



New South Wales

Legislative Assembly

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES (HANSARD)

**Fifty-Seventh Parliament
First Session**

Tuesday 11 October 2022

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Tuesday 11 October 2022

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

The Speaker read the prayer and acknowledgement of country.

Business of the House

ORDER OF BUSINESS: VALEDICTORY SPEECHES

Mr ALISTER HENSKENS: I move:

That business before the House be interrupted this day immediately following the giving of general business notices of motions to permit the presentation of a valedictory speech by the member for Myall Lakes.

Motion agreed to.

SESSIONAL ORDERS

Mr ALISTER HENSKENS (Ku-ring-gai—Minister for Skills and Training, Minister for Science, Innovation and Technology, Minister for Enterprise, Investment and Trade, and Minister for Sport) (12:01): I move:

That for the duration of the current session, unless otherwise ordered:

- (1) Standing Order 180 – Divisions - Procedure for division be amended by:
 - (a) in clause (3), omitting "a further 6 minutes" and instead inserting "a further 2 minutes",
 - (b) in clause (6), omitting "after the 10 minutes allocated" and inserting instead "after the 6 minutes allocated", and
 - (c) insert new clause (4): The division bells shall be rung immediately upon the order of the Speaker, but the timing clock shall not commence until the tellers receive the division tablets from the Clerks.
- (2) Sessional Order 187 – Restriction on divisions be amended by omitting "10.00 a.m." wherever occurring and inserting instead "10.30 a.m."
- (3) The following new Sessional Order 188A – Responding to matters raised by the Legislation Review Committee be adopted:
188A:
 - (a) The member with carriage of a bill shall, if reasonably practicable, address any matters raised by the Legislation Review Committee in its report on the bill during the bill's second reading debate.
 - (b) If not reasonably practicable for a response to be made during the debate, and a response has not been given in the House, the member with carriage is to provide a response to the matters raised by the Legislation Review Committee by correspondence to the committee.

Mr RON HOENIG (Heffron) (12:03): The Opposition supports the motion in relation to standing orders recommended by the Standing Orders and Procedure Committee. However, subsequent to the committee meeting, the Opposition Whip has raised some concern about the enforceability of the time limits. Locking down the House and bringing down the bar of the House is usually the mechanism whereby the time ceases. I am not sure how practical that is if members are queued—and the Speaker does have discretion—but there needs to be an enforceable time limit. I suppose how that is practically implemented is a matter for you, Mr Speaker, but if we are going to shorten the time limits then the periods need to be enforced.

The SPEAKER: This issue not only came up in the Standing Orders and Procedure Committee but also was briefly discussed at the Whips' meeting. Under current practice the Chair has a discretion to extend the time for divisions. Use of that discretion has in fact taken place in the past and will continue. Whoever is in the chair at the time should take a sensible approach. The practice relating to the bars is not dealt with specifically in this motion so I will not add to that. Does the member propose to add to the motion before the House or shall I put the motion as it stands?

Mr Ron Hoenig: No.

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

Motion agreed to.

[Notices of motions given.]

*Announcements***LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY PHOTOGRAPHS**

The SPEAKER: I inform the House that a staff member of The Nationals has been authorised to take still photographs of the member for Myall Lakes during his valedictory speech on a pool basis.

*Members***VALEDICTORY SPEECHES**

The SPEAKER: Before calling the member for Myall Lakes, I warmly welcome to the gallery the large number of guests of the member, including Mrs Sue Bromhead, the wife of the member; Tanya Thompson and Sacha Shipway from the member's electorate office; Wendy Machin, a former member of this House; and Senator Ross Cadell.

Mr STEPHEN BROMHEAD (Myall Lakes) (12:22): My daughter, Caroline, is also in the gallery, as are my brother, Gordon; my sister, Bethany; Gwyneth and other friends. I was expecting the usual—an empty Chamber—but this is a bit different. On occasions like this, I have two speeches: a short speech and a long speech. The short speech is "Thank you." The long speech is "Thank you very much." Now that I have acquainted you with my speeches, there is little utility in going on with those. However, the occasion does insist that I say something. But, as King Henry VIII said to his six wives, "I shan't keep you very long."

Normally I finish a speech with thankyou's; I will start this speech with thankyou's. Normally when I give thankyou's at functions, I always leave my wife until last. On some occasions that thankyou gets left out, so I will start by thanking my wife, who, for 12 months—12 years, I should say; it seems like 12 months—has stood by me through all the things that have happened to me health-wise but also as a politician. I thank her for everything she has had to put up with in the electorate. There are some things that wives or spouses don't sign up for but have to put up with. I haven't worked it out exactly, but I have been away in Sydney for over 12 months in those 12 years.

I thank my family for their support during this time. I thank my staff—there are three of them present in the gallery: Sacha, Nikki and Tanya. I point out that Tanya is the next member for Myall Lakes. I also thank the electorate. Without the support of the electorate, without the trust and honour that they place in you, I would not have been able to serve for 12 years. It is only through their support in electing you—because they put their trust in you to fight for them in this place—that you are able to do your job, and to do it for 12 years. I thank my colleagues in the National Party. Again, without the National Party I would not have been here.

The National Party is, as I always say, the party that represents regional New South Wales. It is a party that has no other purpose, really, other than to support regional New South Wales and ensure that regional New South Wales is at the forefront of the Government's thinking when it brings in legislation, policies and other things. It was 12 years ago that I came to this place to make my maiden speech. My position in the Chamber was on the Opposition benches. I was in a wheelchair, but I was determined to make my speech on crutches, so I thought, "I will go from there to here," which was the shortest possible route. "I will speak from that position there." As I was going over there the Government Whip of the day said, "No, you can't." There I was with two broken legs and a broken pelvis and he was pushing me around to the Government side.

After 12 years I leave here not because I want to. I do not want anyone to think that this is a case of someone who is tired, does not want to be a local member and is giving up. It is simply the case that I have been diagnosed with mesothelioma, which means I cannot put 100 per cent into the job. So it is with regret that I retire, but it has been a great 12 years. I will talk about some of the accomplishments and the electorate of Myall Lakes which, as I have said before, is internationally renowned as Australia's water playground, with a myriad of lakes, islands and tributaries—the mighty Manning River, 200 kilometres of pristine beaches and the longest single-drop waterfall in Australia, Ellenborough Falls. We supply 30 per cent of the Sydney rock oysters, for those who like oysters. It is a great place to work and play.

During the past 12 years through The Nationals we have introduced a number of policies, such as the regional seniors travel card, which recognises that seniors in regional New South Wales do not have the opportunity for travel and transport that those in the city enjoy every day. They cannot get a \$3.80 return train fare from St James to Parramatta, while those in the city can. There is no bus on the corner, so the regional seniors travel card allows them to pay for petrol. They can get their neighbour to take them somewhere and put some petrol in the car. They can use that card to catch a bus or train to get down to Sydney. That was important for seniors in regional New South Wales. Stronger Country Communities is another that I was thinking of. The amount of money that has gone into regional New South Wales through Stronger Country Communities—my

electorate has never seen so much money go into the electorate. It is not because of pork barrelling; it is not because of anything but trying to catch up on the lack of funding that has gone into the electorate over decades.

Mr Geoff Provest: For 16 long years.

Mr STEPHEN BROMHEAD: It was 16 years when not only was no money going in, but money was being sucked out of regional New South Wales to prop up the Olympic Games, for example—money was taken for that. Under the 3x3 fuel levy, 60 per cent of the 3c that went to regional roads was taken back and went into Consolidated Revenue. Fixing Country Bridges and Fixing Country Roads were opportunities that councils had never seen before. I have had the privilege of being part of The Nationals in government for 12 years and it being able to deliver for New South Wales. I hear something is going on outside. It is my family, wanting to get in.

The SPEAKER: I think they want you to stay.

Mr STEPHEN BROMHEAD: Those are just a few of the accomplishments. I will not go through all the different things that were done in my electorate—all the roads and community villages. In my inaugural speech I talked about health and how important health care is. I am pleased to say that \$140 million was allocated to redevelop the Manning Base Hospital. Planning for stage two is well underway. We also announced committing \$20 million for a public hospital at Forster, and planning is underway. Hopefully, with the support of the Minister for Regional Health, Minister Taylor, we will announce where that hospital will be. A couple of places are on the short list. Hopefully that decision will be made soon. Commercial negotiations are taking place and then we can say where it will be. It is important that we deliver the redevelopment of the Manning Base Hospital and a new public hospital at Forster.

Mr Brad Hazzard: And a new ambulance station.

