of grave concern have not been addressed in the budget. First, I refer to Jordan Springs high school. Once again Dominic Perrottet's Government has ignored local families in Jordan Springs and refused to fund a high school, which is so desperately needed by the local community. That is extremely disappointing but not surprising. This Liberal Premier has no idea about being in touch with families in an area such as Jordan Springs. Recently he decided to show up at the local primary school, which we achieved through community action. The Premier thinks he can just show up and everything will be okay. He had the opportunity to see for himself what will happen when those children leave year 6 because they do not have a high school. Given that opportunity, he still did not fund a high school. As the local member, I undertake to the local community once again that I will not stop fighting until local children have a high school to go to in Jordan Springs.

Next, the schools in Marsden Park—the fastest growing part of New South Wales. The Government promised to spend \$9.9 million on the high school project last year; it spent just over \$3 million. More funds have been promised again this year, but once again there is no time line for construction. It cannot be delayed any further. Just over \$1 million has been provided for planning Melonba Primary School, but no money for construction and no time line has been provided. Members need to understand the growth that is occurring in these communities. People who are buying and building homes are taking out huge mortgages on the promise of infrastructure that is many years away and continues to be delayed. With this rapid growth we need the Northbourne Public School. It is time for Dominic Perrottet to get his skates on for Marsden Park. This

Government has once again failed Ropes Crossing Public School. The most overfilled school in New South Wales is consistently ignored by this Government. Its much-needed upgrade is never funded, but I will keep fighting.

After a long wait, the westbound Roper Road on-ramp has been included in the budget. The ramp will ease congestion for local commuters who have been waiting for some time for this promise to be kept. Our community will be watching closely to ensure that it is delivered. Anyone who lives in the north-west of Sydney, particularly around Marsden Park, Colebee and Schofield, knows that Richmond Road—this is not just to the electorate of Londonderry; it also happens to the marginal electorate of Riverstone—has earned a reputation as one of the worst roads in Sydney. Richmond Road desperately needs to be upgraded. It is so frustrating for local commuters who have to deal with this each and every day. The project to extend Richmond Road to Heritage Road for the Clydesdale estate is still in planning. It is needed to improve access for people living around Northbourne Public School and in the Clydesdale estate. The Government must fund this for the tens of thousands of people who are moving into this part of western Sydney. Werrington arterial stage two is another much-needed project that was overlooked. Only planning money has been allocated. It is vital that this project is constructed without further delay.

Only 4 per cent of the necessary funding for the long-promised Rouse Hill hospital has been allocated, delaying it even further. How long must people in north-western Sydney wait for the most basic health services? It has been called the Rouse Hill Health Service. Hang on, that does not sound like a hospital to me. This Government needs to build a fully functional hospital, with an emergency department, for north-western Sydney. Nowhere else in Sydney would the Government get away with this. It has been thrice promised and still the people I represent, the young families of Marsden Park, are treated as mugs by this Government. One of the fastest growing areas of our State needs a hospital, not a health service. It is clear that they are not a focus for this Government. Key promised projects will not be delivered before the next election, which lets our community down.

QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS LIST RECIPIENTS MIRANDA

Ms ELENI PETINOS (Miranda—Minister for Small Business, and Minister for Fair Trading)
(16:09): Today I acknowledge the recipients of the 2022 Queen's Birthday Honours list recipients across the Miranda electorate. Firstly, I recognise Antony Hasham of Sylvania, who was appointed an officer of the Order of Australia for distinguished service to children's charitable organisations and to community health through drug prevention education programs. At a young age, Tony sadly lost his seven-year-old sister because of leukemia, which profoundly affected the whole family. However, that heartbreaking event drove Tony's passion to work for children.

Tony was introduced to the children's charity Variety by his brother and served as a board member from 1981 to 2021. During his time, Tony served as the national chairperson and international vice-president and co-founded the Variety Bash, which is a week-long adventure exploring the dirt roads of New South Wales and giving back to local communities along the way. Following the success of the inaugural Bourke-to-Burketown bash, in 1985, Tony continued to organise and oversee charity events, which helped raise millions of dollars for Variety. Tony was heavily involved also in Life Education Australia, where he served as chairperson from 2005 to 2018. During Tony's time at Life Education Australia, more than seven million children went through the program with Healthy Harold, making a big difference to children's futures. I congratulate Tony on this incredible honour and thank him for his extraordinary work.

Secondly, I acknowledge Heather Mitchell of Miranda, who was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia for her service to athletics. Heather's love for athletics started in 1976, when she registered her eldest daughter, Kirsten, for Little Athletics. Alongside other parents, Heather was invited to help run events and she was quick to respond. Forty-six years later, Heather is still volunteering in the sport and has become highly qualified, including as a judge of race walking at many international meets. In the 46 years Heather has been volunteering, she has been able to help families and contribute to the development of children and young adults.

Throughout her time, Heather has held many official positions, including at the 2015 Oceania Athletics Championships; 2010 Commonwealth Games, in New Delhi; 2009 World Masters Games; and 2006 Commonwealth Games, in Melbourne. Heather has been an official also at the Australian Track & Field Championships since 1988 and was made a life member of Athletics Australia and Athletics NSW. In addition to this, Heather has made an incredible contribution to our local community, where she has served as president for the Endeavour Little Athletics Club, Sylvania Little Athletics Club and Port Hacking Little Athletics Centre. I commend Heather for her outstanding contribution to athletics both locally and internationally.

Lastly, I acknowledge the late Bruce Grimley of Miranda, who was posthumously awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia for his service to veterans and the community. Mr Grimley was a member of Miranda RSL Sub-Branch from 1985 to 2021 and held many positions within the sub-branch, including president from 2012 to

2016. Mr Grimley began the initiative to relocate and upgrade the Miranda War Memorial from Central Road to Seymour Shaw Park in 2014, to accommodate the growing numbers of attendees at Miranda RSL Sub-Branch's Anzac Day dawn service. He was responsible for organising many Anzac Day and Remembrance Day services as well as organising the commemoration service in 2015 to mark the seventieth anniversary of the end of World War II.

Mr Grimley was a member of GyMEA Community Aid & Information Service from 1985 to 2021, where he devoted his energy and time to organising the men's group. He was the organiser also of the GyMEA Village Fair in the early 2000s and was the honorary treasurer of GyMEA neighbourhood watch in the 1970s. Testimony to his kind and generous nature is that Mr Grimley was named Miranda Senior of the Year in 2017, received a New South Wales Local Achievement Award in 2015 and a Cook Community Award in 2009. Mr Grimley's dedication and tireless advocacy was made possible by the support of his wife, Elaine. I acknowledge the legacy he has left behind. I take this opportunity to again congratulate Tony, Heather and the Grimley family on this incredible achievement and extend my best wishes for the future.

ISOLATED PATIENTS TRAVEL AND ACCOMMODATION ASSISTANCE SCHEME

Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS (Dubbo—Minister for Agriculture, and Minister for Western New South Wales) (16:13): When people access health care in metropolitan areas, they take a lot of things for granted. New South Wales is a massive State. Sadly, it is simply not possible to provide the same level of specialist care in Brewarrina as you might in Bondi. But this Government is committed to ensuring that the people of regional, rural and remote New South Wales have access to the best possible health care, no matter who they are or where they live. One way in which we are helping to do that is through the Isolated Patients Travel and Accommodation Assistance Scheme [IPTAAS]. Last year it supported 1,650 people from the Dubbo electorate alone, and an additional 6,632 people from across western New South Wales—people like John Jaspersen, a cancer patient from Lightning Ridge. Since 2019 John has travelled to Dubbo every three weeks for life-saving cancer treatment. That is a 650-kilometre round trip every three weeks, and John is on the pension.

This week we announced a massive boost to IPTAAS. It is almost \$150 million in extra funding through the budget, which will hugely benefit people like John. The subsidy for people needing accommodation will almost double, and we are also cranking up the private vehicle subsidy rate from 22c to 40c per kilometre for patients who travel more than 100 kilometres for care. For the first time IPTAAS will also be expanded so patients seeking non-commercial clinical trials, high-risk foot clinics, highly specialised publicly funded dental health clinics and specialist eye treatments will be eligible for assistance. I was happy to welcome the Deputy Premier and the Minister for Regional Health to Dubbo on Monday to make this significant announcement, which will see our overall investment in IPTAAS triple over the next four years. This is an announcement that will literally save lives.

The devastating reality is that many people in regional, rural and remote areas simply do not seek treatment because they do not want to find themselves placing a financial burden on the rest of the family. That is unacceptable, and that is changing. We know that travel and accommodation can be expensive, and when we add that to the already distressing situation of requiring critical or life-saving treatment, in some cases, and all of the logistics that go with that, it can obviously be very hard. So we are committed to doing what we can to ease the financial pressure on patients. One thing we know is that a large number of people across western New South Wales, who have previously been unable to receive help under this scheme, will now be eligible. That is where we are making the big differences.

John from Lightning Ridge, who I mentioned, said when he heard the news that he could not get over it. John has now stayed at Macquarie Home Stay, one of our fantastic not-for-profit accommodation providers in Dubbo, 47 times over the past three years. The staff there have also helped him with his IPTAAS paperwork so he can get reimbursed for his stays, as well as petrol money for the 650-kilometre round trip. John says that the team members at Macquarie Home Stay have become like family, and he reckons he would not be here today without them. He says that the increases in subsidies for accommodation and travel will definitely help him as a pensioner and the many other people he knows from the Ridge who travel to Dubbo for medical treatment. John also says that patients across western New South Wales would be lost without the support we get from IPTAAS and the people at Macquarie Home Stay.

Rod Crowfoot is the managing director of Macquarie Home Stay which, as I mentioned, is a not-for-profit. It relies heavily on the IPTAAS subsidies and donations to be able to provide affordable, accessible and comfortable accommodation to people during what is an uncomfortable time in their lives. Rod and his team members have seen first-hand how important IPTAAS is in helping patients afford that access to critical specialist health care. "It is a lifeline for so many", Rod says, "either through accessing the transport subsidy or accommodation subsidy." Rod has spoken to patients who have said that unless they had access to these support structures, they would discontinue treatment. It is that simple. Many could not afford the associated costs. It has

been seven years since the last review, and in that time the cost to access specialist health care has increased greatly. The costs of providing accommodation have also increased, putting pressure on providers like Macquarie Home Stay to keep its costs low and still remain financially viable.

The increases in subsidies will alleviate that financial pressure on patients, their families, organisations like Macquarie Home Stay and other charitable groups that provide financial support for patients. It is all about making that difficult time, when travelling for treatment, just a little easier. I thank Rod and the entire team at Macquarie Home Stay not only for the invaluable work they do but also for contributing to our review of the scheme. This funding will make sure people living in the bush will not have to make the decision between getting the health care they need and other life necessities. Last year more than 26,000 people received assistance through this crucial program, and we expect that number to almost double under the changes announced this week. I commend the Minister for Regional Health for this incredible program upgrade. We will continue to provide the support needed for a brighter future in regional New South Wales.

COST OF LIVING

Ms JULIA FINN (Granville) (16:18): I talk about the cost-of-living crisis that my community and communities across New South Wales are facing and, in particular, the fact that most consumers are facing an 18 per cent electricity price rise next month and enormous increases in gas prices as well. Over the last week we have seen what has been referred to as an energy market crisis and market failure. What we saw was a supply failure for an essential service. Every household and every business in this State and this country relies on electricity. But because of the blind faith of those opposite in the market and the previous former Federal Government, very little has been done to prevent the situation we found ourselves in only a week or so ago when the Australian Energy Market Operator notified everybody of a shortfall in bids and a complete lack of reserve.

Mr Dugald Saunders: Point of order—

Ms JULIA FINN: May I have the clock stopped because there is no point of order?

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER: The Clerk will stop the clock. The member for Granville will resume her seat.

Mr Dugald Saunders: I ask that the member for Granville be directed to return to the leave of her private member's statement, which is to reflect on her electorate as opposed to—

Ms JULIA FINN: My electorate pays electricity bills.

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER: The member for Dubbo is addressing the Chair.

Mr Dugald Saunders: The member of Granville was not legitimately reflecting on her electorate but, in fact, on an issue that everyone is facing. It is not specific to her electorate. Private members' statements are about members' electorates.

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER: There is no point of order. It is generally understood that that is the case, but I am sure the member for Granville will be able to show that her electorate is concerned about the issue.

Ms JULIA FINN: My electorate and the people and businesses in my electorate are very concerned about the upcoming increase in their electricity bills. Everyone I talk to is concerned about the rising cost of living across everything, from the tolls that this Government is obsessed with through to their electricity bills. As I said before I was so rudely interrupted, on 5 June the Australian Energy Market Operator notified of a lack of reserve three, which is a shortfall in bids for the wholesale market. This is a combination of scheduled maintenance, unexpected outages and a concern from the operators of aging infrastructure that they could not supply, in a financially viable way, at the capped price of \$300 per megawatt hour.

The wholesale price has gone through the roof in the past few years. The Minister for Energy will blame it all on the war in Ukraine, but it is not only about that. It is the same Minister who claims credit for enormous innovations in climate change and the move to renewables by the private sector that have been going on in this State for a decade. He can legitimately claim credit for being one of the first on the other side to admit that climate change is a problem and that renewables are cheaper than coal and gas. But he cannot claim credit for investment that was done when the market got on with responding to consumer demand and the Government did nothing, sat idle and created a mess. But I would expect that from the Minister for the environment who claims to be the best environment Minister ever, under whose watch koalas became endangered.

Electricity is an essential service. As we all pay for it, when the prices go through the roof those costs are passed through to consumers across the board. So we will face more and more inflation not just in relation to this but also in relation to other factors. We need investment in transmission and renewable energy. Having privatised transmission and generation, the options for the Government are very limited, because it had blind faith that the

market would deliver. The market has delivered enormous amounts of rooftop solar because people hate getting gigantic electricity bills. Also, the risk of putting a solar unit on a roof and not being financially rewarded is negligible because our electricity bills are so big. But the risk of building a 300-megawatt generator and not having anyone purchase that generation output is enormous. A lot of people are not prepared to take that risk other than governments. Now, suddenly, in the past week the Minister for Energy was offering hundreds of millions of dollars to the operators of generators that this Government sold off, just to keep them running. It was bizarre.

Mr Kevin Conolly: You sold them off. Your side.

Ms JULIA FINN: No, we did not sell Eraring. You sold Eraring and you're trying to give them \$250 million to keep it running.

Mr Dugald Saunders: And this relates to Granville?

Ms JULIA FINN: Yes, because my constituents' electricity comes out of the network that is fed by Eraring.

The SPEAKER (16:24): As I am in the chair for the private member's statement to be delivered by the member for Lane Cove, I take this opportunity to remind members of a few key features of the practices and conventions concerning points of order and private members' statements. First, while the standing orders give all members the right to take a point of order at any stage of proceedings, that is not an opportunity to raise points of order that seek only to interrupt the member speaking or the proceedings of the House. The second point is that previous Speakers' rulings have consistently established that, while private members' statements can cover a wide range of public policy issues, they also must have a clear link to members' electorates or constituents. To avoid doubt about whether it is appropriate to take a point of order, I suggest that members establish the link to their community early on in their private members' statements.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN AND LEONIE HARDMAN

Mr ANTHONY ROBERTS (Lane Cove—Minister for Planning, and Minister for Homes) (16:26): I pay tribute to John and Leonie Hardman, a couple with a remarkable life story who have left behind an irrepressible legacy of devotion to their family, faith and community. John Hardman was born in 1932 and grew up right across from the Merton Hotel in Rozelle. Fiercely proud of his humble upbringing, he would often share stories of having to buy broken biscuits from the Arnott's factory, and the long walks that came from not being able to afford the tram fares. Yet this reality was not a burden thanks to the loving environment that his parents provided for him and his six siblings.

From day dot John was a sporting fanatic. While at St Mary's Cathedral College any chance he had to participate in sport, he took. John was a champion sprinter, a talented boxer, and eventually the captain of the firsts for both rugby and cricket. I am baffled as to how he achieved so much. However, his sporting career did not stop there. Born and bred in Tiger territory, he was always destined to play for them, principally for the reserves but on one occasion he was called up to first grade, holding his own against Frank Stanmore and Keith Holman—some of the most formidable players of that era. It was his love of the game and his continued involvement that led him to fellow Tigers diehard and the love of his life, Leonie.

Leonie was born in Balmain to Irish immigrant Annie Dignan from Shannon and John Ryan, a shipwright at Cockatoo Island. While the family moved some years later to Gladesville, her Tiger spirit never wavered. An incredible learner, and despite her cheeky Irish spirit, she was able to read before kindergarten and excelled in her schooling at both the local Catholic schools and, for a short time, at boarding school in Taree. During this time her talent as a pianist became evident as well, even if this success was in part due to her mother threatening that Leonie's favourite rooster, Bertie, would become Christmas lunch if she did not pass her exams. She not only won State awards for her performances on the piano but also mastered the cello and violin.

Music was not the only endeavour that Leonie's mother would encourage. After meeting John for the first time she said to Leonie, "Don't let him go. You will never meet a nicer person." She listened to that advice and John and Leonie went on to marry in 1955. The newly married couple first settled at 16 Hepburn Avenue, Gladesville, on a block of land next to Leonie's parents and her extended family, before moving to Champion Road in Tennyson Point, as their brood of children had grown to six. John and Leonie were devoted to each other, and it is this love that drove the couple in all their pursuits. Leonie played the organ for her local parish, over seven decades, and taught and played at many concerts and community fundraisers over this time.

John's love for Leonie and the family is what led to the success that he experienced in professional life. From the time he left school in 1950, John worked in the meat export trade for Tancred Brothers and C. R. Lawrence before establishing his own firm in 1986 with two of his sons. On an international level, John set industry records for tonnage shipped and received numerous awards, including NSW Exporter of the Year.

However, these accolades were not John's favourite part of the job. The work allowed John to see the world with Leonie, who accompanied him on as many business trips as they could manage. They even managed to have 16-month stays in both London and New York, an experience that was a highlight for them both. Not only were they able to see every corner of the globe but also, by pure coincidence, these trips would often coincide with sporting events, such as The Ashes, Wimbledon and the touring Kangaroos and Wallabies test matches.

John also had a love of horseracing and owned many horses in both New Zealand and Australia, and was well respected in the industry. Leonie was not always able to accompany John on these business trips and often would have to hold the fort while he was away. Although she ran a tight ship, she worshipped her children. She was a master of bacon and eggs, and milkshakes were always on standby. Fiercely protective of her family, even bees would be stomped out in bare feet for fear they might sting the children. The generosity and devotion of Leonie extended not just to her children but the entirety of the community as she spent over 35 years volunteering for St Vincent de Paul, the Matthew Talbot Hostel and Meals on Wheels. In their later years the couple enjoyed the time they spent together at The Heritage retirement village in Hunters Hill, taking the opportunity for John to improve on his snooker skills.

Having lost both these bright souls only recently, I can say that the electorate of Lane Cove, indeed New South Wales and the country, is markedly dimmer due to the loss of John and Leonie. But I am heartened to know that the pair have reunited with their son Mark in eternal peace. Vale, John. Vale, Leonie.

The SPEAKER (16:30): The member for Lane Cove gave a fitting tribute to John and Leonie Hardman. I am familiar with and know one of their children, Therese Herborn, who is a teacher at Riverview, as school which the member for Lane Cove is also well familiar with. Therese has taught a number of my boys at that school. I know that she was very saddened by the loss of Leonie only about a month ago, and she has just undertaken knee replacement surgery. I wish Therese all the best. I sympathise with her on the loss of her mother but celebrate the contribution that both her parents made as wonderful people not only in her family but also in the Lane Cove and broader community. I commend the member for Lane Cove for a fine private member's statement.