Mr STEPHEN BROMHEAD: We have a new ambulance station at Forster; that is right. Minister Hazzard came up. We have selected the site so we will have a new ambulance station at Old Bar as well. That is not taking the place of the ones at Taree or Tuncurry. These two are additional. What comes with an ambulance station are jobs for at least 12 paramedics, which means more people living and working in the area, and contributing to the society and the economy. One of the pleasures I have had here is being the President of the NSW Parliamentary Lions Club for 10 years. The member for Gosford has taken over.

Ms Liesl Tesch: There is a meeting tomorrow.

Mr STEPHEN BROMHEAD: I note that there is a meeting tomorrow. My apologies. It is something everybody should think about. In the 22 years of the club's existence, it has raised well over \$2 million for numerous charities—for cystic fibrosis, breast cancer and brain cancer—and many other things such as equipment for the hospital next door and Nepean Hospital.

Mr Geoff Provest: The eye hospital.

Mr STEPHEN BROMHEAD: The eye hospital; that is the hospital next door. I encourage all members to join. Members are here in this place and have some colleagues who are doing good things to raise money for worthwhile causes. Why not be a part of it? Members do not have to go to meetings; they can just be a member and contribute to it and go to some of the barbecues or the dinners we have. We have had dinners here, in association with another organisation, where we have raised half a million dollars in one night. It makes you feel good when you see the money you can raise and what good it can do in the community. So I encourage people to be involved. I will now end where I started, which is with a thankyou. Thank you for the opportunity, and for the honour and the privilege of being here for 12 years.

Members and officers of the House stood in their places and applauded.

The SPEAKER: I congratulate the member for Myall Lakes on his valedictory speech and thank him for his excellent service to this Parliament and the people of New South Wales, including the people of Myall Lakes, for the past almost 12 years.

Bills

ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS AND DOMAIN TRUST AMENDMENT (FACILITATION OF SYDNEY METRO WEST) BILL 2022

Second Reading Debate

Debate resumed from 21 September 2022.

Ms JO HAYLEN (Summer Hill) (12:37): I lead for the Opposition on the Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust Amendment (Facilitation of Sydney Metro West) Bill 2022. The purpose of this bill is to allow

Sydney Metro to acquire part or all of the ground under The Domain to construct a turnback tunnel for Metro West services to terminate, to turn and then to return to Hunter Street station. It is a critical piece of the Sydney Metro West plan. The acquisition requires this amending bill. It requires a legislative instrument because of the provisions in existing legislation that govern the botanic gardens and The Domain trust. The Sydney Domain and the botanic gardens are very special places. They belong to all of the people of Sydney.

Labor will always support the preservation and protection of these special places. If they were threatened, we would speak up first. We believe this bill strikes the right balance between the need to deliver public transport infrastructure and the need to safeguard our precious public spaces like The Domain and the botanic gardens. The Government has given assurances that there will be no serious impact on The Domain or the Royal Botanic Garden from this project. We understand that the bill provides for Sydney Metro, and only Sydney Metro, to acquire the ground under The Domain. We also understand that the purpose of the acquisition is for delivering the "underground rail facilities", as defined in the Transport Administration Act, and for no other purposes.

To be clear, this bill is only for the purposes of Sydney Metro and rail provision. We understand that apart from some minor geotechnical work, which will be easily repaired, there will be no long-term damage to the surface of the park. We want to be very clear that this work is minor in nature, will not be long-term and will not impede the public use of this critical open space in the heart of our city. We also understand, and have been given reassurances from the Government, that no trees will be affected during this work, owing to the significant depth of the tunnel, which we understand to be nearly 30 metres below ground. Again, we have been given assurances by the Government, and we look for their reassurances in the House, that this will be minor geotechnical work and that there will be no significant long-term damage to these places that are very special to our city, the Royal Botanic Garden and The Domain.

Thanks to the assurances given us to by the Government, we on this side of the House do not oppose the bill. We reserve our right to hold the Government to account if it does not deliver on those commitments. We will always support the construction and delivery of more public transport infrastructure across Sydney, and we continue to support critical projects like Sydney Metro West. We hope that the Government learns from some of the mistakes it has made in the delivery of other metro projects like Sydney Metro City & Southwest, which we understand is now a year late. We also understand that there have been \$6 billion worth of blowouts across the entire metro project. We do not want to see further projects dogged by such delays and blowouts. But we are happy to support the bill and ask that the Government continue to give the reassurances in the House today around the protection of our special public places, like The Domain and the Royal Botanic Garden.

Mr KEVIN CONOLLY (Riverstone) (12:41): I speak in support of the Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust Amendment (Facilitation of Sydney Metro West) Bill 2022. I welcome the comments from the member opposite indicating the Labor Party's support for this sensible, measured proposal. The substratum land under the Royal Botanic Garden and The Domain cannot be acquired without an Act of Parliament because the land is vested in the Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust and is subject to the Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust Act of 1980, which includes a prohibition on acquisition of any part of the land without an Act of Parliament.

Parts of the substratum land under The Domain are needed for the construction of tunnels for the Sydney Metro West rail line. The tunnels will allow the Sydney Metro West line to terminate and turn back the trains. The bill will ensure that the Sydney Metro West project can be delivered. Sydney Metro West will be a 24-kilometre metro line doubling rail capacity between Greater Parramatta and the Sydney CBD, with stations confirmed at Westmead, Parramatta, Sydney Olympic Park, North Strathfield, Burwood North, Five Dock, The Bays, Pyrmont and Hunter Street in the Sydney CBD. Ensuring the timely delivery of Sydney Metro West will deliver positive impacts on local economies, social infrastructure, tourism, community identity, infrastructure development and value for money in delivery of infrastructure projects. This will contribute to key outcomes in *Future Transport Strategy 2056* relating to successful places, a strong economy and sustainability.

Sydney's new generation metro trains are designed to make customer journeys easy, from level access with platforms to multipurpose areas for prams, luggage and bicycles, and real-time travel information. Fast, safe and reliable, these trains operate exclusively on the Sydney Metro network. Sydney Metro enhances public spaces with vibrant transport precincts, acting as a catalyst for renewal and better connections. The metro program also creates and supports new communities, improves amenity and delivers new integrated station developments. The fact that we are debating a bill of this kind is just another indication that the New South Wales Liberal-Nationals Government is delivering on infrastructure projects and on public transport in particular. This is a growing network of metro services, starting in the north-west, going through the CBD and south-west, and eventually forming a major network connection right across the metropolitan area. It serves the needs of people in Sydney far better than previously and with the most modern technology to enhance reliability, safety and performance. It is because

the Government has been able to get on with the job and invest in public transport projects that we are debating this bill. I commend the bill to the House.

Mr ALEX GREENWICH (Sydney) (12:44): The Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust Amendment (Facilitation of Sydney Metro West) Bill 2022 will allow Sydney Metro to acquire substratum land under The Domain to build a turnback tunnel for Sydney Metro West trains to terminate, turn and return to the Hunter Street station. The Royal Botanic Garden and The Domain play vital roles in providing public open space with green grass and trees at the fringe of the central business district. They are used by inner city residents and workers, as well as visitors from the wider metropolitan area and tourists. I would oppose any threat to these essential parklands, and have done so in the past. I sought additional briefings about this proposal and was given strong assurances that it will not impact on the park.

The tunnel will run deep under The Domain with substratum land. I have been informed that there will be no surface or surface infrastructure damage. While some disturbance to grass may occur for geotechnical investigations, it will be minor and easily repaired. The depth of the tunnel is below where tree roots can grow, so trees will not be affected. Public transport must expand and fast, efficient transport options are needed to ensure that Sydney has a global city status. I welcome the delivery of new public transport options and am confident that The Domain will not be damaged in any way. I thank the Minister's office for taking the time to take me through this proposal.

Mr DAVID ELLIOTT (Baulkham Hills—Minister for Transport, Minister for Veterans, and Minister for Western Sydney) (12:46): In reply: I thank the members representing the electorates of Summer Hill, Sydney and Riverstone for their contributions to the debate, particularly noting that the member for Sydney has a great deal of interest in ensuring that this park remains in the pristine manner that it has been maintained for many years. I also thank the Opposition for its support and commitment to ensure that these projects go ahead with as little destruction as possible. The Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust Amendment (Facilitation of Sydney Metro West) Bill 2022 amends the Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust Act 1980 to allow the acquisition of substratum under The Domain by Sydney Metro for the construction of the Sydney Metro West project.

It is important to prioritise the enactment of the specific provisions in the bill to ensure that the Sydney Metro West project can be delivered. This new underground railway will connect greater Parramatta and the Sydney CBD, doubling the rail capacity between the two CBDs, linking new communities to rail services and supporting employment growth and housing supply. That is probably why the member for Riverstone, like me, is very keen to see the expansion of the metro. I note the member for Castle Hill is in the Chamber as well. We know very well that it has completely transformed public transport in our electorates. The Sydney Metro West project will continue to support that and our growing city to deliver world-class metro services to many more communities. The project is expected to create about 10,000 direct and 70,000 indirect jobs during construction. Sydney Metro West also has benefits for Sydney roads. It is expected to take tens of thousands of cars off the roads every day, with 83,000 fewer car trips every weekday by 2036 and 110,000 by 2056.

As members would be aware, Sydney Metro is Australia's biggest public transport project and most technologically advanced railway. It is Australia's only fully accessible driverless train service—no guards, no drivers. Let us just dwell on that for a moment. Sydney Metro is revolutionising how Australia's biggest city travels, connecting Sydney's north-west, the west, the south-west and the greater west to fast, reliable, "turn up and go" metro services with fully accessible stations. The Sydney Metro project is a once-in-a-century infrastructure investment that will transform Sydney for generations to come.

I will outline the provisions of the bill in more detail. The provisions of the bill are proposed to commence, once they are passed and enacted, on the date they are assented to. Schedule 1 to the bill inserts a new section 19A, entitled "Facilitation of Sydney Metro West", into the Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust Act 1980. This section will enable the acquisition by Sydney Metro of the substratum under Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust lands, or a part of the substratum, for underground rail facilities in relation to Sydney Metro West, despite the provisions of the Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust Act 1980.

"Underground rail facilities" has the same meaning given it in schedule 6B of the Transport Administration Act. Again, it is important to note that the substratum under the Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust Act can only be acquired by Sydney Metro for the Sydney Metro West. In conclusion, the bill prioritises the enactment of necessary amendments to the Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust Act 1980 to ensure the timely delivery of the Sydney Metro West. I understand the Opposition does not oppose the bill. As I have said before, I am very grateful for that and for the cooperation from the member for Sydney on this important piece of infrastructure. It will benefit communities right across the CBD and, indeed, the greater west. I commend the bill to the House.

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

Motion agreed to.

Third Reading

Mr DAVID ELLIOTT: I move:

That this bill be now read a third time.

Motion agreed to.

SECURITY INDUSTRY AMENDMENT BILL 2022

Second Reading Debate

Debate resumed from 21 September 2022.

Mr PAUL SCULLY (Wollongong) (12:51): The security industry plays an important role in New South Wales as part of the suite of individuals, organisations and agencies that contribute to keeping our communities safe. The more than 55,000 security licence holders and more than 6,000 master licence holders range from sole traders through to multinational organisations. Their work is wideranging from crowd control and management through to cash transfers. People in the security industry can be found in almost any location providing services day and night. It includes people with access to firearms, sensitive information and sensitive locations and those who are required to maintain order in public places, including hospitals. The organisations and individuals who are involved in the security industry are given considerable access. Accordingly, it is important that suitable and current regulatory arrangements are in place to maintain trust and confidence in the industry and its participants within the wider community. Just as the requirements of security change and adapt to contemporary circumstances, so too must the oversight of the industry.

The bill before us is the result of a review of the current Act by the Security Licensing & Enforcement Directorate and New South Wales police. The Security Licensing & Enforcement Directorate administers and enforces the Security Industry Act and associated regulation. To this end it is involved in education, probity assessments and security training. It is supported by an advisory council, which provides a forum for exchanging information and ideas between industry practitioners and the New South Wales police. I understand that suggestions from the advisory council, along with recommendations from New South Wales police, led to elements of the bill that we are considering today.

The bill makes several amendments to the security industry licensing scheme in New South Wales. These include amendments clarifying provisions of the Act and streamlining processes. It introduces a new penalty regime that has increased penalties for more serious offences. This change, I am advised, follows concerns expressed by the industry that there are no graduated penalties in place despite the varying impacts that breaches of the Act can have. The bill expands the definition of "crowd controller" to include a broader range of locations where crowd controller activities are being performed. The bill clarifies that controlling or monitoring the behaviour of persons must be to maintain order. This means that those who may be employed to some extent to control or monitor behaviour with no intent to maintain order are not captured by any of the amendments.

A number of licence classes are being brought together into a new security officer class 1A licence. This will bring New South Wales licence classes into line with the new national security industry training package competency requirements. A new cash-in-transit licence class will be created so that the specialised training for guarding cash is reflected in the licence classes. The bill strengthens the regulatory framework around the prohibition from reapplying for a licence for two years if the commissioner refused the initial application. Furthermore, the provisions of the bill will allow the Commissioner of Police to make publicly available information about significant offences committed under the Act or the revocation of a licence. Publication of this information supports the integrity of the industry and encourages industry compliance. Reflecting the level of trust placed in security licence holders, the bill includes a provision that will require the Commissioner of Police to refuse to issue a licence to a registrable person or corresponding registrable person who has reporting obligations under the Child Protection (Offenders Registration) Act 2000.

Further amendments relate to the citizenship status of applicants. Currently the Act restricts licence applicants to be Australian citizens, permanent residents or holders of certain visa types. That limits the industry and government agencies from seeking global experts in the industry, especially in counterterrorism. Accordingly, the bill amends section 7 of the Security Industry Regulation 2016 to enable the Commissioner of Police to exempt a person who is not an Australian citizen or a permanent Australian resident from the requirement to hold a class 2A security consultant licence if the commissioner is satisfied the person has specialised skills or experience not readily available in Australia. Importantly, the commissioner must also be satisfied that the applicant would otherwise be ineligible for a licence. Together those measures put in place limits so that an exemption is not sought

in place of a licence and that the pool of prospective candidates in New South Wales or Australia is not overlooked in seeking advice.

The bill also makes amendments to the Tattoo Parlours Act 2012. The Tattoo Parlours Act sets out the regulatory framework for the tattoo industry in New South Wales. The amendments in the bill introduce offences relating to altering, damaging or destroying records, providing false or misleading information or conspiracy, and inducing the commission of certain offences. In my discussions with tattoo artists, their primary reaction to those provisions was that they have no principled objection to them. They also want a well-regulated industry where criminal elements are driven out so that legitimate business operators do not suffer. But they do feel that the bill once again misses the biggest problems with regulating the industry, which are backyard tattooists who sit completely outside the regulatory regime and accordingly are beyond all of the associated health and operational controls and the enforcement of provisions under the existing Act. They contend that without suitable approaches to oversight and enforcement of provisions of the Tattoo Parlours Act, legislative and regulatory amendments will continue to fail to clean up the industry. They argue that it simply adds regulatory burden to legitimate operators who are already meeting the requirements of the Act. They raise a fair point in terms of the enforcement, but, as I said, they have no principled objections to the amendments in the bill.

NSW Labor does not oppose the provisions of the bill. It is possible, perhaps as an unintended consequence, that the provisions may actually result in some improvements in workplaces of a number of security industry operators. I have had the opportunity to discuss the provisions of the bill with the United Workers Union, the Health Services Union, the Transport Workers' Union and the Police Association, and I thank them for their speedy input into the considerations of NSW Labor. I thank them for their ongoing support of workers within the industry. Security is a tough industry at times, and we need to make sure we do all we can to support not only those who are in it but also those who are supporting and consuming those security services as they need them. As I said, the people working in the security industry provide an important service and are provided with a level of trust and sensitivity by those who engage them. It is therefore important that as this Government considers legislative amendments, it also matches the resources that are available to oversee their thorough implementation. As I indicated, NSW Labor will not be opposing the provisions of the bill.

Mr GEOFF PROVEST (Tweed) (12:58): Today I speak in support of the Security Industry Amendment Bill 2022. I put on record my support for the hardworking men and women who patrol, monitor and protect our shopping centres, licensed venues and government buildings late at night, on the weekend and in the early hours of the morning. Too often security guards are the first at a scene to deal with an extremely difficult and tough situation. They have a high degree of professionalism and integrity across the board. However, ongoing vigilance is needed to ensure that any criminal elements and those who should not be in the industry are not. The bill gives the Commissioner of Police improved powers to ensure any criminal element is not permitted into the industry and provides clearer boundaries in line with community expectations. The bill makes significant amendments as well as some minor amendments to clarify those expectations and better identify who is and, more importantly, who is not welcome in the security industry. It is important to note the NSW Police Force has sought those powers as a regulator, and it is 100 per cent supported by this Government.

I now mention a few of the significant amendments designed to strengthen the industry and keep it free from misconduct and infiltration by the criminal element. The bill will provide that the Commissioner of Police must refuse a security licence to someone who is a registrable person and has reporting obligations under the Child Protection (Offenders Registration) Act 2000. As the Minister said in his second reading speech, security guards are often in a position of trust, especially around young children. The bill will help ensure that we do not have predators infiltrating the industry or in a position of authority over a child in any way, shape or form. The bill will enable the Commissioner of Police to prohibit a person from reapplying for a licence for two years if the commissioner refuses their initial licence application on the grounds that they were not a fit and proper person or that granting a licence would be contrary to the public interest.