Personal Explanation

UNPARLIAMENTARY LANGUAGE

Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect) (16:32): By leave: Last night as I was giving a private member's statement the discussion got quite heated and there was some unparliamentary behaviour on my part. Last night I apologised for that, and I do so again today. I note the Speaker's comments at the beginning of private members' statements. In this Chamber many of us are friends. We have known each other for many years, even before coming to Parliament. It pains me when that gets out of place. I spoke to many people in the Chamber last night and expressed my regret, because I like to think we are bipartisan on things that really matter in our electorates, especially during private members' statements. I spoke to the member for Terrigal. I know he was upset. I apologise to him. I do it openly and publicly. I have done it privately and I hope that that will never happen again. I will certainly determine not to make it happen again. I would like to think that we can go on and be bipartisan and friends in the future.

Private Members' Statements

NSW TRADES AND LABOUR COUNCIL 150TH ANNIVERSARY

Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect) (16:33): The electorate of Prospect has the largest manufacturing and electrics base in New South Wales, if not the Southern Hemisphere. There are many workers in the electorate and thousands of trade union members from many different trade unions. On Wednesday 25 May 2022 I joined many of these trade unionists from the electorate of Prospect and across New South Wales to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the formation of the Trades and Labour Council in New South Wales. The council, known today as Unions NSW, has been a great agent of change, benefiting workers in the electorate of Prospect and across New South Wales for the past 150 years through its successful advocacy for major reforms in industrial relations, workplace safety, equal pay, bargaining, and the right for workers to organise in the workplace. The council was formed in 1871 in the wake of the ongoing struggle for an eight-hour working day. The aims of the council revolved around working hours and conditions, and the role of working-class people in creating a moral society.

Over the preceding decades, the council consolidated itself as a powerful force in disputes between capital and labour. The newly formed council also made a significant contribution to the founding of the Australian Labor Party [ALP]. The council was a driving force in founding the Political Labour League in 1891, which was the precursor to the ALP. Throughout the twentieth century, the council made significant impacts, successfully improving working conditions in the electorate of Prospect and across New South Wales. Such achievements

included securing two weeks paid annual leave and the forty-hour week in all State awards in the 1940s. In the 1950s the council continued to improve working conditions, with annual leave being expanded to three weeks and the establishment of long service leave. Many workers take for granted those working conditions today, but it is because of the advocacy of the Trades and Labour Council that those rights were enshrined into law.

In addition to fighting for workers' rights, the council also has a proud tradition of opposing racism and authoritarianism. In 1933 the council supported the Aborigines Protection Association, an organisation that fought to prevent trespass on the lands of our First Nations people. It also supported the right for Aboriginals to have full economic, political and social rights, and full employment and equal pay. This demonstrated that the council was far ahead of its time in its support for Aboriginal rights. I note a rich Aboriginal and First Nations history in the electorate of Prospect, where warriors like Pemulwuy and others fought the frontier wars and where there is still a significant presence around Blacktown.

In the later part of the twentieth century, the council continued to make a significant impact, reforming our State for the better. The council played a role in opposing conscription during the Vietnam War. In 1984 it was instrumental in founding the world's first 24-hour childcare centre. In recent times the council has played a very supportive role in assisting NSW Labor and opposing the anti-union agenda of Coalition governments. In 1991 the council ran the Save Our Services campaign opposing the Liberal Greiner Government's anti-worker agenda. The election of the Carr Labor Government at the 1995 State election was significant partly because of this campaign. The campaign was then readapted and moved forward in the Your Rights at Work campaign by the Australian Council of Trade Unions in 2005, which led to the election of the Rudd Labor Government in 2007.

Under the current leadership of general secretary Mark Morey, Unions NSW continues the Trades and Labour Council's proud tradition of fighting for workers' rights in the electorate of Prospect and across New South Wales. During the past decade, Unions NSW has led an anti-domestic violence campaign and has demanded the introduction of domestic violence leave. It has led the charge against the sale of electricity assets and led community campaigns opposing the privatisation of public transport. It has also staunchly supported equal pay, rights, conditions and visa assistance for migrant workers. It has been a strong opponent of the exploitation of workers due to the gig economy, including within the electorate of Prospect.

The recent election victory of the Albanese Labor Government was due in no small part to the hard work of Unions NSW and its affiliated unions. I congratulate Unions NSW on its successful 150th anniversary celebration. Its leadership, members and delegates have truly been positive agents of change in the electorate of Prospect and across New South Wales, improving conditions for all workers. I look forward to working with Unions NSW to continue the fight for positive change for workers in the electorate of Prospect and throughout the State.

EASTWOOD RYDE NETBALL ASSOCIATION

Mr VICTOR DOMINELLO (Ryde—Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government)
(16:38): The Eastwood Ryde Netball Association [ERNA] has been a part of the Ryde community since 1954. It has continued to grow and prosper, with membership now totalling over 5,000 playing members across 25 affiliated clubs. Netball helps in the growth, development, mental health and wellbeing of all participants and ERNA has provided a grassroots path for players, coaches, administrators and supporters for over 70 years. When I became the local State member for Ryde, one of my first community meetings was with then ERNA president, Anne Doring, OAM, who raised the desperate issue of securing indoor courts and a complex that could house 32 hardcourts. Anne and her team had written endlessly to Ryde council and numerous Ministers both Federal and State but were met with inaction.

In 2016, when it was decided that a new school for Marsden High School would be built at a new location in Meadowbank, discussions were held with ERNA's executive—Karen Waud, OAM; Allyson Hill; Judy Watt; Katrina Doring; Sonya Sparre; Nerida Cracknell; Robyn Bates; Deb Frankenberg; Julia Huxley; Jacquelyn Osborne; and, of course, Anne Doring—the education and sports Ministers, and the netball association. In 2016 it was my pleasure to announce that the site of old Marsden High School would become a netball centre for excellence, with four indoor courts and 32 outdoor hardcourts.

Since then, we have been working hard to create an excellent design for netball and other sports for our community. ERNA's community representatives on the consultation committee have been Karen Waud, Sue Guggenheimer, Anne Doring and Katrina Doring. The group also includes representatives from the Office of Sport, Education and Police Citizens Youth Clubs. The group has been involved in the detailed design and inclusion of features to create a very functional operational space, with a variety of sports able to be accommodated. Approval has been given to demolish previous buildings and the construction contract has been awarded, with work to start very soon. The project proposes to deliver a new sports centre that will feature four

multipurpose courts, a gymnasium, 32 outdoor netball courts, a kiosk, public amenities, onsite car parking and landscaping. I know that ERNA and the many netball players are looking forward to playing at this new site.

Earlier this month I announced that the centre's operation contract had been awarded to PCYC—news that was applauded and welcomed by our community, local superintendent of police Mr Peter Glynn and his staff who make up the Ryde Local Area Command. The new multi-sports facility will be shared with the local community as part of a new joint-use agreement between PCYC and the NSW Department of Education. It is wonderful to see this collaboration produce a state-of-the-art sporting facility. PCYC will be responsible for the operation and maintenance of the facility and the land where it is located. I share the community's excitement and anticipation as this project begins to take shape. The future is bright, and I look forward to seeing locals and our sporting champions enjoying this new state-of-the-art facility in Ryde's backyard.

NBN AND HOME OWNER COMPENSATION

Mr PAUL LYNCH (Liverpool) (16:41): I advise the House of the struggles of a constituent of mine, Thi Do, to obtain compensation for damage sustained to her family home in Liverpool as a result of the actions of a contractor or employee of an unfeeling, unresponsive and arrogant NBN company. My constituent is a single mother who lives with her adult son and daughter. She moved into her current home in 2003. During the years she has lived there, she has had a busy life. She worked a permanent full-time job and raised two young children, which involved taking them to and from school and all the other things associated with raising children.

In 2021 she noticed that a sinkhole had developed next to her house. Part of the footings on which the house was located began to sink. To say this was alarming is a significant understatement. A structural inspection report prepared by an engineering consultancy in July 2021 stated that the eastern side of the house's lounge room was considered unsafe to be occupied until necessary repair work was carried out. This would include urgent propping of the south-eastern part of the property underside with timber bearers and joists to prevent any further damage to the property. Soil had also been washed away under the driveway.

The question arises, obviously, as to what caused such an unusual event in suburban Liverpool. A plumber was called in and he conducted investigations, including using CCTV. The damage to the house was caused by erosion and subsidence of the soil beneath the footings. This seems in turn to have largely resulted from the failure of a terracotta wastewater pipe. The photographs of this pipe clearly show it had failed, thus preventing water getting away and leading in turn to subsidence and erosion. The part of the pipe that failed was underneath the footpath in front of the house. Parallel to the stormwater mains on the street was NBN pipework. The engineer's report recorded, "The NBN pipework, which was parallel to the stormwater main on the street, was installed incorrectly and caused localised failure in the stormwater pipe."

This was the diagnosis of the plumber and was agreed with by the engineer. In this context, not unreasonably, NBN came out and repaired the wastewater pipe on 13 July 2021. The earlier NBN work had been carried out in 2015 and included digging up my constituent's driveway, although that was not restored for years and my constituent made a complaint to have the driveway restored in 2018. My constituent has been left with a bill in the vicinity of \$35,000 to \$40,000. This will result in real economic hardship for her. The relevant insurer has, of course, refused to pay, as damage to the stormwater pipe from external contractors is not an insurable event and movement of earth and subsidence of soil is an exclusion from the insurance policy. The obvious solution, of course, is for NBN Co to compensate Ms Do for the damage, given the cause of the damage was the action of their contractor. NBN has refused to do so. One assumes it has made a commercial decision that Ms Do is not in a financial position to commence litigation against a behemoth like NBN Co.

The reason it proffers for refusing liability is pretty outrageous. NBN Co says it was not its failure but was the fault of the gas company. That is not just unbelievable; in the actual circumstances, it is closer to laughable. As I said, Ms Do has resided at the house since 2003. During the entirety of that period, no work has been carried out by a gas company on her property or on the footpath in front of her property. If NBN Co is correct, the latest date at which the gas company could have damaged the pipe was 18 years before the sinkhole appeared. When I practised as a lawyer, we had some vivid descriptions to apply to defences such as that, but I will not use that language here.

Gas was connected to the house in 1999, which my constituent has confirmed by contacting Jemena. It is odds-on that that was the last time anyone from a gas company was digging around in the footpath in front of the Liverpool house. NBN Co should stop hiding from its responsibility. It should stop behaving like a thug and a bully. I wrote to NBN Co on behalf of my constituent on 24 May this year. Its representatives have not replied to my letter or even managed to acknowledge it. They presumably think they are too big, powerful and important to have any regard for my constituent or for me. They should accept their responsibility and pay appropriate damages to my constituent.

COFFS HARBOUR ELECTORATE SPORTING ACHIEVEMENTS

Mr GURMESH SINGH (Coffs Harbour) (16:45): The Coffs Coast has had a lucky run of late. We have been enjoying a well-deserved run of beautiful winter weather, which has brought out the best in our local sporting stars in training and in competition. Orara High School's volleyball team, for example, defeated Wollumbin High School to be crowned the North Coast champions and win entry into the New South Wales State championships, which start in July. The team will battle it out at Homebush in Sydney, where they will compete against 15 of the best teams in New South Wales. It is the third time in five years the team has qualified for State honours, which physical education schoolteacher and volleyball coach Alex Dujin says is due to their dedication and hard work.

On the June long weekend I was honoured to be with Coffs Harbour Kart Racing Club members as they hosted—for the twenty-seventh time, I might add—the over-40s Australian titles. More than 92 competitors and their support crews from around the nation converged on the Coffs Coast for that exciting event, renowned for its social aspect as much as for its racing. It was also an emotional weekend for the karting community, with the renaming of the event to the Ian Brown Over 40s titles. Ian has organised and run that great event for many years. Ian is a humble, generous man who has volunteered at the club for a long time. In recognition of his work, the club has named the event after him. I also thank Geoff King Motors for its continued sponsorship of the event.

Some of the Coffs Coast's top swimmers have returned with medals from the recent North Coast championships at Evans Head. Mitchell Hickey, Cale Ogilvy and Layci Teale had stellar performances as the short course season kicked off. Mitchell Hickey was the distance champion, winning the 400 metres, 800 metres and 1,500 metres freestyle events. He swam personal bests across all three distance events, the biggest being a 20-second personal best in his 1,500 metres freestyle. He has now qualified for State in the open age category for both the 800 metres and 1,500 metres events. Mitchell also claimed gold in both the 100 metres and 200 metres backstroke.

Layci Teale took out the 12 years girls age championship with six golds, three silvers and a bronze, and set a new record in the 12 years girls 200 metres backstroke. Layci competed in 10 individual events and earned 10 medals. Cale Ogilvy won bronze in the 15 years 100 metres backstroke and has now qualified for his second country championships, which he will compete in soon. Bella Teale recently attended the Swimming NSW qualifying meet in Sydney, her first hit-out since the national age championships in April. Back in the water after a break, just three weeks in the training pool saw her qualify for her first Australian open national short course championships.

The Coffs Coast Outrigger Canoe Club, meanwhile, had quite the medals haul at the recent outrigger national championships at Shoal Bay. That event had more than 800 competitors and showcased crafts and athletes in both six-person canoes, known as OC6, and one-person canoes, known as OC1. Senior clubman John Vincent impressed for the Coffs club, powering through 12 kilometres to win the over-70s OC1. Masters competitor Tim Blay had a podium finish for the solo craft, placing second for the short course event, while 16-year-old Merlin Grellier-Besancon stepped up to the senior divisions, winning two medals in the team events and scoring a \$400 voucher. Other club successes were gold in the novice mixed, silver in the senior masters and novice men's, and bronze medals in the novice women's and open mixed. Coffs Coast Outrigger Canoe Club officials hope to use the event as a springboard for recruiting new members and then competing at more regattas across New South Wales and south-east Queensland. I congratulate all the competitors.

BEGA ELECTORATE RADIOTHERAPY SERVICES

Dr MICHAEL HOLLAND (Bega) (16:49): When I was in primary school we studied a subject called social studies, and one thing that I had to learn by rote was the rivers and towns of the coast of New South Wales. I still know them by heart: Tweed, Richmond, Clarence, Macleay, Manning, Hunter, Hawkesbury, Shoalhaven, Murwillumbah, Lismore, Grafton, Kempsey, Taree, Newcastle, Sydney and Nowra. There was no mention of the Clyde, Moruya or Bega rivers or, in fact, the towns of Batemans Bay, Moruya or Bega. Such is the neglect of the far South Coast of New South Wales.

The electorate of Bega is prejudicially denied radiation oncology services relative to other comparable regional areas in New South Wales. Most of those listed above and many inland regions will have radiotherapy services already. In April 2019 the Liberal Party, The Nationals and the Australian Labor Party committed \$63 million towards regional radiotherapy services. The Eurobodalla and Bega regions were specifically named by all the parties. The initiative was endorsed by the Radiation Therapy Advisory Group, Radiation Therapy for Regional Australia and Can Assist. On inquiry to the Southern NSW Local Health District [LHD], the following response was received:

The LHD did not submit an application. Radiotherapy services are not viable in regions with populations under 400,000. The South Coast population is unlikely to have the capacity to supply the required team of specialist staff or patient caseload. Establishing a public radiation therapy service lacks evidence of viability.

Any of my fellow rural representatives can attest that our electorates have populations nowhere near 400,000 residents. One-third of men and one-quarter of women will have cancer by the age of 75. Those aged 70 to 74 have the highest incidence of cancer. The Bega electorate has the second oldest demographic in the State and has a population of approximately 80,000 people. Even without an increase in population, there is an increased need as our population ages.

Half of cancer patients would benefit from radiotherapy, but only a third receive treatment. That means that nearly half of those patients resign themselves to poorly controlled symptoms, lack of palliation and premature death. It is estimated that approximately 30 women per year in New South Wales die from under-utilisation of radiotherapy for breast cancer. There is no radiotherapy service on the 350 kilometres of the New South Wales South Coast, south of Nowra. Patients in the Bega electorate are 2½ to 3½ hours from the nearest radiation oncology services in the Australian Capital Territory or Nowra. Those unfortunate constituents must travel for hours in pain and with diarrhoea, nausea, vomiting and incontinence. They must be separated from their homes and families. How cruelly insensitive can a health system be to expect that of its residents?

I continually hear of constituents who decide to leave their homes of many years to be closer to health services that are lacking locally. The Eurobodalla has the highest rate of lung cancer, colorectal cancer, prostate cancer, breast cancer, pancreatic cancer and cancer of unknown origin in the region. It is estimated there will be a 64 per cent increase in cancer cases in the region and an extra 100 cancer deaths per year by 2031. Private radiotherapy providers have the capacity to deliver over 400 courses of treatment annually. The local demand will increase to 1,900 courses by 2031. The private providers of radiotherapy services already provide radiation oncology services to communities with populations equal to or smaller than the population of the Bega electorate.

The providers propose bulk-billed services to the residents of the Bega electorate in exchange for annual co-payment from the LHD. Land is available on the site of the proposed Eurobodalla Regional Hospital. LHDs are already spending approximately \$1 million per annum on supporting the treatment of patients in distant centres. The contribution of that amount to treating patients locally is essentially cost neutral. The newly elected Federal Labor Government has committed \$8 million for a radiation oncology service in the Bega electorate, which has been supported by the New South Wales Labor Opposition. I call on the New South Wales Government to correct the inequity by establishing radiation oncology services in the Bega electorate.

WOLLONDILLY ELECTORATE VOLUNTEERS

Mr NATHANIEL SMITH (Wollondilly) (16:54): As we all know, the Australian volunteering spirit is strong, and it is especially strong in my electorate of Wollondilly—which is known as "God's country". Generosity—of time, energy and efforts—is characteristic of the incredible volunteers of Wollondilly, who give not to be seen but to serve. Volunteering has been described as the "backbone" of regional Australia, and this could not be more true. In times of crisis and desperate need, local volunteers—like our RFS and SES—have helped provide vital services. Our communities would look very different without volunteers—the many sports coaches, Country Women's Associations, Lions clubs and other people who have a vision for their community and care enough to carry it out. The NSW State of Volunteering Report recognised that 75.9 per cent of the New South Wales adult population volunteered in some capacity—that is 4.9 million people. The volunteers surveyed indicated that they were twice as likely to volunteer more over the next three years, which is great news for those who rely on volunteerism.

The same report found that the value of volunteering in our State is \$127 billion. That is a weighty reminder of how much our volunteers contribute not just in social value but also in economic value. When we think about volunteering, it does not take long before first responders come to mind. That is right, we think of our RFS, SES and other community support groups that come out when we need them—like the Southern Highlands Support Brigade that supported the region during the 2019 bushfires, providing specialist equipment and resources. Being "true blue" means looking after your mates when the going gets tough, and remembering those who have given their all for others. Telopea Park in Buxton symbolises this. It is a volunteer-led fundraised park that commemorates Geoffrey Keaton and Andrew O'Dwyer, two young RFS volunteers who tragically lost their lives in the 2019 bushfires in my electorate.

Our mums and dads spend much of their valuable time volunteering at community groups, sausage sizzles and, of course, sporting groups. The weekend game is a hallmark of our culture, and it is thanks to the hardworking mums and dads in our region that the next generation grows up healthy and strong, in part due to the sporting opportunities available to them. It is for this reason that the New South Wales Government has invested \$5.6 million worth of funding into the Tahmoor sporting complex, which will be a top-tier, district level facility for the Wollondilly region. Work on the complex is underway and it is scheduled to be completed by October 2022. This will allow for more great sports initiatives to take place in my community. Supporting the health and wellbeing of the region, there are food pantries and volunteers who deliver meals through organisations

like Meals on Wheels. There are also volunteers who help the homeless and displaced, and volunteers who address issues of wildlife safety and care.

Any number of issues in Wollondilly have been solved by humble residents who have put up their hands to help out—a picture of the quiet Australian who leads through service for the sake of others. As with any good work, much of the volunteering that Wollondilly residents do is unseen, and unofficial, such as helping out last-minute at a sporting event, caring for a loved one, or grabbing groceries for an elderly couple next door. Speaking to volunteers in Wollondilly, I know that for them volunteering is not about acknowledgement or recognition, but about giving back. Today I wish to acknowledge and commend every person who volunteers in any way in the Wollondilly electorate. We are all better off for what they do, and I thank them for their generosity. Unfortunately, time prevents me from individually recognising all of the volunteer groups in the electorate, but I must thank the many Rotary clubs, Lions clubs, Parents and Friends Associations, Vinnies branches, emergency services such as the SES and the RFS, business chambers, church groups, residents' associations, action groups, progress associations, RSLs, sporting groups, CWA branches, men's sheds, community gardeners, and all the other volunteers that make my electorate of Wollondilly such a caring and generous place to live.