We will not waste taxpayers' dollars assessing applications with minimal merit. In the situations where a finding has been made that a person is not fit and proper, it is quite appropriate to require a period must elapse before further applications are made. That preserves the integrity of the industry and manages resources effectively. Workers in the security industry who are law abiding and act in good faith in protecting the New South Wales public will have their reputation enhanced by the improvements to the licensing regime. They will not be impacted by the police commissioner's powers.

Consideration must be given to the risk posed by criminal activity outside the industry and also to the risk of it occurring within the industry itself. That risk relates to a person's knowledge of cash-in-transit vehicle routes and the potential for information to be exploited for nefarious purposes. The armed robbery of security guards carrying cash—or cash in transit, as it is known—is a callous and abhorrent act of violence that causes serious stress and trauma for the security guards involved. Those guards are just doing their jobs, and the robberies often

involve ruthless, brazen and flagrant acts of violence. It is therefore essential that everything possible is done to provide a safe working environment for security staff, particularly those in the cash-in-transit sector. Those real-life victims are often held at gunpoint, fearing for their lives, while cash or valuables are being stolen.

We must ensure that those who work in the industry are afforded the utmost protection and those with access to that information are of the utmost standing and character. To better safeguard our cash-in-transit officers, the bill expands the list of people prevented from working in the security industry. The Act currently prohibits people working in the cash-in-transit sector if they would be refused a licence because of section 16 under the Act, which relates to a person's criminal history. The bill expands the list of banned people to include those who have had a licence refused or revoked in the past five years because the commissioner was not satisfied they were a fit and proper person or because the granting of a licence would be contrary to the public interest. Those provisions are designed to protect the industry against infiltration by criminal elements and ensure that sensitive information that may assist in the planning of armed robberies does not fall into the wrong hands.

The bill goes further in that the expanded list of banned people will now also be prohibited from roles within the security industry such as rostering or scheduling licensed persons carrying out security activities, or monitoring the performance of licensed persons carrying out security activities. The bill now refers to those roles being "prescribed work". The bill achieves that new prohibition by adding a list of special conditions of a master licence holder. They must not allow a person who is banned—or "an ineligible person", as the bill defines it—to undertake prescribed work.

To give members some context, as of 15 September 2022 there have been 379 refusals for licence applications in 2022. Of those, 75 were for prescribed offences, for not being fit and proper persons or for the licence not being in the public interest. There have also been 252 revocations. Of those, 116 were no longer deemed to be fit and proper and 135 were found guilty of a crime. These amendments are designed to protect the hardworking security guards of New South Wales, who are just trying to do their jobs. This also sends a strong message to the community that people who are undeserving of the privilege of holding a security licence are not welcome in the industry.

The Act prevents the hiring of those on student or working holiday visas. I am advised that the reason for this is due to the fact that the police are unable to conduct thorough background checks and assessments for these visa holders. I am also advised by the police of the risks posed by allowing into the industry those with backgrounds the police cannot thoroughly check. I am advised that there are now approximately 70 different visa categories, many of which present the same risks as student and working holiday visas. This creates an untenable loophole for certain visa holders, outside of those specifically excluded, to apply for a security licence. The bill addresses this concern and specifies new criteria for visa types which are suitable for a security licence.

The bill proposes an amendment to section 15 to provide that an applicant who is not an Australian citizen or permanent resident must hold either a visa that has been sponsored by the holder of a master licence or a visa for a skilled occupation to which the activities authorised by the proposed licence correspond. This would not affect those currently employed in the industry. A grandfathering provision will apply. These amendments will mean, in practice, that our legislation does not need to be updated every time a new visa is listed by the Commonwealth that carries the same risks as student or working holiday visas. This is a comprehensive bill that will result in tangible and necessary improvements to the regulation of the security industry in New South Wales. I commend the bill to the House.

Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect) (13:06): The Security Industry Amendment Bill 2022 makes a number of significant reforms to the licensing regime for the security industry in New South Wales and increases the penalties for offences related to the altering and damaging of records, providing false and misleading information and the commission of offences. The regulation of the New South Wales security industry is important. Security guards handle personal information and identification, and there is an expectation that they themselves have their own licensing documentation in order and that they are not providing false or misleading information to their employers or to the public. I therefore support the passage of the bill.

The bill seeks to reform licensing within the security industry through amendments to the Security Industry Act 1997. Firstly, the bill amends the Act by making a number of prohibitions to the application for a security licence, which the commissioner may enforce. These prohibitions are contained in new section 16B and state:

- (1) The Commissioner may prohibit a person from making an application for a licence if—
 - (a) the person makes an application for a licence, and
 - (b) in considering the application, the Commissioner—
 - (i) is not satisfied the person is a fit and proper person to hold the class of licence sought, or
 - (ii) considers the grant of the licence would be contrary to the public interest.

The stated powers of the commissioner to reject a security application aim to ensure that there is a greater level of accountability and vetting of the character of a person holding an important security licence. Too often there are security guards who have been granted a security licence who may have a criminal history—specifically a history of committing violent assaults. These individuals, who have a tendency to engage in violence, should be prevented from obtaining a security licence to ensure they do not abuse their position of power as a security guard.

Despite this provision, within the bill there is a level of fairness and accountability in an applicant's favour that ensures that their prohibition may be appealed if there are reasonable grounds to challenge the decision. The appeal process is also outlined in new section 16B, which states:

- (4) The prohibition—
 - (a) remains in force for 2 years, and
 - (b) commences—
 - (i) when the person is given the notice, or
 - (ii) if the person seeks a review of the decision to refuse the application—when the review and any related appeals are finally determined.
- (5) If a review or appeal overturns the decision to refuse the application, the prohibition is taken never to have been in force against the person.

This appeal process is therefore fair because it expunges the prohibition for the application from ever existing if the appeal is successful. Further, new section 22 outlines which licences these apply to and which requirements are needed for a commissioner to approve the licence application. These requirements are as follows:

- (3) A class 1 or class 2 licence must contain—
 - (a) a photograph of the licensee taken by Service NSW, and
 - (b) the signature of the licensee.
- (4) The Commissioner may decide that a master licence must contain either or both of the following—
 - (a) a recent photograph of the licensee obtained in accordance with arrangements decided by the Commissioner,
 - (b) the signature of the licensee.

These requirements are reasonable to ensure that the identification of the applicant confirms their physical identity and their signature, reducing the number of incidents of applicants providing false and misleading information. Security licences must not be permitted for applicants who lie about their identity, possibly for the purpose of concealing a past crime, which makes them unsuitable to hold any position of trust as a security guard. The penalties for contravening a condition of the licence are appropriately harsh. The penalties incurred are outlined in new section 30 (2), which states:

A licensee must not contravene a condition of the licence.

Maximum penalty—

- (a) Tier 1 condition—
 - (i) for a corporation—100 penalty units,
 - (ii) for an individual—50 penalty units, and
- (b) Tier 2 condition—
 - (i) for a corporation—200 penalty units, or
 - (ii) for an individual—100 penalty units or imprisonment for 6 months, or both, and
- (c) Tier 3 condition—
 - (i) for a corporation—500 penalty units, or
 - (ii) for an individual—250 penalty units or imprisonment for 12 months, or both.

If a licensee and the corporation that employed them failed to comply with conditions within the three tiers of licences, they should suffer the consequences of these penalty units being incurred, as well as imprisonment for the individual in question. Most importantly, the penalties for altering and damaging records, providing false and misleading information or inducing the commission of offences are harsh. The penalties will hold to account security guards who are found to have committed those offences, either during the application process for a licence or when renewing their licence. Those punishments are contained within new sections 39U, 39V and 39X. New section 39U, "Offence of altering, damaging or destroying records and other things", states:

- (1) A person must not, without reasonable excuse, alter, damage or destroy a document or other thing.

The maximum penalty for such an offence is 500 penalty units or imprisonment for two years, or both. New section 39V, "Offence of providing false or misleading information", states:

A person must not provide information or do another thing in purported compliance with a requirement made under this Act or the regulations, knowing that it is false or misleading in a material respect.

The maximum penalty is 500 penalty units or imprisonment for two years, or both. Finally, new section 39X, "Offence of inducing commission of offence", states:

A person must not induce or attempt to induce another person to commit an offence against this Part, including by the use of threats, intimidation, promises or offers.

The maximum penalty is 500 penalty units or imprisonment for two years, or both. A punishment of 500 penalty units and imprisonment for two years for those three offences is appropriately harsh and should serve to deter individuals who engage in this behaviour from seeking a career in the security industry. However, the offence of inducing commission of offence under new section 39X deserves a harsher penalty than two years' imprisonment.

Debate interrupted.

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

Members

MEMBER FOR FAIRFIELD

MEMBER FOR GOULBURN

MEMBER FOR BALMAIN

The SPEAKER: I wish a happy birthday to the member for Fairfield, the member for Goulburn and the member for Balmain, who celebrated their birthdays during the break.

Visitors

VISITORS

The SPEAKER: I extend a very warm welcome to guests of the member for Wollongong from the University of Wollongong: Professor Patricia Davidson; Mr Adam Gilchrist, AM—we are looking forward to the world cup—Professor Alex Frino; Mr Stephen Atkinson; and Mr Canio Fierravanti.

I also welcome Mr Brock Anderson, guest of the member for Orange, whom I had the privilege of meeting earlier today. He is on work experience with the member.

I also welcome legal students from St Paul's Catholic College, Booragul, and their teacher John Gallop, who are guests of the member for Lake Macquarie.

I acknowledge also my guests Mr Mark Tedeschi and Mrs Sharon Tofler, who have generously donated their private waratah collection to the New South Wales Parliament, which is currently on display in the Legislative Assembly reception area. Thank you.

I also acknowledge guests of the member for Pittwater: Bill and Cath Davenport; Lawrie, Rhonda and Sarah Stevenson; and Lachlan Kellen. Welcome to the Chamber.

I also welcome to the public gallery two Parli-Flicks finalists, Tweed River High School students Skylar Keska and Mannat Matharu, together with their teacher Tony Lambert and Mrs Matharu.

Announcements

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY PHOTOGRAPHS

The SPEAKER: I inform the House that a staff member from the Treasurer's office has been authorised to take still photographs during question time from the gallery and the members' entrance doors.

NEW SOUTH WALES PARLIAMENTARY NETBALL TEAM

The SPEAKER: It is with much pride on behalf of the House that I congratulate the New South Wales parliamentary netball team on their first-ever victory against the New Zealand netball team on Friday in Auckland. It was organised and captained by the member for Auburn, Lynda Voltz, with fellow team members: the member for Gosford, Liesl Tesch; the member for North Shore, Felicity Wilson; the member for Charlestown, Jodie Harrison; the member for Oxley, Melinda Pavey; and the member for Murray, Helen Dalton. They beat their counterparts 30-27. Although the New Zealand team featured two former Silver Ferns, they were no match for the New South Wales parliamentary team.

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

Mr ALISTER HENSKENS: On behalf of Mr Dominic Perrottet: I advise the House that the Minister for Lands and Water, and Minister for Hospitality and Racing will be absent from question time today and tomorrow. The Minister for Agriculture, and Minister for Western New South Wales will take questions on his behalf.

*Bills***HEALTH LEGISLATION (MISCELLANEOUS) AMENDMENT BILL (NO 2) 2022****MUSEUMS OF HISTORY NSW BILL 2022****Assent**

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

*Governor***ADMINISTRATION OF THE GOVERNMENT**

The SPEAKER: I report receipt of messages regarding the administration of the Government.

*Question Time***LAND TAX**

Mr CHRIS MINNS (Kogarah) (14:24): My question is directed to the Premier. Does the Premier admit that any first home buyer who chooses the Government's new land tax will be forced to pay four times the rate if they keep ownership but move out of that property? For example, a \$1 million home would go from \$3,400 a year to \$12,500 a year.

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET (Epping—Premier) (14:25): Who would have thought? On this side of the House we stand with first home buyers; on that side of the House they stand up for property moguls and investors. This scheme is ultimately about one thing: It is about choice. Look at the schoolchildren in the public gallery. They want to buy a home, and Labor stands in the way. On this side of the House, we believe in reform. We believe in doing things differently, enabling young people to get the keys to their very first home. What do we see from the Labor Opposition? We see scare campaigns, no policy, no principle—an absolute policy vacuum on that side of the House.

Yesterday the Treasurer and I launched the online calculator, which I understand the shadow Treasurer Sooky Mookhey says that he needs a PhD to understand, probably paid for by Canterbury council. Anyone can simply go onto Service NSW, type in a property, and it will come up with the stamp duty they would pay or the annual amount. Is that difficult? I think even Sooky Mookhey can work it out, and he does not need a council-paid PhD to achieve it. The reality of what is going on here is that this is a Labor Opposition that has no depth, no policy proposals—even Labor's own side is saying, "Lazy, lazy, lazy,"—no work, just scare campaigns.

Those of us on this side of the House believe in choice. We believe in the aspirational families. We trust people to make the decision that best suits their needs. That is why we want to get young people right across New South Wales into the property market, whether that is here in Sydney or in regional New South Wales. Labor says no. Stamp duty is the worst tax. It is an impediment, as we have seen, for so many young people right across our State struggling to get into the property market. There is not a parent across New South Wales who will not do everything they can to get their children into the property market. The Liberals and The Nationals say yes to home ownership; Labor says no.

HOME OWNERSHIP

Mrs TANYA DAVIES (Mulgoa) (14:28): My question is addressed to the Premier. Will the Premier update the House on how the Government is boosting home ownership to secure a brighter future for New South Wales?

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET (Epping—Premier) (14:28): I can. I thank the aspirational member for Mulgoa for her question.

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

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: The member knows very well that the winners out of this policy will be the families of western Sydney, who will be able to make the choice—

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

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: —to either pay up-front stamp duty or an annual amount for properties up to \$1.5 million. And where are the majority of those homes? They are in western Sydney, in places like Mulgoa, Penrith and Londonderry, where Labor says no. We know that for many first home buyers across our State it can take around 2½ years to save that stamp duty. By the time they have saved that stamp duty, they have gone backwards when it comes to purchasing property.

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

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: That is why when we look at particularly the past two decades, the share of first home buyers under 35 years of age has declined from 67 per cent to 61 per cent. We cannot have an Australia that cannot house its children.

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

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: That is why on this side of the House our overarching housing affordability package was announced in the budget—\$3 billion, led by the planning Minister, in a range of areas. We are increasing the Accelerated Infrastructure Fund to over \$300 million, particularly in key regional areas, to get into sewerage and to get into water—that small ancillary infrastructure that allows more homes to be built right across our State. In addition to that is our shared equity scheme, which we are leveraging off the Federal Government. The Federal Government copied us. It was our plan first. I know the Morrison Government did not agree, but it was the right policy.

As the Treasurer knows, we are tailoring our shared equity scheme to our frontline key workers—our nurses, our paramedics, our police officers—and, in addition to that, single women over the age of 50. This is an innovative policy. At the Daily Telegraph Bush Summit I announced that 50 per cent of those shared equity places will be in regional New South Wales, because we want our key workers and single women over the age of 50 to have that support, particularly in regional New South Wales, where they do a fantastic job day in, day out, protecting the great people of New South Wales. [*Extension of time*]

Let us go back to our great First Home Buyer Choice program. As I said, people can throw in their details on the Service NSW website and make the choice that best suits them. I say to the students in the public gallery, as the Treasurer and I announced yesterday, for a medium unit in Sydney of \$830,000, a first home buyer could choose between paying \$32,000 up-front in stamp duty or \$1,200 annually. The choice is there. This will drive home ownership right across our State. It is ultimately about choice.

In the last 12 months, we have seen 40,000 first home buyers get their keys to the Great Australian Dream. But we want every single person across New South Wales to get into home ownership. Whether it is the initiatives from the planning Minister on the supply side—unlocking land and investing in infrastructure through the Accelerated Infrastructure Fund—or whether it is our demand-side initiatives for first home buyers, this Government shares the dreams and aspirations of people across the State, whereas Labor stands at the door, locking the next generation out of home ownership. The only party in this country that would oppose giving people choice is the New South Wales Labor Party. It is more interested in scare campaigns than actually delivering strong public policy to drive better outcomes, opportunity and prosperity for the people of New South Wales.

LAND TAX

Ms PRUE CAR (Londonderry) (14:33): My question is directed to the Premier. Given that the Premier said in his ideal land tax model "choice would diminish over time" and that he denies such substantial reforms should be taken to an election, why would people draw any conclusion other than the obvious one: that he wants this new tax rolled out to all homes forever?

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET (Epping—Premier) (14:34): What a scare campaign! How low is that? Firstly, I welcome the member for Londonderry back into the Chamber and join all members in wishing her well. She is making a very strong recovery, which is pleasing to see. She has just got to work on her questions a little more. Our policy is tailored to first home buyers, at a cost of over \$700 million to the State budget. Why? We are using our budget to help the budgets of first home buyers right across New South Wales.