AGRITOURISM

Mr DAVID HARRIS (Wyong) (16:59): Tonight I raise an issue that has been brought to me by constituents who run agritourism businesses or farm stays in the rural area of my electorate, which includes the Yarramalong and Dooralong valleys, up towards Kulnura—although I will lose that area with the redistribution. I have also received representations from further afield in my role as the shadow Minister for Tourism. It is about something that was meant to be a good reform, started by the former planning Minister, Rob Stokes, to deal with the issue that many of these smaller businesses operate without development applications. The Department of Planning sought to put in place a regime of complying development to make sure that these places could continue to operate. Unfortunately, when the review was done and the results came out, the people involved found out that the limitations in the discussion paper would in fact lead to many of them not being able to operate and, quite possibly, they would have to close down. I met a number of those people at a meeting in Dooralong. I have also had people write to me. This is one example:

We are writing to you in regards to the new proposed standards for agritourism by Planning NSW. The current proposal will destroy agritourism in NSW. It puts unrealistic limitations on agritourism farms, making their businesses unviable and closing a growing sector of NSW tourist destinations.

They go on to talk about how that would happen. Agritourism is a really small but important part of the economy. Many people use tourism activities to supplement the growing side of their agriculture business. A lot of them are into organic farming. I think the member for Riverstone has probably got some that operate in his area out on the rural fringes. For example, in my area, growers offer tourists the opportunity to pick their own strawberries, beans or oranges. Iris Lodge Alpacas at Jilliby offers a breakfast with the alpacas experience and a farm stay option in an onsite cabin. These are not big businesses. They are quite small. Over the June long weekend the Central Coast hosted Harvest Festival 2022. The Central Coast Council promoted local farm stay properties as part of the area's tourism offering. We cannot let those businesses be affected in a way that sees them close down.

The good news is that I contacted Minister Roberts' office and met with his Chief of Staff and Department Liaison Officer, to raise these issues. It was an example of politics working at its best—an Opposition member of Parliament was able to raise the concerns of his constituents and the Minister's office listened. As a result I think we will arrive at a great outcome in making sure that there is a regime of complying development so that all of those people are covered for their activities, but in a way that does not restrict their business. A representative from Minister Roberts' office will meet directly with one of the people concerned. I know that the Minister's office is listening very carefully to the concerns and is acting on what was proposed to make sure that the regime encourages those businesses to grow and does not put restrictions on them.

There has been some coverage of this issue in the media—on *A Current Affair* and I think Channel 7 ran a story on it as well. It is getting a lot of attention. These are fantastic mum and dad businesses that are offering organic food and giving people the chance to get out of the urban regions and visit agricultural areas to learn about farming and experience it for themselves. They are really important, not just as tourist destinations but also as educational destinations for schoolkids to visit. I thank Minister Roberts and his office for the hearing they gave me. From what has been said, I think that at the end of July we will be very happy with the results and I will certainly be passing on that good work to my constituents.

STATE BUDGET AND MONARO ELECTORATE

Mrs NICHOLE OVERALL (Monaro) (17:04): As one of the newest members of this Parliament, I acknowledge the Liberal-Nationals Government's delivery of an incredible budget. I also acknowledge the honour and privilege of being part of a government that delivers such reform. I am excited and thankful about this

great budget and about what it means for Monaro. It delivers so much in so many ways. It focuses on families, community and rebuilding all that is important to us as we emerge from pandemic, flood, fire and drought.

One of the many highlights for Monaro is the multimillion-dollar investment in new schools in our region. In addition to giving our children access to a quality education a little closer to home, it will create dozens of jobs for our local workforce. Our new schools have been planned and designed to meet the projected increase in future student demand. One of those schools—the new primary school at Googong—is well underway. The local community continues to watch with great anticipation as the school rapidly emerges from what was an empty paddock a matter of months ago. The new classrooms, school hall, canteen and covered outdoor learning area are taking shape. It will be surrounded by landscaped grounds and sporting fields. Excitingly, Tuesday's budget contains \$10.8 million for the continuation of this project, which will see the community's dream come to fruition.

For more than two decades the Jerrabomberra community has been crying out for a high school. Thanks to this Government working with and listening to the community, that is happening. The new facility has been designed to initially accommodate as many 500 students. The core facilities of the initial build have also been designed for predicted increases in future enrolments. A stage two master plan has been developed. Last week it was provided to the community at a public meeting, as requested. Stage two will allow for expansion to 1,000 students. It can be delivered, as needed, to respond to enrolment demand. After two years of consultation, considerable debate and attempts at political agitation in the community regarding the location of the new Bungendore High School, the most suitable site has been chosen. Its close proximity to Bungendore Public School will enable sharing of education facilities and expertise, which will lead to great educational outcomes for the children of Bungendore and the surrounding district.

In addition to the high school, the Bungendore project involves upgrades to the current primary school, refurbishment of existing buildings, resurfacing of playing fields, repurposing of the community library into classrooms and of public amenities into public school facilities. What the project does not do is impinge upon the existing Mick Sherd Oval, which stays exactly where it is and will be used jointly by the school and the community. The project will also provide the community with a sports hub—the first of its kind in Bungendore—featuring a brand new swimming pool. In the face of all that progress, recent and perplexing decisions of a majority of councillors on the new Labor-led Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council to revoke in-principle support of the project, as well as loud advocacy by some community members for other sites—all 11 of which have been thoroughly investigated—have inevitably resulted in delays in progress.

That is on top of the inevitable challenges as we emerge from COVID, including supply and workforce issues, and very slow-going through local approval processes. Nonetheless we are still progressing and doing everything possible to ensure that these three new schools are operational by day one, term one in 2023 to welcome new students—kindergarten to year 6 for Googong, and initially years 7 and 8 for Jerrabomberra and Bungendore. Investing in our kids is investing in our future. It also shows this Government's commitment to our people and gives our community confidence that it is being listened to as regards education and all other areas that make living in the regions of this great State worthwhile. I am excited and thankful about this great budget and for what it means for Monaro's schools and so much more.

STATE BUDGET AND BLACKTOWN ELECTORATE

Mr STEPHEN BALI (Blacktown) (17:09): I speak about the budget and its impacts on the Blacktown area. It was great to hear the member for Monaro talk about the budget. I note the member for Riverstone is present in the Chamber. Some 5,900 people live in Bungendore. The Riverstone electorate and my electorate of Blacktown take in about 10,000 people per year. If Bungendore is getting a brand new school under this budget, I ask members to consider how many resources should be going into Riverstone and Blacktown year on year. The Treasurer said that the budget exists to set the New South Wales Government's priorities. Of his headline priority, the Treasurer said, "We choose to invest in our greatest asset—our people." The Treasurer also said:

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.

They are admirable words. But I invite him to visit my electorate and the Riverstone electorate. I focus on two areas: Blacktown Hospital and land tax. In his budget reply speech, the Leader of the Opposition, Chris Minns, referred to Blacktown city expanding by another 200,000 people over the next 15 years. Currently, seven State electorates and three Federal electorates intersect across the city of Blacktown. That shows just how large our electorate of 405,000 people is. He said:

Our hospitals should be sanctuaries. You should arrive in a hospital in Sydney and think, "Thank God I live in this city." But we are a million miles from that today.

Staff say that it is a complete mess. Patients suffer. Our healthcare workers, who entered a noble profession with the singular goal of helping others, are now at breaking point.

He also said:

... four in 10 critical emergency department patients did not start treatment on time. But it is disgraceful that across the west and south-west that figure is not four in 10—it is seven in 10.

Chris Minns highlighted that, unfortunately, at Blacktown Hospital that figure is eight in 10. Government members, including the member for Riverstone and the member for Seven Hills—soon to be Winston Hills—quite happily thump their chests and say, "What? \$651 million has been invested in Blacktown Hospital. How wonderful is that?" We love the shiny, new building, but we need services to support it. It is no use for people to sit for hours and days in emergency if they do not get the service they deserve. Broken up by catchment area, \$651 million is barely \$1,000 per person being spent on a hospital in the Blacktown area. That is equivalent to 200 coffees over the course of a year. If there are 210 working days, that is one coffee per day. That is supposed to satisfy the growing city of Blacktown. A record 384 patients are still waiting for elective surgeries. Ambulance wait times are blowing out. The services available in Blacktown city are pathetic. More needs to be done.

I turn to land tax. To paraphrase the Treasurer, the land tax scheme is the best way to get first home buyers into home ownership. Let us look at the areas of Schofields and Colebee, for example. The price for a basic, entry-level house in those areas is about \$1 million. The starting price for 260 square metres of land—not a big property—is around \$735,000. Arguably right now a person would pay \$40,000 upfront in stamp duty. If they chose to pay land tax, it would be \$400 plus 0.3 per cent per annum, making the initial payment \$2,605. Property prices across the Blacktown city area have been increasing by about 10 per cent per annum. Accordingly, land tax payable over 10 years will be \$41,517 versus \$40,000 in stamp duty. The rub is that the land tax is never ending. After 10 years a home owner would be paying \$6,148 per year and after 20 years, \$15,932 per year. The idea of getting into property is that when you retire you do not have these mega expenses. According to the Government, 30 years after a young couple marries they will be paying \$41,000 per annum in land tax for the privilege of living in Blacktown. This budget is an absolute shame and a disgrace.

Mr KEVIN CONOLLY (Riverstone) (17:14): I thank the member for Blacktown for the opportunity to once again put on the record the fact that this Government committed and spent \$750 million upgrading Blacktown Hospital. That is something which one of the predecessors of the member for Blacktown, Paul Gibson, campaigned for from the Labor side and could not achieve. I also point out that in the time the Government has been in office, it has increased the staff of Blacktown Hospital by more than 35 per cent over a period of years. Of course, that is not enough. It is never enough. That is why the Government has committed to funding another 10,000 health staff members over the next four years, many of whom are going to western and south-western Sydney, as they should.

LAKE MACQUARIE ELECTORATE HOUSING CRISIS

Mr GREG PIPER (Lake Macquarie) (17:15): By the time I return to my electorate after a week here in Parliament, the median price of a house in many Lake Macquarie suburbs will have gone up by another thousand dollars. In the same week, another young family's dream of owning a home in the area they grew up in will be lost. Meanwhile, out the back of Morisset, a local charity is providing assistance to a growing number of people living in their cars while they wait for a rental property to become available. Increasingly, that same charity reports that more and more people are turning to shared, subsidised or social housing as a means of keeping a roof over their heads. It is true that recent interest rate hikes have slowed the local property market but that does not translate to more homes being available to those who need them. A little further north, in Newcastle, the median price for a home is now higher than it is in Melbourne. Yes, it is now more expensive to buy an average home in Newcastle city than it is to buy something in Australia's second-largest city—and Lake Macquarie is not far behind.

Public housing waiting lists in Lake Macquarie have not changed since I last spoke about them in this place. They are among the longest in the State. This is due in part to the large numbers of people getting out of Sydney and Newcastle, where housing is simply unaffordable to anyone earning something close to the average wage. Currently almost two families are joining that queue every day. I received an email only last week from Catherine, who has been on a public housing waiting list for 14 years. She is currently paying 80 per cent of her wage for a private rental. That is 80 per cent of an income that is not large. Now she has been told that the owner of her private rental wants to end the lease and take the property off the private rental market. Where does Catherine go now? There are barely any vacant homes available in the local area, let alone one which is in her price range.

Then there is Donna, who rents a social housing property at Bolton Point. On March 29, a number of roof tiles came off the house in a storm. The rain poured in and collapsed part of the ceiling in her 12-year-old son's bedroom. Since then, a contractor has been to the home three times, but the roof remains unrepaired. The SES has been there twice to put a tarp over the broken tiles. It is three months later and her son is still sleeping on the lounge. The house is pretty much impossible to heat because of the giant hole in the roof. How long does it take

to fix a couple of broken roof tiles and, in this case, how much is it costing taxpayers? It is an appalling situation but sadly not uncommon, not just in Lake Macquarie but around the State. My office is taking dozens of calls every week from people in similar circumstances. It is heartbreaking. While I note that the Government committed a further \$300 million to upgrading social housing in Tuesday's budget, those working in the sector know that this will not put more roofs over more heads.

What New South Wales urgently needs is more housing stock. We simply have to find a way of building more homes; there are more than 50,000 people on the social housing waiting list. I acknowledge the efforts being made and also note the budget commitment made by the Treasurer to build 120 new homes for rough sleepers. That will be wonderful for those 120 or so people but there are many more than that sleeping rough. The Government is also spending almost \$3 million in my electorate on Aboriginal housing projects and a further \$1.6 million on the maintenance of existing social housing stock. The Aboriginal Housing Office recently completed six new homes at Toronto and another at Argenton, and work on two five-bedroom homes at Bolton Point is now well underway. About 12 months ago I was joined by the former Minister for Families, Communities and Disability Services, Mr Gareth Ward, to open a new 94-unit social and affordable housing project at Cardiff. I know similar projects are in the pipeline.

These are all very good projects. They will no doubt allow people to build better and more productive lives, but we are still light-years from solving the problem. Thousands more dwellings are required every year if we are going to stop moving backwards. I thank the Premier and Treasurer—indeed, the Government—for the steps taken in Tuesday's budget towards solving the State's housing crisis but those steps need to be much bigger. The great Australian dream is currently well beyond many people living in this State. But, worse than that, our level of homelessness, our shortage of social housing, our standard of public housing and our efforts to protect our most vulnerable are fast becoming our great Australian failure. We must do much better. I implore this Government and future governments to keep the need for the dignity of housing at the front of mind and the front of policy.

TRIBUTE TO PAUL RASMUSSEN

Ms ROBYN PRESTON (Hawkesbury) (17:19): I pay my respects to Mr Paul Rasmussen, who passed away peacefully at the age of 76 on Monday 13 June 2022. It is always a great sadness to lose a loved one. I send my deep condolences to Paul's family, who he lived with in Yarramundi. Paul passed away after a short period of illness. He was an active member of the Hawkesbury community for many decades and spent a great portion of his life giving back to people. Paul loved the region and served on Hawkesbury City Council for 22 years. He was not on my side of the fence, but I had a great respect for him.

Mr Kevin Conolly: Thirteen years with me.

Ms ROBYN PRESTON: Yes, that's right. This is just one very long example of his generous spirit and the ways in which he dedicated so much of his life to the interests and wellbeing of others. Being a councillor is not an easy task. To serve on council for more than two decades takes a very special person—someone who has a persevering nature and a generous heart, and who is also endlessly resilient to the challenges of their region. In the Hawkesbury we have no end to challenges, from flooding to drought to bushfire. We are always kept on our toes, especially over the past few years.

Paul was put through the wringer during his time on council and should be heartily commended for always standing by the people of the Hawkesbury in their times of need, not just in the good times. Paul's dedication to the Hawkesbury and the community stayed with him right until the end. Unfortunately his poor health prevented him from standing again in the most recent council elections in December 2021, but I am sure that it would have been well received if he had run for another term. Going above and beyond his duty as a community member was a way of life for Paul. He was a part of many community groups and committees during his lifetime. This included serving as chairman of the Friends of the Hawkesbury Art Community and chairman of Hawkesbury Radio, as well as being a member of the Kurrajong Community Forum and Hawkesbury Sports Council.

Another major cornerstone of Paul's life was his commitment to his country. He dedicated 30 years of his life to the Royal Australian Air Force, which included five years spent as base commander in Richmond. I first met Paul when Premier Perrottet was the member for Hawkesbury. Paul would advocate for residents of the community. He came to the Hawkesbury electorate office on multiple occasions to advocate on behalf of locals about safety issues. In one instance he advocated for repairs for a resident in social housing. I was also impressed by the way he would stand up for local businesses regarding traffic issues. He gave the then member for Hawkesbury a bit of a hard time too. Paul's many terms as a councillor meant that he was a great mentor for new councillors. His many years of experience, wisdom and knowledge of the Hawkesbury will be sorely missed.

He also made a great many friends during his time on council, both within the community and with fellow councillors. After his passing, many of Paul's colleagues from Hawkesbury City Council shared their experiences

with Paul. I was very touched to hear how much he was respected by those around him. He has been remembered very fondly. Tribute has been paid to his hardworking nature and strong desire to serve the community. Something else that his council colleagues noticed about Paul was the hopes he had for the Hawkesbury and that he held a great vision of the region as it continues to grow. To be able to support a region's development and sustainability is a very worthwhile mission, and I hope that Paul got as much out of the job as he gave to it. Paul will be greatly missed. I again extend my sincere sympathies to the Rasmussen family. May God rest his soul.

FAIRFIELD TOWN CENTRE

Mr GUY ZANGARI (Fairfield) (17:23): Today I call attention to an issue concerning local infrastructure in the Fairfield local government area and the lack of investment in the town centre. Sadly, this is not a new issue. For some time residents have been disillusioned and downright disappointed with the lack of care given by Fairfield City Council to local infrastructure, particularly in the town centre. Once upon a time the Fairfield central business district was a burgeoning locality, filled with a great variety of stores and equipped with government services. We could go to the Fairfield CBD and run all our errands in a short space of time without having to drive to another suburb to access services. We cannot do that anymore. One by one the government services have been stripped from the Fairfield CBD, with no sign of ever returning. If residents want to renew their licences or car registrations, they are obliged to travel to Wetherill Park, two suburbs over, to visit the nearest Service NSW centre, which is not easy to get to and not easily accessible by public transport, and the queues from the strain of having to service many people from the suburbs are very long.

The Fairfield CBD has been a victim of the neglect of Fairfield City Council and Fairfield City Chamber of Commerce, and there does not seem to be any imminent plans to change this dire situation. We have shops and food outlets closing, and shopfronts are unkempt and dirty. People simply do not want to shop there anymore. My office has received many complaints about the lack of incentive given to shopkeepers by Fairfield City Council and by the State Government, by way of funding to council, to beautify their spaces which would improve the aesthetics of the CBD and thereby draw more people to shop in the area.

I have made representations on behalf of one resident, who has lived in Fairfield for over 60 years and who is horrified at the degeneration of the Fairfield CBD in recent years. Unfortunately, my representations have fallen on deaf ears. However, certain pockets of the Fairfield LGA's business districts do get more attention than others, as my constituents have advised me. This is an injustice. There should be equity in the allocation of local government funding, and it should be spread evenly across the local government area. As the member for Fairfield, I would like to see the Fairfield town centre thriving. We need government services like Service NSW back in the CBD. I would like to see also Fairfield City Council and Fairfield City Chamber of Commerce working together to make the Fairfield CBD a priority, to create a thriving shopping precinct, inviting local investment and more people to the area.

Care and attention must be given to the Nelson Street car park run by Fairfield City Council, which has received no improvements since 1995. At the moment, it is an absolute disgrace. It is dirty, and there is only one point of access, causing major delays both inside the carpark and in the surrounding roads. There is also no internal entry to the second level from the ground level, with motorists having to negotiate a complicated system of separate ramps just to go up to the next level.

A myriad of other problems in the Fairfield local government area are brought to my office on a daily basis. In fact, I make representations for an overwhelming number of people for council-related issues, which never seem to be resolved. One of my constituents has advised of potholes, kerbs and gutters slipping away and not being repaired, making it a safety hazard in residential streets. There is neglect also in general parks maintenance and an all-too-infrequent grass-cutting roster, which does not take into account the extra rainfall we have had in recent times, allowing the weeds in our public spaces to run rampant. Add to this the blocked waterways stemming from years of neglect and we have a recipe for disaster.