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

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: It is a shameful scare campaign, which is what poor oppositions do when they have no ideas, no solutions and no policies.

Mr Ron Hoenig: Point of order—

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: And who agrees?

The SPEAKER: The member for Heffron has taken a point of order. The Premier will resume his seat.

Mr Ron Hoenig: My point of order relates to Standing Order 129. The Premier has been asked a specific question from his own comments. He has been asked to respond to his own previous comments.

The SPEAKER: There is no point of order. The Premier is answering the question satisfactorily. The Premier has the call.

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: Please do not try to get me on relevance; it never happens. We have gone through extensive consultation. Where we have landed is to provide first home buyers with choice. If they want to pay up-front stamp duty because it is in their interests, they can. If they want to pay an annual amount, they can, because this is not about a dream home but a first home. This is not increasing government revenue but reducing it by \$700 million.

I note that one of my most exciting days of the year is coming up on Saturday: the Labor conference. I love it. It is my fifth favourite day of the year. Recently I was going through a great document called *Combatting the two-speed economy* by John Graham, MLC. For those members who do not know, he is a Labor member in the upper House. It has an introduction by the World Bank—

Mr Ron Hoenig: Point of order: The Premier is not even being generally relevant, let alone being directly relevant.

The SPEAKER: The member will resume his seat. I am allowing a small amount of latitude. The Premier has the call.

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: I have been given 36 seconds of latitude. Looking at the document, they are all here: Tanya Plibersek, Anthony Albanese, Chris Bowen, Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders. Policy No. 9 in the section "Funding the fight against inequality" states:

Add to Labor's Platform: "NSW Labor will review taxation ... including consideration of a shift from stamp duty ..."

Those opposite know this is the right policy but they have got no integrity. On this side of the House we are the progressive parties. Those backwards conservatives on the other side of the House need a policy. We stand with Hillary Clinton on this side of the House.

RURAL AND REGIONAL HOUSING SUPPLY

Mrs NICHOLE OVERALL (Monaro) (14:37): My question is addressed to the Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional New South Wales, and Minister for Police. Will the Deputy Premier update the House on what the Government is doing to fast-track the delivery of more homes in regional New South Wales?

Mr PAUL TOOLE (Bathurst—Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional New South Wales, and Minister for Police) (14:37): I thank the member for Monaro for her question. She is a member who works hard every day for her community. That is what members on this side of the House do. This year I was able to visit Cooma with the member to announce 140 homes for the people of Cooma. It will see Crown land being kept for key workers but also for social housing. The member has also been fighting for a special activation precinct in Jindabyne. The precinct will see Jindabyne become a tourist destination all year round. Over \$300 million will be invested in that particular area.

The SPEAKER: The member for Canterbury will remain silent.

Mr PAUL TOOLE: If we want to continue to drive growth in the regions, we need to make sure that we attract the workers to regional New South Wales and retain them. We also want to give people the comfort of knowing they will have a roof over their head at an affordable price. We are working on local solutions for our communities across the State. The Regional Housing Taskforce made 15 recommendations and the New South Wales Government accepted all of them. Not only did we accept the recommendations but we backed it up with funding support. In this year's budget we announced a \$2.8 billion housing package. This is not only going to help councils to cut red tape but also make it easier for government to be able to convert government land into land that can be used for housing. We are also stepping up our support for frontline workers, with 271 new homes to clear the waitlists for teachers and police in regional and remote parts of New South Wales.

These are complex issues with no simple solutions, but we are attacking the problem across a number of areas. We have backed these words up with significant funding. What have those opposite proposed? They have proposed absolutely nothing in this space. They have got no policies for regional New South Wales and no ideas about how they are going to tackle this issue. If any of them bothered to spend any time in regional New South

Wales, I could show them how important this issue is. The shadow housing Minister talks a big game on social media, but has she left Macquarie Street to tackle the problem? I will tell members what she has done. Recently she went on a trip to investigate drought impacts and also housing. Where did she pick to go, I wonder? Did she pick our communities of—

Mrs Nichole Overall: Mr Speaker—

Mr Ron Hoenig: Point of order—

The SPEAKER: I note the member for Monaro is on her feet, but I will first hear the point of order taken by the member for Heffron.

Mr Ron Hoenig: The Deputy Premier has not been directly relevant to the question asked. He spent most of his answer being directly relevant but is now completely irrelevant and he should not be given an extension.

The SPEAKER: Is the member for Monaro seeking an additional two minutes?

Mrs Nichole Overall: Yes.

The SPEAKER: I will grant two minutes' extension. However, I have allowed enough latitude to the Deputy Premier. I ask him to be directly relevant for the remaining two minutes.

Mr PAUL TOOLE: Members on this side of the House talk about investing in regional New South Wales. Recently the Premier, the Treasurer, the Minister for Planning and I announced a package of \$300 million to enable infrastructure. It will ensure we assist councils to put in the roads, stormwater drains and infrastructure needed to get more houses out of the ground in a more timely manner. That funding will support 23 regional councils. I will tell members what the shadow housing Minister did. She did not go out and visit Moree, Dubbo, Tamworth or any of our regional communities. She took a trip overseas—

Mr Ron Hoenig: Point of order—

Mr PAUL TOOLE: —to London and Rome. She did not even go out into the regions—

The SPEAKER: The member for Heffron has taken a point of order. The Deputy Premier will resume his seat. As I can anticipate the member's point of order and time has expired, we will move to the next question.

LAND TAX

Mr ANOULACK CHANTHIVONG (Macquarie Fields) (14:42): My question is directed to the Premier. Given the Premier has spent the last two years advocating a model that captures 80 per cent of homes forever in a new land tax system, why would people draw any conclusion other than the obvious one: He wants this new tax rolled out to all homes forever?

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET (Epping—Premier) (14:42): That is just not true. That is just a lie. That is just a typical Labor "Mediscare" campaign.

The SPEAKER: Order! I place the Deputy Premier on two calls to order.

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: The Deputy Premier is not happy because he did not get to finish his answer.

Mr Paul Toole: Put me on three calls. Put me on another one.

The SPEAKER: The Deputy Premier should be careful. I gave a very clear instruction about the extra two minutes. The Clerk will restart the clock. The Premier has the call.

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: This is just a typical scare campaign from a vacuous Opposition. We are legislating our policy in the Parliament to give first home buyers choice. We actually trust people to make the best decision for their circumstances. The people of Macquarie Fields are going to love it, particularly young people who may buy a home, get into an apartment, get married, have some children and need to move to a house. They are not going to live there for 30 years. Some might buy their dream home straight away and will not make that choice. Others who are buying their first home will live in it for a few years and then move on. That is a modern tax system for modern families across New South Wales yet Labor stands in the way. I note that Labor MLC Tara Moriarty, who has been a board member—

[A Government member interjected.]

Who is that? She chairs the—

Mr Ryan Park: Point of order: My point of order relates to Standing Order 129. This is the guy who wants this for 80 per cent of people and said "diminish the choice".

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

Mr Ryan Park: That is what he said, so let us talk about it.

The SPEAKER: Order! I place the member for Keira on two calls to order.

Mr Ryan Park: How many more people are going to get it? They were the Premier's words.

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: Debate the policy.

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Keira will resume his seat. I call the member for Keira to order for the third time.

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: Have the integrity and strength to debate policy. We came to Parliament to get into the battle of ideas. Debate ideas, debate policy; do not run scare campaigns. Tara Moriarty has been a board member at the McKell Institute since 2013. In 2016 McKell produced a plan to end stamp duty. That is Opposition policy from the Labor-aligned McKell Institute. We go on to the Leichhardt branch, which is my favourite branch of the Labor Party. It is Anthony Albanese's branch. The Leichhardt branch is going to have a big day on Saturday. "Specific reforms include moving away from stamp—

Ms Jo Haylen: The Balmain branch does better policy.

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: Does it? I am with Leichhardt—is it on the right or the left?

Ms Jo Haylen: The left.

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: Yes, obviously—it is Leichhardt. I will be with its two members. "Specific reforms include moving away from stamp duty." Good people in Labor know the truth; good people in Labor know what is right. If one does not have any policies, if one does not have any integrity, if one does not have any principles, what does one do? One reverts to scare campaigns. We did not get into politics for scare campaigns; we got into politics to do what is right—to provide opportunity and prosperity for generations to come. We are standing with the students in the gallery who, when they leave school, want to buy their very first home. We are with them.

FIRST HOME BUYERS

Ms MELANIE GIBBONS (Holsworthy) (14:46): I address my question to the Treasurer. Will the Treasurer update the House on how the New South Wales Liberals and Nationals are securing a brighter future for first home buyers?

Mr MATT KEAN (Hornsby—Treasurer, and Minister for Energy) (14:46): I start by thanking the outstanding member for Holsworthy for her question and for her commitment to ensuring that first home buyers can realise their dream of home ownership much sooner. I also take the opportunity to thank the Leader of the Opposition for bothering to turn up today because we all know he is the laziest person to ever lead an opposition in the history of New South Wales. How do we know that? That is because his colleagues briefed Max Maddison in *The Australian*.

Mr Ron Hoenig: Point of order: My point of order relates to Standing Order 129. Will the Treasurer answer the question?

The SPEAKER: I will allow preliminary comments. The Treasurer will come to the leave of the question soon.

Mr MATT KEAN: I notice no women got up to defend the Leader of the Opposition because we all know what happens when women stand up in the Labor Party—they get sacked by Chris Minns. No women are defending him today.

Mr Greg Warren: Point of order—

The SPEAKER: The Treasurer will come directly to the question.

Mr MATT KEAN: I want to talk about our policy to give first home buyers the choice to enter the housing market sooner. Our policy will see on average someone who purchases a home worth up to \$830,000 be able to choose between a high up-front stamp duty of around \$32,000 or a small annual fee of around \$1,200. The students in the gallery know that that will move a huge barrier for them entering the housing market sooner, and that is what members on this side of the House are about—helping first home buyers get onto the ladder of opportunity much sooner by owning their own home.

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

Mr MATT KEAN: Our policy will shave up to two years from saving for a deposit to own a home. Whilst we have been shaving off the time it takes to save for a deposit, the Leader of the Opposition has been shaving as well. Recently in a think piece with Kyle and Jackie O he revealed where he has been spending all of his time: trimming his chest hair. That is right, on Kyle and Jackie O—

Mr Ron Hoenig: Point of order—

Mr MATT KEAN: Ron, I said "chest hair".

Mr Ron Hoenig: My point of order relates to Standing Order 129. You warned the Treasurer that he had to return to the leave of the question but he has ignored that warning.

The SPEAKER: I uphold the point of order. The Treasurer will return to the leave of the question.

Ms Melanie Gibbons: I seek additional information.

The SPEAKER: I will allow an additional two minutes on the same basis that I granted an extension of time to the Deputy Premier: The Treasurer must be directly relevant for the additional two minutes.

Mr MATT KEAN: Combined with our already existing supports for first home buyers, 97 per cent of first home buyers in New South Wales will benefit from the policies put in place by the New South Wales Coalition Government. What have we seen from the Leader of the Opposition when it comes to housing policy? We have seen him slamming the door in the faces of first home buyers. Have we seen any policies?

Mrs Shelley Hancock: No!

Mr MATT KEAN: Have we seen any plans?

Mrs Shelley Hancock: No!

Mr MATT KEAN: Have we seen any ideas?

Mrs Shelley Hancock: No!

Mr MATT KEAN: No. All we have seen is his plan for personal grooming. That is right, all he talks about is his hair. It took 18 months for him to talk about his mullet.

Mrs Melinda Pavey: You're just jealous, Matt.

Mr MATT KEAN: I am jealous. Members on this side of the House are focused on helping people to realise their dream of owning a home much sooner. Our policy will shave two years off the time it takes to save for a deposit because we know high up-front stamp duty is a major barrier to young people getting on the ladder of home ownership. We want to make sure that we give them the choice. If they choose to pay a small annual fee for their property and then sell their property, that is it—no more.

Mrs Melinda Pavey: Choice.

Mr MATT KEAN: That is it—choice. It ends, notwithstanding the fear campaign run by members opposite.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr MATT KEAN: The disinformation from the Leader of the Opposition would make Vladimir Putin embarrassed. He would be proud—that is the reality. Members on this side of the House are focused on helping young people to buy their own home sooner. We want to remove that barrier to home ownership, that large up-front stamp duty, and give people the choice that they need to meet their financial interests. We have put online a calculator, which went live yesterday. Over 9,000 people jumped on straightaway to see how they can benefit from this Government's policy. That is 9,000 people, not people with PhDs, but people who want to realise their dream of home ownership much sooner.

PORT OF NEWCASTLE

Mr GREG PIPER (Lake Macquarie) (14:51): I direct my question to the Premier. Given the ACCC has described the privatisation deals on the State's ports as "inherently anti-competitive" and the Productivity Commission has identified inefficiencies at the ports, will the Government now remove the restrictions on Newcastle's ability to develop a container port?

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

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET (Epping—Premier) (14:52): I thank the member for Lake Macquarie for his question and interest on this issue. He is a strong advocate for his local community and I appreciate the

concerns that he raised in the question. I make the point that this is part of the ports strategy. I understand that, as the member for Lake Macquarie would be aware, the matter is before the courts and it would be inappropriate for me to prejudice that case. I also note that the good member for Lake Macquarie has given notice to introduce a bill on this matter, which he has spoken to me personally about.

Like all private members' bills, particularly those from the member for Lake Macquarie, the Government will consider it carefully. We developed our ports strategy to reduce the cost of moving containers for the industry, consumers and taxpayers. As the member for Lake Macquarie knows all too well, that is on the back of a significant investment that we made in the Hunter region as a result of asset recycling, which was opposed by members opposite. Anything that is hard, they oppose; anything that is right, we deliver.

Ms Kate Washington: What about Upper Hunter?

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: Yes, \$835 million for the John Hunter Health and Innovation Precinct, which the Minister for Health knows all too well; \$470 million for Maitland Hospital, which we do not hear much about from the member for Maitland; \$318 million—

Ms Jenny Aitchison: After they heard about the lack of staff.

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: They love Maitland Hospital.

Ms Jenny Aitchison: The one in four people who had to leave before they could be seen by the emergency department?

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: What did Labor do for Maitland? Nothing!

Mrs Melinda Pavey: What did they do? Nothing! Nothing!

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: Such a shame. Over the next four years the Government will provide \$318.6 million for the Newcastle Inner City Bypass; \$156 million for the next four years for planning for Nelson Bay Road improvements; \$100 million for the Greater Sydney Regional Sport Facility Fund; a \$56 million upgrade for the Newcastle Mater Hospital; the establishment of the Hunter Infrastructure and Investment Fund; upgrades to Newcastle East Public School; and \$3 billion on NorthConnex—opposed by Labor, by the way.

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

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: How good is NorthConnex? Labor opposed it—everyone loves it. Now we can get up to the electorate of the member for Lake Macquarie faster with NorthConnex. So, I say to the member that the simple answer to his question is: I appreciate you are introducing a bill to Parliament. You have given notice to do that. We will consider it. I appreciate your concerns and let's continue to have the discussion.

FLOODS AND NATURAL DISASTER RESPONSE

Mr ADAM MARSHALL (Northern Tablelands) (14:55): My question is addressed to the Minister for Emergency Services and Resilience, and Minister for Flood Recovery. Will the Minister please update the House on the flood events currently impacting New South Wales?

Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra—Minister for Emergency Services and Resilience, and Minister for Flood Recovery) (14:55): I thank the member for Northern Tablelands for his question and acknowledge the impacts that the recent weather has had on his communities and indeed the communities right across the north-west of New South Wales where we currently have minor to major flood warnings in place for the Gwydir River. I thank all our SES crews, both in the Northern Tablelands and right across the State, for their ongoing efforts. We have had more than 700 SES personnel who have been involved in the operations over the past few days. We know that in inland New South Wales floodwaters will continue to be a threat for communities, not just for the next few weeks but for months, given that we are in a third consecutive La Niña weather pattern.

In the past 24 hours we have recorded 155 requests for assistance, including six flood rescues. Unfortunately, we have another wet weather system on its way which is due into the State between Wednesday and Friday. That will mean our river systems, many of which are currently in flood, will still be in flood when that system rolls through. There is no opportunity for that water to move on before that weather event comes through the State. This is, of course, in addition to the saturated grounds that we are seeing right across New South Wales and dams that are already full to overflowing in many cases.

Right across New South Wales the SES is concerned about many of our rural, regional and remote communities. I will list them for the House today so that everyone can get an idea of just how widespread this event is impacting New South Wales: Nyngan; Warren; Wee Waa; Gunnedah; Dubbo; Moree; Bathurst; Forbes, where the Lachlan Valley is currently at 9.78 metres and rising and is expected to peak at about 10.4 tonight; Gundagai; Narrandera, which is in the south, near the Murrumbidgee; Balranald; Cottons Weir; Nanami, where

the river is still slowly rising and expected to peak at 11.14 in the days ahead; Wagga Wagga; and the Hawkesbury-Nepean Valley, which we have talked about many times in this place this year.