The response from council is that La Niña is responsible, and I agree to a certain extent. However, it looks like this erratic weather is here to stay for a while, and it is incumbent on Fairfield City Council to adjust and service the roads, parks and waterways accordingly. It is important that the State Government step in to assist Fairfield City Council with any improvements necessary. The State Government also must bring back State Government services such as Service NSW to the Fairfield CBD if it is to have any chance of gaining back its former glory.

RURAL RESILIENCE

Mr ROY BUTLER (Barwon) (17:28): When people talk about the resilience of people in the bush, they talk about a very real thing. It seems to be universally acknowledged that country people are a different breed, that they are as tough as nails, that they hang in there no matter what, that they make the best of bad situations,

that they are problem-solvers who are at their best when confronted with what seems like an insurmountable obstacle. That said, I think people in the bush are starting to roll their eyes when they are told they are resilient in lieu of actual assistance when needed.

What does that famous bush resilience really mean? What leads to resilience? I will use an aircraft analogy. An A380 is a pretty big, high-tech plane with four engines and has most of its systems backed up twice. That's right: It has double redundancy systems, a bit like the city, where duplicate services are available a few kilometres away, in neighbouring areas. In regional New South Wales, the aircraft analogy is a bit more like an old Tiger Moth—often antiquated, with one engine and just one set of systems. When one system fails, it gets bad pretty quickly. And unlike the city we have long distances between services.

When the bush is up against it, many people in rural New South Wales do find ways to cope. They band together against the common threat and help each other out in whatever way they can. Despite going through the toughest of times, generations of people stayed in the same regions as their forebears thanks to this rural characteristic. It is not luck or accident. There are unwritten laws. Neighbours in the bush come together at tough times. People become temporary carpenters, hairdressers, chefs, plumbers, mechanics and much more. They make parts for machinery that cannot be bought in the local area, jerry-rig repairs to get a vehicle to the next town or come up with creative ways of solving problems, often showing a fair whack of genius in the solution.

The reason for bush resilience is people's ability to do multiple jobs. One cannot really afford to have only one specialty when one lives in the country, because the lack of actual specialists or access to tradespeople means people need to be able to do many different things. In a rural community one person often takes on many roles, often without formal qualifications or a trade. This ability and skill keep bush communities and events running. In many towns people will run a business and take on volunteer roles. They probably also have a farm that they need to get to occasionally. In my hometown of Mendooran, the local policeman, who is also a councillor, works with sports groups, charities and various community organisations. He gives his time freely, despite being busy with his police work and his position on council.

During the drought, there were some amazing examples of people pulling together. There were farmers severely affected by drought who made their properties and fodder-handling equipment available to allow donated fodder to be received and distributed to other farmers in the area. Farmer Sheen Geppert realised that people on the land had been working extremely hard to keep their farms going during the drought and must be mentally and physically exhausted. She worked with Cobar Mental Health Network to hold a farmers' night off. It was a chance to take the night to have some fun and reconnect with people, a fabulous event that allowed people to forget the drought for one night. These people who work during their own time to make things better for others make bush resilience special. Through COVID we saw people in every community step up to fill the gaps that were created by health orders and interstate freight interruptions. There are too many examples to list in this contribution. Vulnerable people were cared for. Again many people, both employees and volunteers, stepped well outside their normal societal roles to ensure that people were okay. We saw the very best of our communities.

But that characteristic of resilience can sometimes work against them. People often assume that, because people from the bush are tough, they will be all right. Governments sometimes rely on farmers and communities organising their own relief, solving their own problems, emerging from disasters a little shaken, a bit worse for wear, but ready to get on with the job. But often this leaves scars—mental and physical. Country people are a truly resilient bunch, but it is often only because they must be. That does not mean that they will not need help at a time of crisis.

There are a few things that the New South Wales Government needs to do to ensure that resilience is not the only thing keeping the bush going. Firstly, we need a structured approach to drought and drought recovery, and clear thresholds for assistance going into drought and recovery coming out. Secondly, the Government needs to establish robust processes to consult with regional New South Wales, to be able to understand what is happening in communities and what those communities want to happen. Thirdly, it needs to provide the services and amenities in regional areas that make them better places to live. Do not make people drive for hours for services our city cousins take for granted. Fourthly, it needs to make good on its January 2021 commitment to allow public servants to work remotely. That will add income to regional communities. That commitment was made by the former Deputy Premier in January 2021, and we are still not seeing public servants with the ability to work remotely.

SMALL BUSINESS

Mr TIM JAMES (Willoughby) (17:33): I speak on the importance of small business to our local communities, including my electorate of Willoughby, and to our State at large. Importantly, small businesses, which make up 98 per cent of all businesses in this State, are the lifeblood of enterprise across New South Wales. The benefits of small businesses are many and varied. They create job opportunities; they see money circulating

in the local communities; they keep taxes closer to home; they build community identity and contribute to the community in their own right; they innovate and diversify the local marketplace; and they benefit our environment. In short, small businesses are therefore also the heart and soul of our local communities.

Small businesses have had to endure extraordinary challenges and adversity over the past few years. The COVID-19 pandemic has had devastating effects on small businesses in New South Wales, and Willoughby businesses were certainly not immune. I am proud of the efforts of the New South Wales Government to support small business in New South Wales, particularly in the wake of the pandemic. To its credit, the Government sought to ameliorate some of the impacts with initiatives designed to cushion the blow and support businesses through the pandemic, and then help them get back onto their feet. I particularly draw attention to the successful Dine & Discover program, which not only benefitted consumers but was much welcomed by small businesses across Willoughby. From local dining venues in Crows Nest to entertainment venues in Chatswood, it has provided a much-needed and sustained boost of over \$14 million to local Willoughby businesses. This has been supplemented by the Stay NSW and Parents NSW voucher programs.

To make life easier for small business during the pandemic, the New South Wales Government also raised the payroll tax threshold to \$1.2 million and cut the headline rate to the equal lowest in the nation, saving thousands of businesses tens of thousands of dollars, and many paid no payroll tax at all. Despite the challenging environment, the number of small businesses in New South Wales actually grew by 4 per cent last year, a testament to the recovery and the success of the support mechanisms the Government has placed under small businesses.

There is some great news in this year's budget, with funding allocated to the NSW Small Business Commission to boost mediation and support services for small businesses and to provide ongoing support for their recovery from COVID-19. There are also great initiatives to help women-led small businesses, with personalised and tailored support to help them to start, adapt and grow their operations. This Government is giving small businesses the tools they need to succeed. And there are more vouchers for New South Wales families with schoolchildren, which will in turn further support small business across New South Wales.

I also acknowledge the former Morrison Government's support for small business. In April, then Treasurer Josh Frydenberg delivered a budget with a plan to support small and family businesses. It included support for training staff and considerable small business tax deductions. In addition to these initiatives, the Morrison Government presided over an extraordinary post-pandemic economic recovery, with unemployment falling to a 50-year low of just 3.9 per cent. This economic recovery augers well for small business growth in both New South Wales and the Willoughby electorate. Willoughby is home to a thriving, enterprising and exciting business community with the commercial and retail centre of Chatswood at its heart, where I got my first job, back in 1992.

Beyond Chatswood, Willoughby features many local shopping strips and villages comprised largely of small and family-owned businesses. These local street and village strips mean so much to local people and communities. There are many people and organisations in my electorate involved in promoting and supporting small business, including the Chatswood Chamber of Commerce, of which I am a member; Artarmon Village Incorporated; and the Neutral Bay Chamber of Commerce. I express my gratitude to these bodies and their leaders and members for the work they have done, and continue to do, to support businesses in our local community.

I am proudly involved with all these local organisations and pursuing projects to grow business in Willoughby. Small businesses are not only the lifeblood of our community but also the engine rooms of our State economy. I will be, have been and will always seek to be a firm advocate for their interests. I will partner closely with local chambers and all business stakeholders and leaders to promote economic growth and job opportunities across Willoughby and New South Wales. Over the past two years our businesses have borne the brunt of the pandemic, and I will be a strong voice for their recovery, sustained growth and a brighter, better future with this Government's support. I recognise and thank once again all those in and supporting small business across Willoughby and New South Wales.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Ms SOPHIE COTSIS (Canterbury) (17:38): I take this opportunity to discuss the local impacts of a truly global catastrophe unfolding before our very eyes. I am, of course, discussing climate change. I am privileged to be here before you as part of a generation of Australians; the next generation will feel the full force of climate change. Like many Australians, I am very anxious about the future of climate change effects, particularly in our local environment and for our kids. Like many members in this House, and like many in my community, I am a parent and I care deeply about the future prosperity of our children. I am very anxious about our children's future and what it will look like, particularly in our urban areas where a lot of planning decisions have been made without taking into account the very important issues of climate change policy and how we can do better when governments make planning decisions.

The science is in. We all know that the science is in and it is settled. I will briefly discuss what the science has to say and what it means for our kids and local community. The statistics show that if global temperatures increase by three degrees, a six-year-old in 2020 will, compared to somebody born in 1960, experience in their lifetime twice as many bushfires and cyclones, four times as many floods, five times as many droughts and 36 times as many heatwaves. Though climate change is happening on a global scale, many members will know from firsthand experience what climate change looks like on a local scale. Just ask my very good friend the fantastic member for Lismore and many other colleagues who have experienced bushfires, drought and floods. I have seen how hard they have worked to get resources, working day and night for their communities.

The only thing tougher than the extreme flood events and bushfires in these areas is the spirit of the people. In my electorate I have the beautiful Cooks River as a natural border. As beautiful as it may seem, it has been destructive over the last hundred years. It creates flood risks throughout my electorate. It has property owners and tenants worried every time there is heavy rain. As I have mentioned, statistics tell us that extreme wet weather events will only worsen progressively as the climate continues to change. This presents an unacceptable flood risk in my community that needs to be addressed by all levels of government. I am very glad that there is a new Federal Labor Government that will address many of these issues. The three levels of government working together at a local level is very important in my electorate.

Not only are floods a risk to people but they are also a risk to the vulnerable and endangered native vegetation along the Cooks River. Through his answer to my question on notice, the environment Minister identified floodwaters as a risk to the already vulnerable and endangered native vegetation along the Cooks River. We have been working very hard with our local volunteers. I want to thank all of them for their hard work. We still have a lot of work to do with respect to naturalising the Cooks River and making its banks a place where people can go and where we can have better cycling and footpaths. Again I am calling on the Government for a plan.

I know that a coastal management plan is being worked on. I acknowledge Minister Tuckerman, who I spoke with today with respect to some issues around sheet metal piling along the Cooks River. I am awaiting a number of actions. I want to let my community know that I have been working on their behalf by urging the Government to re-naturalise the Cooks River; preserve the Wolli Creek Regional Park by recognising it as a national park, which is something Labor has been calling for; maintain the Parry Steps in Earlwood; relocate the odour control unit along the Wolli Creek; and ensure the permanent transfer of the land at Jackson Place, Earlwood, into the Wolli Creek Regional Park. I will have more to say, and I thank the House for the opportunity.

THE HILLS SHIRE COUNCIL LIBERAL PARTY COUNCILLORS

Mr RAY WILLIAMS (Castle Hill) (17:43): An issue that I have raised previously in this House concerns the undemocratic political processes of the Liberal Party regarding the choice of candidates for the local government elections held in The Hills shire during December 2021 last year. At these council elections, the former popularly elected mayor Michelle Byrne and six sitting Liberal councillors were replaced by the Liberal Party State Executive without the usual preselection processes normally afforded to such positions. Given that no response by the Liberal Party has to date been provided to these former good community representatives, and the general community, I again raise this matter.

The previous mayor, Michelle Byrne, and the former councillors of The Hills shire were held in extremely high regard by my community, so their removal came as a complete shock. By way of background, the Liberal Party State Executive chose to endorse new Liberal councillors, some living outside the area, to run at The Hills council elections last December without a reason or excuse ever provided to those six sitting councillors and mayor, who were subsequently replaced. Allegations have been raised with me that senior people within the New South Wales Liberal Party, a member of the Liberal Party State Executive and former Hills councillor, were supported financially at the time by a large developer by the name of Jean Nassif, who owns Toplace. Toplace has one of the worst records in the residential building industry. According to media reports, Toplace continues to produce faulty apartments with serious building defects across the Sydney metropolitan area, including in my electorate of Castle Hill.

Apparently prior to the council elections Jean Nassif of Toplace met with Christian Ellis and other senior members of the Liberal Party, who were paid significant funds in order to arrange to put new councillors on The Hills Shire Council who would be supportive of future Toplace development applications. Christian Ellis is the owner of a lobbyist company and at the time a Liberal Party State Executive member who listed Toplace as one of his major clients. It has been well documented that Jean Nassif of Toplace had purchased a number of properties between Highs Road and Glenhope Road, Castle Hill, for the amount of \$250 million. Once purchased by Toplace, the company then sought a planning proposal through The Hills Shire Council for thousands of new high-rise apartments to be constructed on this land, with some apartments to be above 20 storeys in height. The proposal raised the ire of the community and was quite rightly refused by both the council officers on The Hills Shire

Council and the NSW Department of Planning and Environment local planning panel, but the proposal was wholeheartedly supported by certain councillors at the time.

Hills councillors have raised with me that one previous councillor—who is now a member of the New South Wales Parliament—actively supported the Toplace development proposal during this time, apparently arranging meetings with The Hills Shire Council staff together with Toplace consultants, speaking favourably during council meetings on behalf of the Toplace planning proposal and caucusing with Liberal councillors in order to obtain support for Toplace. The former councillor was also mentioned on the Ray Hadley 2GB radio program as organising some of the new councillors for The Hills Shire Council. One of the newly elected councillors, Virginia Ellis, is employed as the electorate officer on behalf of this member of Parliament, and incidentally is the mother of Christian Ellis. Needless to say, these are very serious allegations.

If Christian Ellis, senior members of the Liberal Party, a former councillor and now member of the New South Wales Parliament, received financial benefit from Jean Nassif of Toplace in order to put new councillors on The Hills Shire Council who would subsequently be supportive of development applications on behalf of Toplace, then my community has good reason to be very concerned. This issue must be investigated. However, due to the inherent conflict of interest that currently exists with members of the Liberal Party State Executive, only an external investigation will substantiate these allegations, or ultimately refute them. I will have more to say about these matters in the future.

PORT MACQUARIE SOUTHERN BREAKWALL

Mrs LESLIE WILLIAMS (Port Macquarie) (17:47): I inform the House of an exciting project to upgrade one of Port Macquarie's most iconic landmarks. The New South Wales Government has committed more than \$5 million to undertake urgent maintenance works of the Port Macquarie southern breakwall. The breakwall was built over a period of 40 years, with construction starting in 1897 and completed in 1939. All breakwalls across New South Wales need regular routine maintenance to ensure that they continue to be structurally sound and provide their intended navigational safety benefits. This type of maintenance activity is critical to ensure the heads of breakwalls along the New South Wales coast remain structurally sound and to maintain their integrity, given the extreme wave climate to which they are subjected.

The last major maintenance of the Port Macquarie southern breakwall was carried out in 2015 on the head of the breakwall to repair damage caused by a major weather event. Subsequent to that, in 2016 Port Macquarie-Hastings Council undertook community consultation on upgrade plans it had developed. The concept plans were designed to maximise the use of the breakwall, which as we know is very popular with visitors and locals. In 2018, Port Macquarie-Hastings Council voted to write to the then Minister for Lands and Forestry, the Hon. Paul Toole, reminding him of the significant community consultation undertaken by council on the department's behalf and requested the commencement of this long-overdue priority project.

I note that Mayor Peta Pinson voted in favour of that motion, clearly indicating her support for the upgrade. Now essential maintenance needs to be carried out again due to rocks having settled and shifted over time, creating voids that compromise the effectiveness and stability of the structure. At the same time, Transport for NSW Maritime is also undertaking enhancement works, including widening the shared pathway and improving lighting and access as well as installing a fishing platform in line with council's concept plan. I find it peculiar that the mayor is now saying there has not been enough community consultation and, further, rallied to have the project halted. What I also find somewhat incongruous is that on Tuesday she made this statement, in the midst of a community consultation period on the design proposal, just metres away from the maritime information stand at Town Beach Park. I implore any councillor who has concerns about this or any other State Government project to contact me so that I have an opportunity to address their apprehensions.

Over the past weeks I have gone to great lengths through local and social media to encourage people to make a submission or to attend one of the numerous information sessions for people to have their say. I certainly will not support any delays in the commencement of the upgrade works, but what I will do is use appropriate channels to ensure that the concerns of the local community are taken into account. This week in Parliament I have taken the opportunity to meet with the transport Minister, David Elliott, as well as senior managers of Transport for NSW Maritime. They have assured me that all issues that I have raised on behalf of the community will be considered carefully. I certainly expressed concerns raised in relation to the removal of the Norfolk Island pine trees and staff have assured me that during an upcoming site visit they will review the width of the path and consider other design options in consultation with council to retain as many trees as possible.

In relation to the concerns regarding the impact of any works on the surf breaks, I assure the surfing fraternity that we are committed to working with them to ensure that their fears are allayed. The memorial plaques on some of the rocks are especially significant and Transport will be arranging for the safe and careful removal of the plaques before upgrade work starts in the first half of 2023. The plaques will be stored while arrangements

are made for their collection so they can be handed back to families. In closing, I thank residents who have made submissions on the project design, understanding that this maintenance work must be carried out to protect the integrity of this navigational infrastructure, while at the same time enhancing a popular shared walkway on the Hastings River. Listening to the community and acting on their concerns will be my continued focus, as well as ensuring that this important upgrade is delivered in a timely manner.

CAMDEN ELECTORATE SCHOOL LEADERS

Mr PETER SIDGREAVES (Camden) (17:52): Last month I had the privilege to host the Camden primary school student leaders New South Wales Parliament House visit over three days. The students demonstrate the core values of their school, represent and focus on being the voice of their peers. They commit to what needs to be done and inspire confidence in those around them so that challenges can be overcome. The students exhibit empathy towards others, endeavour to bring about change and have a willingness to take risks on new ideas that can encourage greatness. Each school believes its group of students have all these essential qualities to lead their peers in 2022.

It was my pleasure to have the students here in Australia's oldest parliament, the Parliament of New South Wales. The morning started off with a meet and greet, followed by a very filling morning tea of banana bread with honeycomb butter, assorted fruit, orange and apple juice, water, and tea and coffee. The feedback from the morning tea was "out of this world" and "best banana bread ever". I thank the parliamentary catering staff for their efforts and delivery of the delicious morning tea that helped contribute to making each visit such a success. After some questions about the very historic and intriguing Jubilee Room, our future leaders and I headed off to the Legislative Assembly. I thank Peter Tuziak for leading the tour. I can say with great confidence that everybody there was impressed by Peter's engagement, humour and professional manner. The students enjoyed the role play and the opportunity to put me as the member for Camden "on a call to order". I can guarantee that I have never been called to order.

I send my sincerest thankyou to the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, the Hon. Jonathan O'Dea, MP, for his presence in the Chamber. The students and I appreciated the Speaker taking the time out of his busy schedule to make the day just a little more memorable for our future leaders. We then proceeded to the Legislative Council Chamber for a tour and were greeted by Ethan, with students given more opportunities for role play. The students learned more about the history of Parliament dating back to the 1800s. Ethan vigorously answered numerous questions and took lead of the mini role play. I thank Ethan for his time and for the information that he provided the students. After a few more questions and reflection on what the students learned, we farewelled our leaders, teachers and staff on a very successful and information-filled day.

I thank Camden Public School, Narellan Public School, Barramurra Public School, Broughton Anglican College, Elderslie Public School, Austral Public School, Mount Hunter Public School, Camden South Public School, Mount Annan Christian College, St Clare's Catholic Primary School in Narellan Vale, Bringelly Public School, Bellfield College, Oran Park Anglican College, Leppington Public School, St Gregory's College Campbelltown and Spring Farm Public School student leaders, teachers and staff for their attendance over the three days. The New South Wales Parliament is unique and exists for all of us. It was a privilege to spend this experience with them. All students who attended showed exceptional skills as young leaders and were all great examples of the high calibre of students who attend schools within the Camden electorate. I also take this opportunity to wish all of them the best as they lead their schools through the duration of 2022.

STATE BUDGET AND MAITLAND ELECTORATE

Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland) (17:56): I speak about some of the issues in the new budget relating to the Maitland electorate, particularly the integrated community health and mental health building, a \$22 million dollar building that has received \$500,000 of planning money. I thank the Minister for Health for that, because I have raised it with him. There are some 150 health workers in Maitland in community health and community mental health. It is good to be collocated around the hospital but not necessarily in the hospital to deliver those services. That is really important. Because in 2014, before I was elected, the Liberal-Nationals Government cut community mental health in my electorate. We have seen the price of that over the past eight years.

The impact on people has been terrible—people who previously could go to a community mental health service and get those services without necessarily having a Medicare card or going through paperwork. When people in the community are in crisis, sometimes they need to be able to access those services quickly. I hope that we will get an integrated community health and mental health building that provides those services. Like everything in the budget, we need to make sure that it is not just a \$22 million building for the big sizzle of the media release and then only \$500,000 for planning. I would like to see the forward estimates for this project to establish when that money will hit the ground because at the moment the date is 2026 and we need it way before

then. People working in health in Maitland are scattered across the city which is inefficient. Some of them are working in very old facilities that have been falling down around them, so it is important that we get the project.

The other big initiative in the budget is Gillieston Public School. We have \$1.73 million for that which, I gather, is just going to planning. Perhaps, hopefully, at last we can get the toilets at that school connected to town sewer. Hopefully we can get proper fencing and not rural fencing across the road from brand new developments. I have talked in this place about this school for seven years now. I am so pleased that we finally have an admission from the Government after the education portfolio committee in the other place attended the school during June to highlight how bad it was. I say a big thankyou to all of the parents who have been involved in that campaign, particularly Katie Ferguson and Todd Sellers, who have been at the forefront of that. The portfolio committee received 30 written submissions about that school. Four parents spoke to the committee directly, either face-to-face in Parliament or over Zoom. It has been important to have that community backing.

We want to know how much more we are going to get for that school. I have asked the Treasurer and I am asking for meetings with the education Minister, which I have not been able to get. The Government says it will be a redevelopment. Is that a \$70 million or a \$30 million redevelopment? Are they going to rebuild the school on the site? What are they going to do? The community deserves to have the plan. Half the kids in the communities of Gillieston and Cliftleigh who are going to public schools are not going to Gillieston Public School. We know why the other schools in the Maitland electorate are already overcrowded. Because students are all leaving this school. We need to make sure that they go back there.

I will talk about two more issues. One is social housing which is really important. I am incredibly disappointed. The budget provides \$108,000 in maintenance for the Maitland electorate. That is \$180,000 on social housing for the whole electorate. That will not even fix the problems in one house in some areas. We have termites and recurrent mould because of building collapse. So I am really disappointed about that. The other thing is the new building and the stimulus money. Some \$6.737 million was allocated to Maitland in 2021-22. It has not been spent. Only \$729,000 of that money will be spent this year—just over 10 per cent. That is the stimulus money. The \$1.493 million that was also allocated again was not spent. The other issue is the Hunter Valley Flood Mitigation Scheme. This affects you, Mr Temporary Speaker, as well. That is \$22 million over eight years. It is a drop in a bucket for a \$900 million entity. It needs more funding. It needs to be twenty-first century.

Bills

BAIL AMENDMENT BILL 2022

Returned

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr David Layzell): I report receipt of a message from the Legislative Council returning the Bail Amendment Bill 2022 without amendment.

[The Temporary Speaker (Mr David Layzell) left the chair, pursuant to resolution, at 18.02. The House resumed at 19:58.]

APPROPRIATION BILL 2022

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL 2022

STATE REVENUE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2022

Returned

The SPEAKER: I report receipt of messages from the Legislative Council returning the bills without amendment.

Community Recognition Notices

MR BRUCE FLINT OF KIAMA

Mr GARETH WARD (Kiama)—Today the Parliament of New South Wales acknowledges Mr Bruce Flint of Kiama and a Member of the Jones Beach Boardriders Club. Mr Flint brought home a trophy for the Men's Over 65 age group at the NSW Surfmasters State Titles (held by Surfing NSW), which took place at Boomerang Beach on the Central Coast on 2-5 June 2022. Bruce has competed in the Surfmasters event for 12 years but this is his first title. He is undecided if he will compete again next year but is now preparing for the NSW Tradies Surfmasters set to be held in October 2022. Congratulations and well done to Mr Bruce Flint of Kiama.

LOCAL PARAMEDIC MR WAYNE CANNON ASM

Mr GARETH WARD (Kiama)—Today the Parliament of New South Wales acknowledges local paramedic Mr Wayne Cannon, ASM, who was recently recognised with an Ambulance Service Medal in this

year's Queen's Birthday Honours list. Mr Cannon from the Special Casualty Access Team with the TOLL helicopter at Albion Park was awarded an Ambulance Service Medal [ASM] for his clinical commitment to excellence in patient care and safety and his role as a remote area instructor. The ASM was launched in 1999 to recognise those who have rendered distinguished service as a member of an Australian ambulance service. This year's recipients are among the many frontline healthcare workers who have been recognised for their efforts during the pandemic and for their continued dedication to the many local communities they continue to serve which great distinction. Congratulations and well done to local paramedic Mr Wayne Cannon, ASM.

JAMBEROO AND JERRARA COMMUNITY LANDCARE GROUP WORKING BEE

Mr GARETH WARD (Kiama)—Today the Parliament of New South Wales acknowledges the Jamberoo and Jerrara Community Landcare Group. The Group hosted a community working bee on Saturday 18 June at Hyams Creek at the Remembrance Garden in Jamberoo. In the Kiama area, Landcare has 10 community groups and one landholder network in Foxground with now in Jamberoo and Jerrara. These local community groups meet monthly to work on public land to control weeds, plant and maintain their sites. There is a social element with many groups staying for refreshments after the work is done. Landcare Illawarra also has a small network of nursery partners who grow plants for these projects and members collect seed. This ensures that any plantings are suited to the local environment. I acknowledge experienced bush regenerator Tracey Allen and Kiama Municipal Council's Byron Robinson for their efforts. Congratulations and well done to the Jamberoo and Jerrara Community Landcare Group.

THE OUTBACK CAR TREK

Mr PHILIP DONATO (Orange)—I wish to recognise the 33rd annual Outback Car Trek. Earlier this month the annual Outback Car Trek made a visiting stop at Parkes along its 3,000km Queensland - New South Wales road trip. There were more than 200 participants travelling in 95 cars registered for this year's annual fundraiser. Along with the touring participants, a hairdressing team from Just Cuts were in tow. The Coachman Hotel hosted participants and locals for the Cut-a-Rama night with Just Cuts stylists clipping hair for the charity. The beers and buzzcuts fundraising event at the pub on the night raised \$13,652. I congratulate the event participants, the volunteer hairdressers, the Coachman's Hotel and the Parkes locals who supported this great fundraising initiative which directs all of the proceeds to the Royal Flying Doctor Service. Well done to all involved.

PARKES DANCE CO

Mr PHILIP DONATO (Orange)—I wish to recognise Parkes Dance Co. The Parkes Dance Co recently conducted a fundraising event to benefit the Ronald McDonald House at Orange. Over the past six years, Ronald McDonald House at Orange has hosted Parkes families as a home away from home while children have accessed much-needed medical services. Parkes Dance Co conducted a week-long dancing initiative, both at their local studio in Parkes and while performing at the Cowra Eisteddfod. The kids amassed 8,200 combined minutes of dancing, with their activity fundraising over \$4,000 for Ronald McDonald House. They fundraised for the Orange-based charity, to help the House continue accommodating sick kids and their families while accessing medical treatment at the Orange Health Service. Ronald McDonald House at Orange has looked after 188 Parkes families over the past six years. Congratulations to the dancers involved for their efforts, and big thanks to the parents, dance teachers, and the broader Parkes community who supported this fantastic charitable initiative, which is for a wonderful and worthy cause. Well done.

JENNY SHARP

Mr PHILIP DONATO (Orange)—I wish to recognise Jenny Sharp, of Orange. Following a remarkable 47-year career as a nurse, Jenny officially retired from her profession last month. Jenny entered her nursing career at Bloomfield Hospital, in 1966. In the years that followed, she transitioned to aged care at Orange's Wontama nursing home. In 1975 Jenny commenced work at the Orange Base Hospital and undertook formal training and studies in general nursing. Jenny remained working at the Orange Hospital ever since and has been an invaluable asset to the health service. She has diligently cared for innumerable frail, sick and injured patients over the course of her near five-decade-long career. Jenny was actively involved in the Hospital's Ball Committee, serving on the committee for 21 years. Jenny and her fellow committee members organised fundraising events, the proceeds of which went towards the purchase of medical equipment. The events were also an important for fostering a positive community-hospital relationship and important social occasions for the hardworking nurses and staff of the hospital. I congratulate Jenny on her long career, being one of the most noble of professions, and I wish her the very best for a well-earned retirement.

CANLEY VALE HIGH SCHOOL – MISSION: POSSIBLE

Mr GUY ZANGARI (Fairfield)—On Friday 20 May 2022, Canley Vale High School took part in their World's Greatest Shave fundraising event MISSION: POSSIBLE to assist families dealing with blood cancer. A few willing students and staff members were sponsored and had their heads shaved, raising over \$3000 which will go to the Leukaemia Foundation and those members of the community dealing with a blood cancer diagnosis. I commend the students and staff of Canley Vale High School who participated in this event, and also those who donated to such a worthy cause.

CANLEY VALE PUBLIC SCHOOL – INTERSCHOOL CHESS COMPETITION

Mr GUY ZANGARI (Fairfield)—On 9 May 2022, the school community of Canley Vale Public School hosted the Interschool Chess Competition. This competition was a celebration of learning where schools come together for an opportunity to play in a competitive tournament setting. The event brought together young chess enthusiasts who were not only able to enjoy playing the game they love but also learned to improve their skills, manage their time and work through strategies. I congratulate Canley Vale Public School chess students for their team win for the day and I commend staff and students for hosting the event.

FAIRVALE HIGH SCHOOL - RECONCILIATION WEEK

Mr GUY ZANGARI (Fairfield)—The Diverse Learning students of Fairvale High School actively participated in Reconciliation Week 2022 activities to show their commitment to the spirit of true Reconciliation. One of these activities was a sea of hands decorated with First Nations art and symbols. These were placed in the garden as a tribute to Reconciliation Week 2022. The students were also fortunate to have a chat with Ms Tammy who spoke to them about what it is like to be an Indigenous Australian. I commend all the students and staff of Fairvale High School for their commitment to marking Reconciliation Week 2022. It is wonderful to see this commitment alive in the community.

KATHLEEN HAMEY

Mr JAMIE PARKER (Balmain)—Today I bring to the attention of the House the life of Kathleen Hamey, a cherished member of the Balmain community and the Balmain Association. Kathleen was well-respected local historian who led tours at the Balmain Watch House and around the area, co-authoring several publications including *Called to the Bar - 150 years of Pubs in Balmain & Rozelle* and *Balmain Peninsula Streets, Lanes and Places 1836-2017*. Kathleen was an active member of Balmain Library Knitters who knit for many charities including Balmain Hospital, and of Balmain Probus Club, Heritage Group of Leichhardt District, The National Trust, Rozelle Native Plant Nursery, City of Sydney Historical Association and Friends of Rookwood. Kathleen helped preserve and restore several important local landmarks, including Clontarf Cottage, Balmain Glasshouse, Ballast Point Park and the former Telstra Exchange site. She and her husband Val were awarded an NSW Government Heritage Award in 2007. Kathleen's dedication to the life and history of this area is deeply felt and missed by many in the local community.

TRANBY NATIONAL INDIGENOUS ADULT EDUCATION AND TRAINING CO-OPERATIVE

Mr JAMIE PARKER (Balmain)—Today I bring to the attention of the House the work of the Tranby National Indigenous Adult Education and Training Co-operative which has been a pioneer in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adult education, training and social action for decades. Thousands of students have graduated from Tranby courses, which are provided in a unique, culturally supportive environment that empowers students to return to their communities with newfound skills and drive. Tranby's heritage campus in Glebe has been an important place of learning, run on principles of communal ownership and self-management. I want to particularly acknowledge the work of all Tranby staff, Auntie Kathy Farrawell, Uncle Wes Marne, Auntie Debbie Higgison, Donna Rawlins, Auntie Barbara McGrady, AECG, Catherine Trindall, Auntie Beryl Van Oploo, Celia Finch, Emily Hill, Auntie Donna Ingram, Emeritus Prof Heather Goodall, Uncle Kevin Tory, Alliance of First Nations Independent Education & Training Providers, Kristy Masella, Koori Radio Gadigal Information Service, Uncle Ray Minniecon, Auntie Margret Campbell, Auntie Glendra Stubbs, Mr Dennis Wilson, Councillor (Waskam) Emelda Davis, Jamie James and Ben Bowen.

BANKSTOWN SALVATION ARMY

Ms TANIA MIHAILUK (Bankstown)—I take this opportunity to congratulate the Bankstown Salvation Army on the success of its Fundraising Concert which was held at Bankstown RSL on June 4. The fundraiser was hosted by Captain Frank Wang and entertainment was provided by Anthony Maaroui, with all proceedings raised from the evening going to support the work of the Bankstown Salvation Army. Captain Frank Wang has worked at the Salvation Army for over six years, providing invaluable support to our local community members. The proceedings raised through the Fundraising Concert will go to aid the Bankstown Salvation Army to deliver the

following services; Courtyard Café, and Bankstown Service Hub, which is a collaboration between Centrelink, FACS Housing, Anglicare, Mission Australia, Metroassist, to assist individuals obtain emergency assistance. The Fundraising Concert was a huge success, and the Bankstown Salvation Army was overwhelmed by the generosity of our local community. I would like to acknowledge the efforts of the Bankstown Salvation Army team in organising a wonderful event, and for their dedication to assisting individuals in need in our local area.

CHESTER HILL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

Ms TANIA MIHAILUK (Bankstown)—I take this opportunity to congratulate Year 9 students, Amina Rezaie and Zainab Fade of Chester Hill High School for being among 70 New South Wales recipients of a scholarship worth more than \$20,000 to help them stay, and excel, in school. The scholarships are awarded to girls demonstrating high potential, who are experiencing low socio-economic circumstances, through the Harding Miller Education Foundation. The scholarship will provide the girls with a new laptop, high speed internet connections, tutoring, career guidance and support to help cover the costs of uniforms, books and school expenses. Amina's goal for this year to keep up her good grades and Zainab's goal is to receive an award at the end of year presentation. I am sure they will continue to impress their teachers with their terrific work ethic. I wish to acknowledge Chester Hill High School, Ms Maria O'Hare, and all the teachers and administrative staff for providing immeasurable support to their school students. Congratulations to Amina and Zainab on this well-deserved achievement, and I wish both girls the best of luck in their future endeavours!

YAGOONA PUBLIC SCHOOL - LITTLE WINGS' RETURN AND EARN CAMPAIGN

Ms TANIA MIHAILUK (Bankstown)—I take this opportunity to recognise Yagoona Public School's recent participation in the Little Wings' Return and Earn Campaign, which provides proceeds from the collection of plastic and aluminium bottles to Little Wings in order to help fuel its planes. Little Wings is a non-profit organisation, based at Bankstown Airport, which provides free, professional and safe flight and ground transport services for seriously ill children in rural and regional NSW. Congratulations to Yagoona Public School for being the first school to have received a Little Wings' Return and Earn bin. Well done to all Yagoona Public School students on participating in this terrific initiative, and I hear the program has been a wonderful success! Instead of the bins being picked up once a fortnight as anticipated, Yagoona Public School have their bins emptied a few times each week, well surpassing their goal! I wish to recognise Yagoona Public School Principal, Ms Meaghan Wilson, on her leadership and Ms Haylee Wild, who assisted in organising the program. Thank you all students for their eager participation in the program. I am very proud of the students in my electorate of Bankstown.

SUGARPOP PARTIES

Ms SONIA HORNER (Wallsend)—Nothing can brighten up an event like the presence of face painters, balloon twisters, glitter artists, slime making experts and craft assistants, such as those at SugarPOP Parties. In their expert hands, magical fairies, regal princesses and superheroes come to life at parties across Newcastle. They bring so much joy to local young people, always with some help on hand from special guests including an array of Disney Princesses, Wonder Woman and Supergirl. Now they have been recognised for their extraordinary work. The business, located in New Lambton, was selected as the winner in their category of Sole Operator in the 2021 Hunter Local Business Awards. The Local Business Awards, run by Precedent Productions, were established in 1985 and currently see around 38,000 businesses nominated for an award annually. The awards are well respected and recognise businesses in a variety of categories as successful and outstanding in their local region. In light of this well-deserved recognition, I offer my congratulations to Carly and her team: Jasmine, Shaylee, Tara, Adrianna, Kristal, Kirralee, Imogene, Chloe, Amy, Maddison, Gabby, Charlotte and Rhiannon. Great work, SugarPOP, and here's to many more days of joy and fun!

THE GATEWAY LEARNING

Ms SONIA HORNER (Wallsend)—My thanks to the wonderful staff at Beresfield Public School and Tarro Public School for joining with other Hunter primary schools in the Gateway Learning community. On Friday 27 May, the group held a learning day at Hexham Bowling Club for teachers and early childhood educators which ended up including 170 participants. Aimed at building bridges within the community to help our youngest students transition into school life more easily, Gateway Learning connects early educators, school personnel, kids and their family—as well as specialist services like speech pathologists and behavioural specialists—in the year before kindergarten. By introducing kids to specialist services before school starts, the aim is to develop specific strategies tailored to individual needs which can kick in as soon as school starts. This innovative approach means that less time will be lost waiting for strategies to develop, and new kindy students can hit the ground running as they start school. A big shout-out to Beresfield principal Christie Walandouw and Tarro principal Kelly O'Shea for leading their schools in this very worthy endeavour. Kelly also helped organised the learning day.

WALLSEND MANOR AGED CARE RESIDENT MILESTONES

Ms SONIA HORNER (Wallsend)—When Marian Brunt was ten years old, she and her parents sailed across the world from the United Kingdom to Australia. The year was 1932. As she arrived in Australia, Mrs Brunt sailed under the Sydney Harbour Bridge—which had been opened just two weeks earlier. Like so many other immigrants to Australia, Marian built a wonderful life. On 6 June, she celebrated her 100th birthday with members of her family, the residents and staff of Wallsend Manor Aged Care. She was able to share this momentous milestone with a number of other residents. Other residents turning 90 this year include Barbara Fitzsimmons, Iris Miller, Marie Sporrer and husband Rudi, Mavis Scotman, Elaine Leggett, John Cooper, Vojislav Gavrilovic, Noel Fisher and June Mantle. Joy Stewart, the home's oldest resident, is turning 103 this year. My congratulations to Marian on reaching this milestone, and to her fellow residents who will be marking their own important days this year. My thanks as well to the staff at Wallsend Manor Aged Care for helping Marian to have such a memorable big day.

PETER MCGEOCH

Mr GREG PIPER (Lake Macquarie)—I would like to congratulate Dr Peter McGeoch from Fishing Point on being awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in the Queen's Birthday 2022 Honours List. Peter was recognised for his services to sports medicine, having worked as a physician for the Newcastle Knights in the National Rugby League for more than 25 years. He is also a Life Member of the Hunter-based club. I'd also like to add that Peter and his wife Fiona are highly regarded in the local area, not just among their patients at Woodrising Medical Centre but throughout the wider community as respected General Practitioners. I acknowledge and thank Peter for his ongoing commitment to local sports medicine and the well-being of our community.

FRANK KITCHER

Mr GREG PIPER (Lake Macquarie)—I would like to congratulate Francis Kitcher from Speers Point on being awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in the Queen's Birthday 2022 Honours List. Frank, as he is more commonly known to friends and family, was recognised for his services to rugby league and tennis. Frank was treasurer of the Country Rugby League Referees Association for 40 years and also served as a touch judge during that time. He is a Life Member of the Newcastle Coalfields Referees Association and a former Life Member of the CRLRA, and therefore is now a Life Member of the New South Wales Rugby League Referees Association. I acknowledge and thank Frank for his service and dedication to sport in the Lake Macquarie and Hunter region.

QUEENS BIRTHDAY HONOURS RECIPIENTS

Ms TAMARA SMITH (Ballina)—Today I congratulate three local people on their being recognised in the Queen's Birthday Honours list 2022. Susan Bell, 70, of Skennars Head was made an OAM for her service to the community through a range of roles. An accomplished businesswoman and educator, Susan was a business incubator manager where "mum and dad" companies could seek help to make their business dreams a reality. Marie Taylor of Empire Vale received an OAM for service to community health. The 91-year-old set up the North Coast Ostomy Support Group, aimed at providing support to people who have undergone surgery resulting in external pouch procedures. Thomas Anzac Cummings, 98, of Ballina, was awarded an OAM for service to Ballina, including as a businessman, president of the Ballina Sub-Branch of the RSL, a founding member and president of the Ballina RSL Club, membership of Far North Coast Legacy, in senior roles at the Ballina Jockey Club membership of the Northern Rivers Racing Association and the Ballina Diggers Race Club. He was a Ballina councillor in the 1960s, twice president of the Ballina Lions Club and a director and member of Ballina Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

LYDON MITCHEL (PEAKHURST)

Mr CHRIS MINNS (Kogarah)—I was very pleased to see IRT Peakhurst Retirement Village resident, Lydon Mitchel recognised recently for his volunteer work. Mr Mitchel supports those living in the organisation's three aged care centres and four retirement villages by driving the mini-bus and helping to organise events including mobility aids day. He has also started a regular men's morning tea to encourage village residents to make connections and have a chat, and he regularly discusses possible ideas for improving the residents' lives. It is because of people like Mr Mitchel volunteering their time that so many in our community have an improved life and sense of belonging. A celebratory morning tea was recently held at The Jade Tea House in honour of Mr Mitchel and 37 other volunteers who selflessly donate their time and skills to help others. I would like to thank Mr Mitchel and all the volunteers for being so generous and selfless in supporting others.

HURSTVILLE WAR MEMORIAL CENTENARY

Mr CHRIS MINNS (Kogarah)—A commemoration service to mark the 100th anniversary of the Hurstville War Memorial in Forest Road was held on 27 May, 100 years to the day that it was dedicated by the then Governor of NSW, Sir Walter Edward Davidson, KCMG. South Hurstville RSL Sub-branch honorary secretary, Gordon Blair has been researching the background of the Hurstville memorial and found that at the time it was built in 1922 there weren't many memorials in NSW, though many were erected in the ensuing years. The Hurstville memorial is dedicated to and honours the local men and boys of Hurstville who went to fight in World War I. The cost of the memorial was one thousand pounds and it was raised from the proceeds of a town fair held in Forest Road in February 1920. Mr Blair invited descendants of the WWI Diggers listed on the memorial to attend the commemoration service. I would like to sincerely thank Mr Blair for his tireless work in researching the memorial and also for organising the centenary service.

KOGARAH HIGH SCHOOL

Mr CHRIS MINNS (Kogarah)—Congratulations to the Kogarah High School senior student leadership team who have worked tirelessly to support the values of the school: respect, responsibility, resilience and reflection, promoting these daily through their actions and regularly in assembly. Particular congratulations go to Ali Samhat, Maddison Kelly and Tanan Zandansharav for their awareness-raising of significant events and initiatives in the community including Harmony Day and Valentine's Day. I would like to acknowledge and thank the time and effort that the senior student leadership team has invested organising engaging events for the school community, including fund-raising for charities such as the Cancer Council through the World's Greatest Shave Event and in support of students in North Coast schools suffering from the impact of the recent devastating floods. Their contributions have enhanced the engagement and sense of belonging of all students at Kogarah High School. Well done to the students on their great efforts and for their community spirit. I would like to wish them all the best for a bright future.

STAR STRUCK

Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland)—Congratulations to all the performers, directors and others who participated in Star Struck 2022 - it was truly Iconic! Star Struck is a performing arts extravaganza presented by Newcastle, The Hunter and Central Coast areas of the NSW Department of Education. In line with this year's theme (Iconic) the students took the audience on an epic journey of music representing iconic musicals, singing legends, fashion and fun. Star Struck is an important rite of passage for thousands of Hunter youngsters over the past three decades, and celebrated its 30th anniversary this year. Rehearsals have been underway for months for the performing arts extravaganza, which was held at the Newcastle Entertainment Centre. Whilst affected by Covid in recent times, the talented pupils were keen to return to the stage again and the show was wonderful! Students from thirteen primary and high schools from the Maitland electorate participated, including Ashtonfield Public, Bolwarra Public, Francis Greenway High, Gillieston Public, Hunter River Community School, Maitland Grossman High, Maitland High, Maitland Public, Morpeth Public, Rutherford Technology High, Telarah Public, Thornton Public and Woodberry Public. Well done to all the students, their teachers and parents and carers who supported them to get there!

UNDER 18'S GIRLS RUGBY

Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland)—Maitland was proud to host the Under 18's girl's NSWJRU State Championships rugby event which saw Sydney University come out victorious defeating Randwick 28-15, congratulations to all players on their efforts and congratulations to the winning team. It was a pleasure to see Maitland's Marcellin Park sports ground being used to host the event. The Marcellin Park Sports Ground Maitland is home to the much-loved Maitland Rugby Club- the "Maitland Blacks". The Maitland Rugby Club, Australia's second oldest rugby club and over the years has seen grand final wins for the club and many first games for Maitland's youth. The ground has received a number of grants over the years, for which I have been very pleased to recommend them, including to upgrade their power and transformers, and lighting towers. They recently received a Federal Government Community Sport Infrastructure Grant for netball courts, a multipurpose centre and indoor swimming pool. I want to thank the Maitland Rugby Club and Todd Sheldon Committee Member of Maitland Junior Rugby Club for giving me such a warm welcome as well as the honour of presenting the Under 18's girl's NSWJRU States Championship medals on the day. Well done ladies!

MAITLAND WELCOMES 63 NEW AUSTRALIAN CITIZENS

Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland)—On 31 May I was represented by Councillor Stephanie Fisher, Maitland City Council at Maitland City Council's Australian Citizenship Ceremonies which saw 63 permanent residents become Australian Citizens. I thank Councillor Fisher for her assistance in celebrating this momentous day for Maitland's New Citizens. The ceremony marks a special chapter in each and every new citizen's migration

story and their ongoing commitment to Australia and our shared values. I would like to extend a warm welcome to this latest cohort of new Australian Citizens, who have joined us from 18 countries including Afghanistan, Britain, Ghana, Hong Kong, India, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines, Russia, Scotland, South Africa, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand, United States of America, Vietnam, and Zimbabwe. Their presence and contribution to the Maitland community has been positively felt and goes a long way to further enriching the diversity and multiculturalism of Maitland. It's wonderful to have these people and their families in the Maitland community as proud Australian Citizens, continuing to contribute to the economic and social development of our community. Congratulations and welcome!

DAVID & ANGELA WATERS - TARRANGOWER MERINOS, HILLGROVE

Mr ADAM MARSHALL (Northern Tablelands)—I recognise David and Angela Waters for winning a fifth Ermenegildo Zegna Wool Trophy and taking first place in the Australian Superfine Wool Growers' Association fleece competition in the 80s class, first place in the New England Region and Grand Champion Fleece for 2021/2022. The Waters' winning bale scored for their 15 micron entry, for yield, strength and an average fibre length of 90 millimetres. Adding to the score was the conformity of length, trueness of type and excellence. The Waters generally shear 2,000 sheep and breed and sell their own rams. They look forward to a profitable future in superfine wool with increasing processing demand, clothing turnover, and rising prices. I am proud of wool growers in New England as being the best in the world. I congratulate David and Angie for their spectacular win among a very competitive wool judging. I commend Tarrangower Merinos of Hillgrove for adding value to the Australian wool industry.

NEW ENGLAND TRAINING AWARDS WINNERS

Mr ADAM MARSHALL (Northern Tablelands)—I congratulate the Northern Tablelands trainees and apprentices who were recognised at the New England 2022 NSW Training Awards in Tamworth last Friday. Armidale local, Emma Pearson took out the Vocational Student of the Year. Emma has always had a desire to enter the agriculture industry and a certificate IV in Wool Classing taught her the stages of wool production and provided her with a 'hands on' approach in other wool growing and stages of production. Inverell's Warren Julius took out the VET Trainer of the Year Award for his unique and engaging training delivery style. Another Inverell local, Lachlan Butler, took out the Apprentice of the Year for his enthusiasm, reliability, and willingness to learn. Lachlan commenced his apprenticeship following his HSC year and is now the youngest Team Leader in his company. Uralla Central School student Tara Vickery won School-based Apprentice/Trainee of the Year. Tara is undertaking a certificate III in Health Services Assistance. All the winners will now progress to the State final. I congratulate all the Northern Tablelands winners and wish them all the best in the final and in their future careers.

JESSICA MARSHALL - BOOTHILL BRAIDS

Mr ADAM MARSHALL (Northern Tablelands)—I recognise Jessica Marshall of Gravesend as a young entrepreneur heading for a bright future. Jessica's love of horses led to an unexpected foal, which led to the need for an impromptu halter, which led to discovering that she really enjoyed making rope halters. Her natural enthusiasm led to exploring ways to enhance the halters with colour which proved popular. Jessica started securing a steady stream of customers and she named her business Boothill Braids. Jessica knows that people with horses like a little colour in their gear and she expanded to making reins, bridles, breastplates, ute chains and dog collars. Jessica is employed by an agricultural company, she is now running Boothill Braids and she plans to start university in Armidale to become a teacher. This is a young woman on the go who loves the bush and hopes to remain in Gravesend to teach. I congratulate Jessica on creating Boothill Braids. I commend Jessica on her business sense, her craft, and her general enthusiasm for life and her future.

PHIL MCDONALD

Mrs SHELLEY HANCOCK (South Coast)—I would like to acknowledge Phil McDonald local Mollymook resident and congratulate him for setting a new world record earlier this year in support of the Stroke Foundation. The Stroke Foundation is lucky to have a world record holder to help promote Australia's biggest blood pressure check campaign. Earlier this year Phil broke a world record in boxing. Boxing 151 three-minute rounds to raise stroke awareness, the Mollymook resident broke the record to honour his dad Jim who passed away from a stroke in 2021 and he did an incredible job. Phil's fight to support and raise awareness doesn't end with breaking the world record, Phil has since become a Stroke Foundation ambassador and his passion for the cause remains strong. Congratulations again Phil McDonald what great news I couldn't think of anyone more passionate to be a stroke foundation ambassador, you are a great role model encouraging others to get themselves checked for possible stroke signs.

2022 OCEAN SWIM

Mrs SHELLEY HANCOCK (South Coast)—I would like to congratulate and acknowledge everyone involved in the 2022 Ocean Swim hosted at The Mollymook Surf Life Saving Club and how much of a great successful event it was. With a total of 132 swimmers participating in the swim the day ran smoothly with no dramas, the beach conditions were calm and great for both competitors and spectators. Organisers, club vice-captain Mick Hendry and Lewis Betts were very happy with the event. Betts said the Mollymook swim is a very popular choice for many swimmers with more and more locals getting involved each year. The event is raising funds for a local organization called Safe Waters, a charity focused on supporting vulnerable people by relieving poverty and social isolation and addressing issues within the local community through expressions of love, compassion and hope. What a spectacular event raising funds for vulnerable people, congratulation again for this successful event and thank you to the organisers and volunteers who put on this great day at Mollymook, we look forward to next year.

TWEED VALLEY LOYALTY CARD

Ms JANELLE SAFFIN (Lismore)—I wish to acknowledge the success of the Tweed Valley Loyalty Card. This is a fantastic program that offers locals vouchers to spend at businesses in the Tweed Valley as part of the recovery effort from the floods. A special acknowledgement to Carmen Stewart from It Takes a Town Murwillumbah and Kym Kranen – Senior Economic Development Officer from Tweed Shire Council. Two powerhouse women who have been driving this program. Carmen says that thousands of cards worth up to \$500 have been given out to locals; keeping much needed money in the Tweed Valley economy. The program has been so successful this month that it has been rebranded and expanded. The now called #LoveTheTweed Buy Local campaign has recently attracted an extra 14 businesses to the program. It is pleasing to see over 60 Murwillumbah based businesses are part of the program and are benefiting from this push to buy local. Murwillumbah and Tweed Valley Villages have a diverse range of outstanding businesses that attract locals and visitors alike. It is fantastic to see this program going from strength to strength. I commend all involved and I encourage everyone as always to shop local.

VALE MURRAY JOHN ROBERTS

Ms JANELLE SAFFIN (Lismore)—I wish to pay tribute to the extraordinary life of respected Wijabul Wiabal Elder and Lismore local Murray John Roberts. Affectionately known by many as JR or Goongie, he was an iconic figure in our community. Known and loved by so many. He was 76. Born on the 8th of June 1946 he dedicated his life to community, family and advocacy. A proud Wijabul-Wiabul man of the Bundjalung Nation and Native Title Holder he spent his life fighting for his people and protecting country and promoting justice for all. I had the privilege of being his friend for many years. Our friendship was forged in our earlier years working in and for community. He was a great public servant and also a Nullingah Aboriginal Land Council Sites Officer. He grew up on Cuabwee near Tuncester Lismore. This helped form JR into an advocate for land rights, racial justice and environmental protection, with his last advocacy act, no Dunoon Dam. Vale Murray John Roberts. Your spirit will live on forever. I was honoured to be your friend. I wish that more people in our community could have known him. I extend my sympathy to his extended family.

CONGRATULATIONS TENTERFIELD HIGH SCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY

Ms JANELLE SAFFIN (Lismore)—I wish to congratulate the fantastic competitors from Tenterfield High School on their outstanding North West Cross Country Results. Tenterfield High had 7 students travel to Coolah to participate in the North West Cross Country trials on Friday 17th June. There were some outstanding performances on the day with students achieving great results. A special mention to following competitors: Heidi Aquilini - 17 years Girls 1st; Taj Cusack - 16 years Boys 2nd; Amber Thomas - 13 years Girls 3rd; Ellie Thomas - 15 years Girls 5th; Isabella Adams - 14 years Girls 9th; Beau Adams - 13 years Boys 13th; Ebony Knox - 15 years Girls 14th. As a result of their performances Heidi, Taj, Amber and Ellie will represent North West at the All Schools Cross Country at Eastern Creek on 22nd July. Tenterfield High School yet again is performing super well and representing their school and community with distinction. We can all feel proud of the students and none more so than their families and teachers. Congratulations to all and a big thank you to the parents who transported their children to this event.

NICHOLAS WITTE (WENTWORTH)

Mrs HELEN DALTON (Murray)—Today I would like to recognise 12-year-old Nicholas Witte of Curlwaa for his sporting passion and his voluntary assistance at various sporting facilities. Nicholas is a junior member of the Wentworth Tennis Club where he also assists with ground maintenance, plays in two Pennant teams and has had success in both singles and doubles in Junior Boys Championships. Being a dedicated member of the Cricket Club in the Under 14's side, Nicholas also trains with the senior men's team where he is always

willing to be a substituted fielder for their team and its opposition if required. Nicholas competes in school-based sports, encouraging others to join in and was part of the school representative soccer team. He was announced the Young Sportsperson of the Year by Wentworth Shire Council earlier this year. I congratulate Nicholas on his fantastic contribution to sporting clubs, encouragement of others and for embracing his community.

LOFTUS ZIRCONS NETBALL CLUB

Mr LEE EVANS (Heathcote)—It was fantastic to recently visit the Loftus Zircons Netball Club to experience first-hand their players training clinic in action. The training program and purchase of new uniforms was supported by the 2021 Local Sport Grant Program. The training clinic was implemented to increase the skill level of their players and coaches. It was encouraging to see the positive outcomes this program is providing to the Club and their members. I take this opportunity to recognise Club President Tammy Moussa, committee members and volunteers for your hard work and contribution to the netball community. I wish the Loftus Zircons Netball Club every success in the 2022 season competition and activities.

PREMIER'S ANZAC MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal)—Allow me to recognise the immense success of Lachlan Middlemiss in being awarded the Premier's ANZAC Memorial Scholarship. This Central Coast student is 1 of 20 successful candidates selected from a pool of over 125 applications for this prestigious scholarship. He is to embark on a two-week historical study tour across stunning NSW, the ACT and Darwin. Here, he will be able to expand his understanding and appreciation of Australian military history by visiting key historical sites, including Armidale, Bathurst, Young, and Jindabyne. With the scholarship designed for students with a keen interest in history, this is an excellent opportunity for hardworking young Australians who have made positive contributions to their communities to partake in an 80-year-strong program. Undoubtedly, Lachlan will make our Central Coast Community proud as he explores our military history in a hands-on, interactive context. Congratulations, Lachlan.

ELSIE'S RETREAT

Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal)—I would like to celebrate the recent investment in palliative care on the Central Coast through funding to the established Elsie's Retreat program. The hardworking team of Judy Maudsley, Margaret Pearce, Oana McBride, Peter Hurley, supported by the Orange Army, largely operate out of a 10-bed palliative care unit which opened at Gosford Hospital in 2021. Elsie's Retreat is focussed on allowing our loved ones to pass with dignity, improving the quality of later life. I am proud to affirm the recently announced \$743 million investment into palliative care. This funding is designed to further support services such as Elsie's Retreat. Therefore, I would like to encourage signatures on extending this essential service to Wyong Hospital. Given the success of the program in providing dignity and quality of later life, the Elsie's Retreat committee are keen to direct part of this investment to a dedicated palliative care unit at Wyong. This sanctuary for our loved ones is the product of commitment and ambition from the Orange Army and the Elsie's Retreat committee. I am proud to support investment into the health and quality of life of our community.

PETER NEGUS

Mrs LESLIE WILLIAMS (Port Macquarie)—Today I recognise the retirement of Secretary Manager Peter Negus from Club North Haven who will complete his last shift on 13 July 2022, closing the door on over seventeen years of club service. Peter Negus joined Club North Haven on 24 January 2005. During his time as Secretary Manager Peter was instrumental in coordinating the 2018 modernisation of the club which included a new TAB Sports Bar section, amenities, coffee station, alfresco gaming and a multipurpose function area. From the onset of meeting Peter I knew the Board had secured an asset. Peter's 'never give up' attitude saw Club North Haven benefit from a \$280,000 Office of Responsible Gambling Grant to construct a state-of-the-art, all-weather bowling complex worth \$800,000. One of Peter's endearing qualities is his love and connection to community. During 2020 Peter initiated Club North Haven's One Million Litres Water Promise for struggling farmers, affected by drought. He has also championed donations to local sporting clubs, Community at 3 for the homeless, flood relief and supported many markets and festivals. On behalf of the staff and members at Club North Haven I thank Peter for his service and wish him well in his future endeavours.

WAUCHOPE-BONNY HILLS SLSC ANNUAL AWARDS PRESENTATION

Mrs LESLIE WILLIAMS (Port Macquarie)—The Wauchope-Bonny Hills Surf Life Saving Club recently celebrated their annual Award Presentation Evening held on 21 May to recognise their dedicated and committed members who live and breathe the organisations ethos of "saving lives, creating great Australians and building better communities." Over the 2021-2022 summer season the Club racked up over 3814 hours of community service and I thank the membership for their tireless efforts. I congratulate the major award recipients; Club President's Award was presented to Ted Strong for rescuing a person in trouble at Cronulla on 18 February this year. Boat Captain's Award went to Nick Player. Coach of the Year was presented to Adam Smith. Under

17 Club Person of the Year was Tia McGrath. Elaine Walker was honoured with the 'Chalkie Bob Smith Award' for Club Person of the Year. Michelle Kirkwood claimed the Volunteer of the Year award. Presented with life membership was Vice-President Jan Clingeffer for her work as Administration Director and the pivotal role she played in securing approximately \$3 million in funding for the new clubhouse in 2010. I congratulate all the members for the work they do each year in patrolling Rainbow Beach.

CHERIE GREEN -STATE REPRESENTATIVE TOUCH FOOTBALL

Mrs LESLIE WILLIAMS (Port Macquarie)—I recognise the commendable efforts of Port Macquarie's Cherie Green for being selected in the NSW over-50's Touch Football team. Described as a stalwart of the game with immense talent on the footy field, local Touch Football player Cherie Green was chuffed to receive the green light recently to represent her state in the over-50's side, following a long legacy of wins over many decades of competition. Now 15 years since the Blues uniform was worn for the women's over 30s team, Cherie feels honoured to see her name once again listed with some of the leading, professional athletes of their age bracket and can't wait to compete in the inaugural New South Wales's over-50 side in Coffs Harbour for the annual State of Origin tournament, held on 19-20 August. Cherie's last state performance was in 2008 and the seventh time since she put on the sky blue, yet the time between representative matches has not deterred the 58-year-old who continues to insert everything into her game to support her team and a chance for victory against Queensland. A dedicated athlete and committed teammate, I wish Cherie all the success in August.

LYNDON MITCHELL

Mr MARK COURE (Oatley—Minister for Multiculturalism, and Minister for Seniors)—Today I thank and congratulate a wonderful member of my local community, Lyndon Mitchell, who recently received a Senior Volunteer award at my 2021 St George Community Awards. Moving to IRT Peakhurst in 2017, Lyndon and his wife Odette quickly became advocates for residents within the facility. Lyndon's decision to bring back the Peakhurst Resident's committee was certainly a welcome one, as it ensured that the lives of residents were improved each and every day. Lyndon has personally secured funding and a number of grants for the village and his excellent communication has meant that things are done in a timely manner. Moreover, Lyndon is a highly respected member of the Peakhurst Retirement Village and is well-regarded amongst staff and residents alike. Aged-care facilities thrive off the ongoing effort of tireless and dedicated individuals and Lyndon is one such gentleman. He is a worthy and deserving candidate of the award and I thank him for all he does for IRT Peakhurst Retirement Village. I would again like to congratulate Lyndon for receiving this award, and wish him all the best in their future endeavours.

RAFAEL 'RAFE' KOWRON

Mr MARK COURE (Oatley—Minister for Multiculturalism, and Minister for Seniors)—I honour and commemorate the life of long-time Oatley Resident, Rafael or 'Rafe' Kowron, who passed away on the 11th April at age 92. Rafe was perhaps best known as one of the original founding members of the Oatley Flora and Fauna society. Thanks to Rafe's astonishing efforts to look after our local environment, the Oatley Flora and Fauna society continues to flourish to this day, and does fantastic conservation work. Rafe started his own repair and service business at Penshurst. I have fond memories growing up locally as a kid, where Rafe came to our place to fix the TV a few times. Rafe and I also served together on the board of the Oatley RSL and his dedication to the local community was evident in this role. I would like to send my sincerest condolences to Rafe's family. He was truly a community hero and will be remembered fondly by many.

SDN RIVERWOOD

Mr MARK COURE (Oatley—Minister for Multiculturalism, and Minister for Seniors)—Today I congratulate a fantastic organisation within our community, SDN Riverwood, who recently received a 2021 St George Community Group Achievement Award. SDN Children's Education and Care Centre has been operating since 1905, providing care to the local community in 1947 when the Riverwood branch was first opened. Their primary focus is the wellbeing, learning and development of children within the local community, all within an inclusive educational environment. SDN Riverwood consistently collaborate with community groups, local council and stakeholders within the community in order to drive a culture of change. For example, they recently worked with the local council and community in order to build a new crossing out the front of their centre. It is so refreshing to have a community organisation within our local area that operates to such a high calibre. I am immensely proud of all the fantastic work they do for the children within our area. I would again like to congratulate SDN for receiving this award, and wish them all the best in their future endeavours.

MICHAEL FORSHAW

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla—Attorney General)—I acknowledge and thank Michael Forshaw for his work as a councillor on Sutherland Shire Council. Michael was a councillor for A Ward (which mostly

falls within the Cronulla electorate) from September 2016 to December 2021, including a year as Deputy Mayor. Michael was, among other things, a member for the Corporate Governance Committee; Shire Infrastructure and Public Domain Committee; and the Shire Strategic Planning Committee. As a member of ShireBiz, Michael has been passionate about educating and connecting the local business community and advocating for economic development in the Shire. In addition to these roles, Michael is a member of the University of NSW's Canberra Advisory Council [ADFA] and currently serves as Chair of Chifley Financial Services Pty Ltd. Michael served as an ALP Senator for NSW in the Federal Parliament from 1994 to 2011. While Michael is in the red team and I am in the blue team, I acknowledge his hard work for and dedication to our local community and his collegiate approach across levels of government to tackling local issues.

MARKO FRANOVIC

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla—Attorney General)—Today I wish to recognise the astounding generosity of Mr Marko Franovic who has donated \$1 million dollars to Sutherland Hospital. Mr Franovic has donated this money for the creation of a new research and education centre at the hospital. This funding will be of direct benefit to many patients along with doctors, nurses and therapists who operate out of the hospital. This donation will also allow for the expansion of the hospital's oncology day clinic as the location of the present research and education space will be used to assist thousands more patients when receiving cancer treatment. Mr Franovic will present his donation at the hospital's 2022 fundraising gala on 25 June 2022 (from which I will be absent with COVID-19). This will make history as the largest donation from an individual the hospital has ever received. Mr Franovic was admitted to Sutherland Hospital with COVID-19 in 2020. He has made this donation as thanks for the care and treatment he received under serious circumstances and illness. I thank Mr Franovic for his enormous generosity in making this donation and the doctors, nurses and healthcare workers who work tirelessly at the hospital.

BARRY COLLIER OAM

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla—Attorney General)—I thank Barry Collier OAM for his dedicated work as a councillor on Sutherland Shire Council. Barry represented B Ward (the majority of which falls within the Cronulla electorate) from 2016 until 2021. Barry served on the Corporate Governance Committee, the Shire Infrastructure and Public Domain Committee, the Shire Services Committee, the Shire Strategic Planning Committee and the Hazelhurst Retreat Board Sub-Committee. He was chair of the Literary Competition Sub-Committee. From 1999 to 2011 and 2013 to 2015, Barry served as the MP for Miranda. He was Parliamentary Secretary to the Attorney General from 2007 to 2010. Barry has contributed to several community organisations including as Patron to the Grays Point Rural Fire Service; Patron, Sutherland District Bowling and Recreation Club; Member for Life, Cronulla-Sutherland Leagues Club; and Member, Woodturners' Guild (Southern Sydney Region). Barry is also the former patron of numerous Shire recreation and sporting clubs and the former President of Kareela Public School P&C. In 2017, Barry was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia for service to the Parliament of NSW, to the law and to education. I thank Barry for his service on council and to the local community.

MEDAL OF THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA FOR MARY THERESA DONNELLY

Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra—Minister for Emergency Services and Resilience, and Minister for Flood Recovery)—I extend a heartfelt congratulations to Mrs Mary Theresa Donnelly on being awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia for her service to the Cootamundra community. Mary was a councillor with the Cootamundra Shire Council between 2004 and 2016. She then became a member of the Local Representation Committee for the Gundagai Shire Council in 2016 and was a benefactor of the Town Clock Restoration. Mary has been involved with the St Vincent de Paul Society of Canberra/Goulburn for 20 years where she has been a volunteer, member and president. Mary is an active volunteer with the Sacred Heart Catholic Parish of Cootamundra through her roles as a member of the Pastoral Council, Special Minister of the Eucharist, Past Representative of the Diocesan Pastoral Council Meetings, Past Coordinator of the Adult Education Courses and Past Committee Member of the Parents and Friends Association at the Sacred Heart Central School, Cootamundra. Mary is a Past President of the Cootamundra Netball Club, Past Member of the Country Women's Association and Supporter of the Cootamundra Cancer Patients Assistance Society. Congratulations once again Mary on a very well earned Honour.

WILLIAM MICHAEL MURPHY AWARDED MEDAL OF THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA

Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra—Minister for Emergency Services and Resilience, and Minister for Flood Recovery)—I extend a huge congratulations to Cowra local Mr William Michael Murphy who was inducted onto The Queen's Birthday 2022 Honours List and received the Medal of the Order of Australia. Michael received this prestigious Award for his many roles within the Cowra Community. These being on the Cowra Community Development Company Ltd where he was the past Deputy Chairman in 1990s and is the current Chair

since 2018. For his service as a councillor on Cowra Shire Council for 12 years, 8 of these serving as the Deputy Mayor. Michael was also the Past Chairman of the Economic Development Committee and Planning Committee and a past member of the Management Committee and Roads Committee. Michael is a current Member of the St Raphael's Parish and served as a member of the Parish Council from 1999 to 2002. Michael is the Past Secretary of Cowra Export Packers and Cowra Rugby Club and the Past Treasurer of Cowra Retirement Village Association and Cowra Sports Council. Michael is a valued Accounted within the Cowra Community and Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand. Congratulations once again Michael a very well-deserved award.

NEVILLE GEORGE PENGILLY ANNOUNCED ONTO THE QUEENS BIRTHDAY 2022 HONOURS LIST

Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra—Minister for Emergency Services and Resilience, and Minister for Flood Recovery)—I extend my congratulations to Mr Neville George Pengilly of Cowra on receiving a Medal of the Order of Australia and being announced onto The Queen's Birthday 2022 Honours List. Neville was awarded this prestigious award for his involvement in countless community organisations, groups and businesses within the Cowra Region especially with his involvement with the Cowra Uniting Church where he has been the Lay-President and Chairperson of the Church Council since 2007, Manager of the Church Hall, Parish Elder, Parish Secretary and a volunteer with the Cowra Food Hall. Neville is a current member of the Cowra Clergy Group, Member of the Pastoral Team at the Weeroona Aged Care Residence, Representative of the Macquarie Darling Presbytery, Member of the United Protestant Association and former superintendent of the Cowra Sunday School. Neville is also a founding Board member of the Cowra Retirement Village where he has held the roles of deputy chairman and chair. Neville is a former councillor and Deputy Shire Mayor at Cowra Shire Council and former president of the Cowra Chamber of Commerce. Congratulations once again Neville what a worthy recipient of this award.

OVARIAN CANCER AWARENESS

Mr NICK LALICH (Cabramatta)—I applaud the numerous volunteers raising awareness of Ovarian Cancer throughout our communities and the importance of developing an early detection test. At present, there is no proven method to prevent Ovarian Cancer and the prognosis once detected is entirely dependent on the type and stage, in addition to the patients age and health. Ovarian Cancer often presents when it has spread, as there is no screening or early detection tests available for Ovarian Cancer in Australia. Approximately 1460 women are diagnosed with Ovarian Cancer each year. There's a 1 in 85 chance that a woman will be diagnosed with Ovarian Cancer before she is 85. Statistics indicate historically 70 per cent of women who are diagnosed, are already in the advanced stages, with 1 in 4 women surviving past 5 years. Given the absence of early detection testing, many women who undergo exploratory surgery may find they require or have had a complete hysterectomy, to be followed by intense chemotherapy. Even if this process succeeds, there's an 80 per cent chance the cancer will return. With over 1,000 women dying from Ovarian Cancer each year, I commend those giving their all towards the development of early detection tests.

LITTLE GREECE CELEBRATIONS

Ms JO HAYLEN (Summer Hill)—I congratulate the Greek-Australian community, Inner West Council, and all those involved in officially renaming the precinct along Marrickville Road as "Little Greece" and launching the "Hestia's Migration" mural at Alex Trevallion Plaza on the weekend. Designating this precinct as "Little Greece" is just a small tribute to the enormous contribution that the Greek-Australian community have made to Marrickville. Central to the celebration on the weekend was the official; unveiling of "Hestia's Migration" by local artist Ox King. The piece shows ancient Greek goddess Hestia, the goddess of home, leaving Olympus to settle in Marrickville, where she "lights her hearth fire anew" for migrant families. The mural shows Hestia bordered by traditional Greek symbolism, but in green and gold, meshing together the Greek and Australian stories. Seeing people of different cultures coming together to celebrate the contribution of Greek migrants was a reminder of how lucky we are that such diversity continues today. Thank you and congratulations again to the Greek and Marrickville communities on this important milestone. I acknowledge the wonderful Clr Zoi Tsardoulis for her work to organise this event and to celebrate Greek Australians across the Inner West.

YOUR STREET, YOUR PARTY: SUMMER HILL

Ms JO HAYLEN (Summer Hill)—On Saturday 11 June, the Summer Hill community took to Lackey Street for the Your Street: Your Party, Summer Hill! Thank you to Investment NSW, Inner West Council, the 24 Hour Economy Commissioner, and all the organisations and local businesses that made the street party such a success. Locals enjoyed food, drink, creative activities and live performances that ranged from jazz and opera to pop, soul, funk and disco, right Mariachi. Thank you to Cirkus Bizurkus Skool, Andiamo Opera, Phat Brass, the Charlie Finn Trio, Los Romeos Oxidados and more, for keeping crowds entertained throughout the day and bringing Lackey Street to life. There was a variety of delicious foods on offer and many stalls set up by incredible

small businesses in the community to explore. I congratulate the street party's organisers and all of our fantastic local businesses who participated in this successful event and brought the Summer Hill community together for a day of fun and entertainment. It was wonderful to see our beautiful community back together, celebrating all the things we love about Summer Hill.

MARRICKVILLE HIGH SCHOOL HOSTS POST SCHOOL EXPO FOR DISABILITY STUDENTS

Ms JO HAYLEN (Summer Hill)—Thank you to Marrickville High School for hosting the important Post School Expo for Disability Students. On 8 June, the local school invited in over thirty stall holders run by local and tertiary organisations as well as providers that specialise in disability services. Students and their families came to Marrickville from a variety of different high schools across Sydney to seek information on post school pathways and opportunities for students with disabilities. Of the many helpful stall holders, our Inner West Council was also represented, offering materials that support and empower students to participate in local programs and events that recognise their needs. The expo was hosted in the Marrickville High School gym and ran smoothly with the help of a group of wonderful students who offered welcoming meet and greets to visitors attending the event. Those in attendance have commented on how informative the expo turned out for themselves and their children. I congratulate the staff and students of Marrickville High School for their assistance in providing an important community service, as well as all the organisations and service providers who ran stalls.

DEVONSHIRE STREET CHILDREN'S CENTRE

Mr TIM JAMES (Willoughby)—I had the pleasure of visiting the Devonshire Street Children's Centre in Chatswood recently. I was delighted to see first-hand the centre's focus on sustainable food production as part of the Woolworths Junior Landcare program. The children were excited to be in the garden, growing their own food, reaping the rewards of their efforts and eating healthy, nutritious food. The program is inspiring our young people with practical, hands-on projects that teach them to be mindful of their local environment. Located in the heart of Chatswood, Devonshire Street Children's Centre is a long day care centre committed to providing quality education and care for children, families and extended members in the community since 1987. Offering a balance of indoor and outdoor play with nutritional meals, the Centre contributes to the social, emotional, physical, intellectual and language development of children in their early preschool years. I am grateful to the educators of the centre for their diligence, hard work, and care. I thank the Centre, Landcare and Woolworths for their partnership and empowering young people to take an interest in sustainability issues.

MS CRISTINA CIFUENTES AM

Mr TIM JAMES (Willoughby)—I would like to commend Ms Cristina Cifuentes for being awarded Member of the Order of Australia for her significant service to economic and energy sector regulation and consumer protection. Ms Cifuentes has worked both in the public and private sectors and she has demonstrated exemplary efforts through her time with the Reserve Bank of Australia, the New South Wales Treasury and the Australian Securities Commission. As one of Australia's leading infrastructure regulators Ms Cifuentes has made an outstanding contribution as the Commissioner of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission, and as a Member of the Australian Energy Regulator. Her breadth of experience in energy networks and market regulation has played a large role on the international stage in relation to a wide range of regulatory issues. I thank Ms Cifuentes for her service to the regulation sector which has had a significant impact on the lives of many Australians.

EMERITUS PROFESSOR LEIGH DELBRIDGE AM

Mr TIM JAMES (Willoughby)—I would like to recognise and commend Professor Leigh Delbridge for being awarded Member of the Order of Australia for his significant service to endocrinology and medical education. Professor Delbridge is Australia's most experienced thyroid and parathyroid surgeon, completing 500 surgical operations annually. Professor Delbridge is committed to pioneering research and most notably performed Australia's first minimally invasive parathyroidectomy using endoscopic techniques. In education he has a tenure spanning two decades at the University of Sydney as its head of the Endocrine Surgical Unit and the Emeritus Professor of Surgery. Dr Delbridge's vast experience and dedication has made a huge impact on patients who suffer from thyroid disease and other endocrine surgical treatment. He continues to advance surgical techniques and minimally invasive procedures and is a proponent for understanding how the disease occurs. I thank Professor Delbridge for his exceptional contribution to medicine in surgical practice, epidemiological research and education.

MIRIAM LOCKWOOD

Mrs WENDY TUCKERMAN (Goulburn—Minister for Local Government)—Today I recognise the untiring and compassionate commitment to volunteering of Ms Miriam Lockwood. Ms Lockwood was named the 2022 Senior of the Year at the recent Goulburn Mulwaree Senior Festival Awards. The award recognises seniors

that enrich the Goulburn community with their life skills, wisdom and knowledge. Ms Lockwood has demonstrated her unfailing compassion and community spirit through a range of volunteering roles, including the support of Waminda Aged Care, the Anglicare Op Shop, Daffodil Day, Breast Cancer Support Group, St John's Oncology Unit and the Goulburn Blues Festival. Ms Lockwood has been volunteering for over twenty-five years and through this role she has provided many benefits and support for individuals and the community as a whole. The Goulburn region is extremely fortunate and enriched to have community members such as Ms Lockwood. I sincerely congratulate Ms Lockwood on this very well deserved award.

GARRY ROBYNE WHITE - 2022 SENIOR GROUP OF THE YEAR GOULBURN MULWAREE

Mrs WENDY TUCKERMAN (Goulburn—Minister for Local Government)—Today I recognise the outstanding and diligent historical work undertaken by Garry and Robyne White of Goulburn. Garry and Robyne White were named the 2022 Senior Group of the Year at the recent Goulburn Mulwaree Senior Festival Awards. The awards identify and recognise seniors that enrich the Goulburn community with their life skills, wisdom and knowledge. Mr & Mrs White have undertaken an amazing journey over many years researching and archiving the local history of Goulburn. They have built valuable registers, reference books, research tools, and written articles and generously shared this information and resources with students, researchers, archaeologists, documentary makers, developers and many others. This work has captured the interest of many visitors to come and explore and become either acquainted or reacquainted with the rich heritage of the region. The Goulburn region has much to be proud of and the work of Mr and Mrs White is to be sincerely congratulated and acknowledged. It promotes the interest of many people near and far to "reconnect" - the theme for this year's Seniors Festival. I sincerely congratulate Garry and Robyne White on this very well deserved award.

MEETING WITH THE RED CROSS

Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect)—On Thursday 9 June 2022 I met with Joel Mackay, National Coordinator, Policy and Advocacy, and Judy Harper, NSW Justice Lead, from the Red Cross Australia. We had a productive discussion regarding reviewing the current strategy for tackling rising youth knife crime in NSW. The Bureau of Crime Statistics show that minors have been suspected of carrying out one in five stabbings across NSW in 2021. 61 persons of interest investigated by the NSW Police Force last year, relating to knife crime offences, were minors aged between 10 and 17. The key to solving this rising threat in our state is further investment in juvenile justice and early intervention. The Red Cross does a significant amount of early intervention work with young people from disadvantaged backgrounds, especially in our Western Sydney community. Their work has helped many young people avoid a criminal path in their adulthood, inspiring them to grow up to be positive members of our community. Thank you to Red Cross Australia for your advocacy on this issue. I look forward to working with you in the future to enact positive strategies for tackling the threat of youth knife crime in our state.

DIAGEO FACILITY TOUR

Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect)—On Tuesday 14 June it was great to tour the facilities of the Diageo Australia Distillery, in Huntingwood, with NSW Labor Opposition Leader Chris Minns MP, and Deputy Leader, Prue Car MP. The facility distils and bottles over 200 spirit and beers brands including Smirnoff, Johnnie Walker, Bundaberg rum, and other beverages. This distillery located, in the Electorate of Prospect, is the gold standard of local manufacturing in NSW. The facility has provided many jobs for our Western Sydney community with 450 staff employed at the site. Diageo Australia manufactures 80 per cent of products for local distributors, including 2.2 million cases of spirits and 7.5 million cases of premix drinks produced at this facility annually for the Australian domestic market. We need more local manufacturing sites like this facility in NSW. It was also great to meet with the leadership team of this facility including Angus McPherson, Managing Director, Amanda Lampe, Director, Corporate Relations, and Tom Green, Diageo External Relations and Public Policy Manager. Thankyou to Diageo Australia for this tour of your distillery. I look forward to visiting your facilities again and supporting our local manufactures in Western Sydney.

SUPERINTENDENT DONNA MCCARTHY - APM

Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect)—I would like to offer our community's, and my personal congratulations, to Superintendent Donna McCarthy on receiving the Australian Police Medal [APM] on 13th June 2022 as part of the Queen's Birthday Honours List. Superintendent Donna McCarthy was first stationed at Enfield, Burwood and Five Dock Police Stations performing general duties until March 1988, when she transferred to the F District Anti-Theft Squad. She commenced her criminal investigation career at Ashfield Police Station in 1990 and was deployed to Task Force OAK in 1992, being designated as a detective two years later. In 1995, she transferred to South Region Crime Squad, followed by deployments to the Drug Squad, Organised Crime, Homicide and Serial Violent Crime Agency, where she was promoted to the rank of Sergeant. In 2012 she was promoted to the rank of Inspector, transferring as a Duty Officer to the Mount Druitt Local Area Command.

In 2019, she was promoted to the rank of Superintendent at Police Transport Command before transferring as the Riverstone Police Area Commander in 2020. Congratulations to Superintendent Donna McCarthy on receiving the Australian Police Medal. You are a truly deserving recipient of this honour.

THE CIRCLE FOUNDATION COOPERATIVE & MS SARAH LEAVER

Dr MICHAEL HOLLAND (Bega)—I would like to thank the Circle Foundation Cooperative, known simply as Circle, on their creation of a community choir program with help from the Foundation for Regional and Rural Renewal. The vision for a local community choir has come to life after the cooperative received a grant to enhance the social connection, health and wellbeing of people suffering from chronic diseases in the fight to keep people out of hospital. Academic research has shown how singing can help physiologically and psychologically, while also contributing to better mental health and well-being. Examples such as improvement to lung health for those suffering from lung diseases or helping people with Parkinson's disease maintain their vocal capacity for longer. This work could not be done without the support of Moruya-based singing teacher and vocal health coach Sarah Leaver, who will lead the choir and who herself suffers from chronic illness. I thank The Circle Foundation Cooperative and Ms Leaver for their efforts in establishing this new community health, wellbeing, and recovery program and I look forward to attending a meet once the choir is established.

REFUGEE ACTION COLLECTIVE EUROBODALLA – HOPE RISING ART EXHIBITION

Dr MICHAEL HOLLAND (Bega)—I would like to recognise the Refugee Action Collective Eurobodalla for their work in hosting the Hope Rising art exhibition being held in Moruya this month. Coinciding with National Refugee Week, the RAC exhibition is running from June 17 to July 2 at the local Mechanics Institute in collaboration with the Basil Sellers Exhibition Centre. The joint initiative centres around artwork created by refugees and local artists whose creative practice draws from refugee issues. All proceeds from sales at the exhibition will go directly to the artists living in refugee detention in Indonesia. Thank you to the Refugee Action Collective for their fundraising efforts and for continuing to keep the plight of refugees in the community consciousness, especially during a period of such international instability.

MS ANNE SMITH & MS EVE POPELIER-KNIGHT

Dr MICHAEL HOLLAND (Bega)—I would like to recognise two young women who have made a splash in our local community with their creative artwork 'Wave Sculpture' now on display in the Batemans Bay library. Ms Smith and Ms Popelier-Knight were inspired to create the artwork after they spent weeks collecting plastic bottle lids, fishing line, straws and chip packets from Sunshine Bay and Corrigans Beach with their families. At only 6-years-old, these young women are already showing their commitment to help improve the quality of our sea life and natural environment and the importance of recycling. I congratulate these young ladies for their passion and creativity and thank them for being outstanding role models for other children in our community. I look forward to seeing their future artworks and give them my thanks on behalf of the Bega electorate for their continued contribution to helping our local marine life by keeping rubbish out of our oceans.

MOSMAN YOUTH ART PRIZE

Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore)—The Mosman Youth Art Prize exhibition features the diverse talents of local young and aspiring artists and offers them the opportunity to exhibit their work in a public art gallery. This year there were over 200 finalists picked for the exhibition, which featured a variety of media, including painting, sculpture, drawing, printmaking, video, photography, and ceramics. Congratulations to the 2022 Mosman Youth Art Prize winners, Karoun Zouain, Jasper Sewell, Alice Xu, Aryan Sethi, Steven Zheng, Nicole Yang, Selina Rivera, Gabrielle Ip, Iris Hon, Lucy Moore, Risheet Mazumdar, Olivia Blayney, Isabella Wu, Tess Lindsay, Cassidy Mason, Grace Ruan, and Hugh McDonald. I also acknowledge Mosman Art Gallery and Mosman Council for organising and hosting this fantastic initiative, as well as their sponsors, Audi Centre Mosman, the Ken Done Gallery, the Rotary Club of Mosman, ArtSmart, the Australian Watercolour Institute, and the Mosman Art Society. Congratulations once again to this year's finalists and prize winners.

COALITION FOR CONSERVATION CLIMATE SUMMIT

Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore)—I recently had the pleasure of joining the National Conservative Climate Conference hosted by the Coalition for Conservation at Taronga Zoo. This was a chance to hear and engage with many expert speakers, including the keynote speaker, the former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, the Rt Hon. David Cameron. This was an opportunity to discuss a range of issues to help promote effective climate policies and global collaboration. I thank the Coalition for Conservation, an environmental charity that works to advance free-market and market-based solutions that reduce emissions and protect the environment. I want to acknowledge the Coalition for Conservation Chair Cris Talacko, the NSW Minister for Environment and Heritage, James Griffin MP, and many state and federal colleagues from across the country who attended the summit. Congratulations on a successful inaugural National Conservative Climate

Conference. I look forward to seeing the shared ideas translated into effective policies around the country to address the issue of climate change and environmental protection.

MOSMAN CRICKET CLUB – WILL NUTT

Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore)—Congratulations to Will Nutt from Mosman Cricket Club who was awarded this year's Green Shield Bowling Award and Green Shield Player of the Year after a cracking season with the ball. The Whales at Mosman Cricket Club believe that Will, affectionately known as 'Nuttie' has a big future with the club and more widely in cricket. Will was also selected to join the AW Green Shield Team and played in what is regarded as the strongest junior club competition in the world. Many NSW and Australian players have emerged from this competition in the past, including Pat Cummins, Steve Smith, David Warner, Mitchell Starc, Sean Abbott, Stephen O'Keefe and Kurtis Patterson. Congratulations Will and I wish you the best of luck for next season with the whales, and we all look forward to seeing your progress up the grades.

DR KAMARAH POOLEY – QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS LIST

Mr NATHANIEL SMITH (Wollondilly)—The 2022 Queen's Birthday Honours list is out for 2022, and a Wollondilly local and Fire and Rescue firefighter has been recognised and awarded the Australian Fire Service Medal [ASFM]. The award is to recognise the distinguished service by members of the Australian Fire Services, both paid and volunteers. Senior Firefighter Dr Kamarah Pooley from Colo Vale first joined Fire & Rescue NSW in 2012. She is perhaps more than adequately qualified for the role, having completed a Bachelor of Criminology from Griffith University, First Class Honours in Criminology from the university of New England and a PhD through the Queensland University of Technology. There she took a deep dive into youth misuse of fire and received an Outstanding Doctoral Thesis Award for her efforts. She used the valuable knowledge that she has gained to develop an interagency digital training resource to prepare conference convenors, firefighters, police, young people and victims for Youth Justice Conferencing. Having published 15 peer-reviewed papers in the last seven years, she has supported the development of best practice school-based fire safety education programs. I congratulate Dr Pooley thank her for her valuable work!

MENANGLE RFB GM

Mr NATHANIEL SMITH (Wollondilly)—I was honoured to attend the Menangle Volunteer Rural Fire Brigade AGM on the 31st of May. Many of the Menangle brigade members received National Emergency Medals for their service during the 2019-20 Black Summer Bushfires at the AGM. The medals are to recognise the sustained and significant service during that devastating fire season. On behalf of the Wollondilly community, I thank the following recipients for their brave efforts. Alan Agland, Julane Bowen, Leslie Corby, Barry Dunbar, Rodney Harris, Tiffany Hayman, Gary Luke, Connor McFarlane, James McFarlane, Michael McGrath, Micheal McMullen, Gregory Moore, James Nelson, Stephen Rochaix. Their contributions, along with other fellow Emergency Service personnel during that catastrophic period, are greatly appreciated.

EMMA JELIC- WHILELION YOUTH

Mr NATHANIEL SMITH (Wollondilly)—I wish to recognise the impressive work of Pheasants Nest Local Emma Jelic, who is about to embark on a journey to Zimbabwe in July where she will visit local schools as part of the youth services that she delivers in Australia. Emma currently works with 2 high schools and 4 primary schools across the Campbelltown region through an organisation called Whitelion Youth. Her work focusses around helping yr6 and yr7 students and their families with the transition from primary to high school. She supports students to address emotional regulation, managing change, peer pressure, consent and routine all under the lens of trauma informed practice. Having grown up in Zimbabwe, Emma decided to use her upcoming trip to help local government schools by donating supplies and funding and furthermore, hopes to set communication channels between the Zimbabwe schools and the Campbelltown schools, in a 'sister schools' relationship. Emma hopes this will be mutually beneficial to the students in both countries, giving kids here the opportunity of expanding their world view, gaining empathy, and the realisation of the opportunities and support networks they have available to them in Australia. I wish Emma every success!

JACK CONROY

Mrs TANYA DAVIES (Mulgoa)—What a pleasure it is today, that I can come to this place and recognise the talented Jack Conroy of Glenmore Park. Jack was recently nominated for the NSW Government State Representative Award and has since been awarded in recognition of his selection to represent NSW at the 2022 Australian Track and Field Championships. Jack competes as an Under 20 in events such as the 100m, 200m, 400m, 800m, 1500m races as well as shot put, discus and long jump. Quite clearly, Jack is a talented, athletic individual who I am proud is representing our great State. I want to wish Jack well in all his athletic endeavours, it is a tremendous honour to represent your State in a field that you so passionately participate in. I know you will do our State proud and I know you will do our community proud.

JEAN ROWLEY

Mrs TANYA DAVIES (Mulgoa)—Today I would like to take the time to bring attention to Jean Rowley, a Glenmore Park local, who recently celebrated her 90th birthday. I want to pass on my heartfelt congratulations on achieving this milestone. I hope Jean is doing well, and I wish everyone who is approaching the same milestone good health. I hope they reach that same wonderful milestone as Jean has so that I can wish them happy birthday when they reach 90 years of age.

GRIMA'S FARM FRESH

Mrs TANYA DAVIES (Mulgoa)—I would like to congratulate Grima's Farm Fresh, a family farming business located in Horsley Park in my electorate. They have recently been listed as finalists in the 2022 Sydney Markets Fresh Awards for Produce Grower of the Year. Their farm has been maintained for three generations over 20 years. Farmers Steve and Sam Grima can be regularly seen selling their fresh, farm-grown produce in local markets. In 2020, they persevered through the COVID-19 pandemic forcing markets to close by selling weekly fruit & vegetable boxes for customers to collect. The Sydney Markets Fresh Awards recognise best practice and innovations in fresh produce, flower growing, and retailing. Grima's Farm Fresh is competing against three other finalists to be crowned the winning Produce Grower of the Year at the awards night on 29th June 2022. If they win, they will be showered in recognition and awards – including a \$1,000 dollar cash prize and an interview with journalist Chris Bath – with a total value of \$13,400. I along with the rest of the Horsley Park community will have my fingers crossed in hopes for Grima's Farm Fresh's win. Well done, Steve and Sam Grima!

DAVID CHAPMAN

Mr TIM CRAKANTHORP (Newcastle)—Newcastle has lost a business and rugby legend, with David Chapman passing away earlier this month. In recent years David was known as the Managing Director of Chapman Property, which was founded by his own father, but was well-known in his younger years as a hooker for Merewether Carlton Rugby Club and a cricketer for Charlestown. David's involvement with Merewether Carlton was prolific, playing 82 first grade games and 170 other club games, captaining the club to a major premiership in 1989, serving as club captain in 1989 and 1990 and club president in 1992. He was well-regarded as a club leader, carrying those attributes into the family business where he mentored countless proteges including his son, Colin. My sincere condolences go to Margaret, Kirstyn, Gabrielle, Colin and Jarrad. David will be sorely missed.

HUNTER SURF LIFESAVING

Mr TIM CRAKANTHORP (Newcastle)—Congratulations to everyone who contributed to another successful surf lifesaving season across the Hunter, with volunteers giving almost 60,000 patrol hours and conducting 123 rescues, 521 first aid actions and over 25,000 preventative actions. I particularly acknowledge the Newcastle recipients of Hunter Surf Lifesaving awards: Masters Athlete of the Year Jacqueline Doran, Volunteer of the Year Kath Donnelly and Team of the Year Ian Kerr, Paul Hunt, Paul Murray and Peter Wilkinson from Nobbys SLSC, Administrator of the Year (High Distinction) Callan Nickerson and Surf Lifesaver of the Year Brendon Ryman from Stockton SLSC, Merewether SLSC's Healthy Change Challenge as the Community Program of the Year, Heroes of the Surf Molly Breasley and Sam Murland, President's Award recipient Sam Murland, and Youth Surf Lifesaver of the Year (High Distinction) Eliana Watters-Cowan from Cooks Hill SLSC, and Youth Surf Lifesaver of the Year Riley Petherbridge from Newcastle SLSC. Congratulations, and thank you, to all.

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD - MICHAEL BONNICI

Ms ELENI PETINOS (Miranda—Minister for Small Business, and Minister for Fair Trading)—I acknowledge Michael Bonnici of Alfords Point who is the deserving recipient of a NSW Government Community Service Award. Michael is a community champion who at the age of 24 has already dedicated so much of his time and efforts to educating and assisting others. Michael started patrolling Wanda Beach at the young age of 13 and has since volunteered hundreds of hours each year keeping our beaches safe for our local community. Over the years, he has served as Wanda Surf Life Saving Club's Captain, Life Saving Director and Duty Officer for critical incidents. Additionally, Michael is currently the Life Saving Manager for Surf Life Saving Sydney. It is undeniable that Michael is a truly selfless and community minded individual. Michael gives freely of his time and has also volunteered with charities such as Samaritan's Purse, the Australian Red Cross, Meals on Wheels and The Salvation Army. He has also travelled to Cambodia to assist in the building of schools and provide aid to impoverished regions. Michael is an outstanding contributor to our local community and I thank him for his efforts, particularly in keeping beachgoers safe.

SECONDARY STUDENT LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Ms ELENi PETINOS (Miranda—Minister for Small Business, and Minister for Fair Trading)— I recognise the eight local students who took part in the Secondary Student Leadership Program at the Parliament of New South Wales. Each year, secondary student leaders from all high schools are invited to visit Parliament House to participate in this fantastic program. The program recognises the school leadership role of students and provides them with the opportunity to meet their elected representatives and develop their knowledge of constitutional and parliamentary processes. On 9 June 2022, I met with the incredible student leaders from the Miranda electorate who proudly represented their schools. I commend these students on their commitment to leading their peers, their enthusiasm to contribute to our community and their spirited discussion on the day. I take this opportunity to acknowledge Hayden Matthews and Tamara Girdwood-Reid of Endeavour Sports High School, Alexander Arnold and Maya Simmons of Gynea Technology High School, Oliver Cohen and Rhea Himmel of Port Hacking High School and Rachelle Evans and Om Kharki of Sylvania High School. I extend my best wishes to these student leaders and look forward to seeing the impact they have at their schools this year.

TAREN POINT BOWLING CLUB

Ms ELENi PETINOS (Miranda—Minister for Small Business, and Minister for Fair Trading)— I acknowledge Taren Point Bowling Club who are the successful recipients of \$17,000 from the NSW Government's 2022 Local Sport Grant Program. With over 70 years of history, Taren Point Bowling Club is a favourite amongst locals welcoming anyone who wants to join the Taren Point family. Through this grant, Taren Point Bowling Club will install an automatic irrigation and pump system to operate on all four greens and replace the current out-dated system. This upgrade will maximise the use of the greens, minimise water loss and remove the manual labour of setting up this system. I am also pleased that this funding will provide accreditation courses for Club coaches and umpires, encouraging a range of new and experienced bowlers to become accredited volunteers and officials. I take this opportunity to commend the hard-working team behind Taren Point Bowling Club. I recognise John Canute, Paul Sullivan, Lyle Keats, Chris Green, Garry Williams and Carolyn Wynem as well as General Manager of The Point, Tim Wolfe. I thank Taren Point Bowling Club for bringing the importance of these projects to my attention and look forward to visiting again soon.

TOM MARCH

Ms YASMIN CATLEY (Swansea)— Today I acknowledge Tom March on being named the Lake Mac Young Sports Star at the 2022 Lake Mac Awards. The Lake Mac Awards celebrate the amazing accomplishments of local athletes, artists, environmentalists, volunteers and ambassadors, and recognise the contributions they have made to the local community. Tom is an outstanding runner who has competed at state and national level. Last year, Tom was ranked within the top 10 fastest runners in Australia for the 800m, under 20 years of age. Tom strives to one day compete at the Olympic Games, and I know that he is more than capable of achieving this. He should be very proud of what he has accomplished so far and for the great contribution he has made to the local sporting community. I congratulate Tom on being named the Lake Mac Young Sports Star for 2022 and I wish him all the best with his future endeavours.

KELLY MCNEIL

Ms YASMIN CATLEY (Swansea)— Today I acknowledge Kelly McNeil on being nominated for Lake Mac Volunteer of the Year. The Lake Mac Awards, celebrate the amazing accomplishments of local athletes, artists, environmentalists, volunteers and ambassadors, and recognise the contributions they have made to the local community. Kelly joined Marine Rescue Lake Macquarie in 2016 and has become an integral part of the organisation. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Kelly took on the role of Memberships Officer, and through her devotion and personal commitment has brought 24 new trainees and three transfer members into the unit. Kelly has played a key role in supporting the local community and ensuring their safety when using local waterways. She should be very proud of what she has accomplished. I congratulate Kelly on being nominated for the award and I thank her for her continuous service to the people of Swansea.

DAVID DURRHEIM

Ms YASMIN CATLEY (Swansea)— Today I acknowledge David Durheim on being named the Lake Mac Ambassador at the 2022 Lake Mac Awards. The Lake Mac Awards celebrate the amazing accomplishments of local athletes, artists, environmentalists, volunteers and ambassadors, and recognise the contributions they have made to the local community. A tireless leader throughout the pandemic, David was appointed as the Public Health Controller for the district's COVID-19 response. His leadership during this challenging time guided the community through lockdowns and helped ensure their health and safety. There is no doubt that David has worked hard to support the people of Swansea and he should be very proud of what he has achieved. I congratulate David

on being named the 2022 Lake Mac Ambassador and thank him for all the work that he has done to support the local community during the pandemic.

**The House adjourned, pursuant to resolution, at 19:59 until
Tuesday 9 August 2022 at 12:00.**