While every flood is different, the SES continues to improve and learn from every weather event. Since March, the SES has doubled its call-taking capacity and onboarded 1,300 new volunteers, including 300 in the Northern Rivers region alone. We have six new Unimogs, which are the high-clearance vehicles that can drive through 1.2 metres of water. They are positioned strategically around the State where they are required. [*Extension of time*]

Last week we submitted a request for night-time flood rescue helicopters to the Australian Defence Force. I thank the Federal Government for providing four helicopters for Holsworthy, Williamtown and Parkes. They supplement 10 of our own helicopters, which are positioned in strategic locations around New South Wales. They are designed not just for rescue capability but also to resupply communities that find themselves isolated. We also have this Government's \$116 million fleet replacement program.

This year alone we are expecting to have 130 new vehicles, 62 new trailers and 25 new boats delivered to local SES units. The SES also is rolling out the new warning system, which is actually in place. It consists of three simple tiers so that people can clearly understand the level of risk and what action they need to take. That replaces the former system, which had seven to eight levels of warning system. In conclusion, I encourage all communities across New South Wales to remain vigilant and stay up to date with the warnings that are provided by both the Bureau of Meteorology and the SES. Safety is a shared responsibility but we need people to take personal responsibility on our roads and, if it's flooded, forget it.

ENERGY PRICES

Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect) (15:00): My question is directed to the Treasurer, and Minister for Energy. Given that energy bills already have risen in New South Wales by 18 per cent in the last 12 months, that industry is forecasting additional price rises of up to 35 per cent next year, and that the Treasurer was warned in secret negotiations that prices would rise by another 33 per cent when the Eraring Power Station comes offline, does the Treasurer stand by his promise that prices will be \$130 lower for households and \$434 lower for businesses from next year?

Mr MATT KEAN (Hornsby—Treasurer, and Minister for Energy) (15:01): I thank the member for Prospect for his question. I share his concerns about cost-of-living pressures being faced by people in New South Wales. We all know how the Leader of the Opposition deals with cost-of-living pressures: He gets the Chinese Communist Party to pay for his travel.

Mr Ron Hoenig: Point of order—

Mr MATT KEAN: That is right. Business class is pretty cheap when Xi Jinping is paying for it.

Mr Ron Hoenig: The Minister for Energy has been asked a specific question about energy pricing.

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

Mr Ron Hoenig: Standing Order 129. It is nowhere near directly relevant.

The SPEAKER: There is no point of order under Standing Order 129. I remind the Treasurer of Standing Order 73.

Mr MATT KEAN: We should be talking about energy, and we should be talking about the low energy of the Leader of the Opposition because it was his own colleagues who said that as an MP he was shocking—the laziest leader that the Labor Party has ever had.

Mr Ron Hoenig: Point of order: The Minister was asked a legitimate question in relation to energy prices.

The SPEAKER: There is no point of order. The Minister has not transgressed Standing Order 73. The member for Heffron will resume his seat.

Mr MATT KEAN: I will not indulge the disinformation of members opposite. We know that the energy crisis that we are seeing is something that everyone is seeing right around the world. Every State and Territory in Australia is experiencing cost increases with energy bills. Every jurisdiction around the world is experiencing that. There is a war going on in Ukraine that is pushing up commodity prices and wholesale electricity prices. This Government has a plan to support people with those energy bills and with cost-of-living pressures.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr MATT KEAN: In fact, in the budget we announced \$7.2 billion worth of cost-of-living savings for families and businesses across New South Wales. Those savings include the Low Income Household Rebate, the

Gas Rebate, the Seniors Energy Rebate, the Family Energy Rebate, the Life Support Energy Rebate and the Energy Accounts Payment Assistance Scheme.

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

Mr MATT KEAN: All those schemes are designed to help people. We also announced our Bill Buster program that will help people trade in some of their rebates for energy-efficient appliances or solar panels which will, on average, lower household bills by up to \$600 a year. We are focused on driving down electricity bills, but we all know that it is the Leader of the Opposition who knows how to get cost-of-living pressures down: They get other people to pay for it. Just ask Khal Asfour.

WARRAGAMBA DAM WALL

Ms ROBYN PRESTON (Hawkesbury) (15:04): My question is addressed to the Minister for Transport, Minister for Veterans, and the Minister for Western Sydney. Will the Minister update the House on the Government's plan to raise the Warragamba Dam wall?

Mr DAVID ELLIOTT (Baulkham Hills—Minister for Transport, Minister for Veterans, and Minister for Western Sydney) (15:04): I thank the member for Hawkesbury for her question and her interest in keeping her electorate flood free. I take this opportunity to welcome back the member for Londonderry. Having nursed a strong, competent woman through cancer, I am always happy to see people push through and win against this dreaded disease. I welcome her return. She has never lost a fight in her life, so I don't know why cancer thought it would be different. Having said that, she has now got one job. She has to help me get Labor to overturn its opposition to raising the Warragamba Dam wall. She has to help me make sure that her electorate stays dry. We need water. Anna, what will you make ice out of? This is a city that needs water. The Opposition's completely uneducated, ill thought out, illogical approach—

Mr Michael Daley: Get outside with a pump.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr DAVID ELLIOTT: You need the water, member for Maroubra, for your Scotch. The member for Hawkesbury is well aware of the need to use the Warragamba Dam wall as both a mitigating and a storage facility. That is what the Coalition is about. I do not understand the Labor Party's opposition to it, given it was Bill McKell who built the dam. Labor is putting plants before homes. We will reduce by tens of thousands the number of houses that are flooded by raising the Warragamba Dam wall. I do not know why Labor hates western Sydney. It is putting plants before people and it is appalling. The Labor Party built the dam and it needs to protect the working families of western Sydney by supporting the Government to increase the height of the dam wall. It is the only way for this city, this State, to mitigate itself against flood as well as ensuring that the water necessities of the future are realised. I cannot understand why a political party that claims to represent and wants to do the right thing by working families ignores the expert advice of Mick Fuller—one of the greatest commissioners this State has ever seen—after the recent floods to increase the height of the wall.

The SPEAKER: The member for Rockdale will be silent.

Mr DAVID ELLIOTT: The cost of the damage in western Sydney and across the State caused by floods could be reduced by up to \$8 billion by increasing the height of the dam wall. [*Extension of time*]

It is appalling that the member for Londonderry is forced to go to the people of western Sydney to try to justify a policy presented by the Leader of the Opposition from the safety of his waterfront home in the eastern suburbs of Sydney. Western Sydney Labor MPs need to support the Government's proposal to increase the height of the dam wall because it is in their best interests.

The SPEAKER: Order! The Minister will continue.

Mr DAVID ELLIOTT: We can have both mitigation and storage of water with this Government's policy.

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

Mr DAVID ELLIOTT: I pay tribute to all members opposite who have privately said to me, "Please, keep going, David. Let's push this policy through because it's in the best interests of our communities." What we need now from members opposite is leadership. We have not seen it. We have got just over 100 days to go. Remember when the Leader of the Opposition was elected? He said within 100 days he would have policies. We have 100 days to go and there are no policies. It will be galling to all those communities in western Sydney who know full well the danger that they have been put in by those obstructionist members opposite. We need to make sure that the people of western Sydney are secure. We need to use the dam as mitigation and ensure that we secure the future of the water necessities of the State.

ENERGY PRICES

Mr DAVID MEHAN (The Entrance) (15:09): My question is directed to the Treasurer. How does the Treasurer explain reports from the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis that found that New South Wales energy companies that his government privatised are currently making 10 per cent to 15 per cent excess super profits, while the only remaining government-owned energy network is not?

Mr MATT KEAN (Hornsby—Treasurer, and Minister for Energy) (15:10): Let me be very clear: This Government is absolutely focused on giving consumers the best, most reliable and cheapest electricity available. That is what we are doing. Our policies are so good, they were backed in by members opposite. We are proud of our record to make sure that we put in place a plan to build more supply into the system, which will put downward pressure on electricity prices. In addition to that, we have a number of rebates to support people dealing with cost-of-living pressures. Let me talk about some of the rebates: the Family Energy Rebate of up to \$180 a year; the Low Income Household Rebate of up to \$285 a year; the Gas Rebate, a total of \$110 per year; the Seniors Energy Rebate of up to \$200 a year; the Medical Energy Rebate of up to \$285 a year; and the last—

Mr David Mehan: Point of order—

The SPEAKER: The Clerk will stop the clock. The Treasurer is being highly relevant. What is the point of order?

Mr David Mehan: Standing Order 129.

The SPEAKER: The Treasurer is being relevant.

Mr MATT KEAN: We know the cost of living is going up and this Government is focused on supporting families dealing with those cost-of-living pressures. That is why we have over \$7.2 billion in the budget to support families, including with energy bills. I was reading from a newsletter produced by someone supporting the Government's policies when it comes to energy. It is the member for Lakemba. In his newsletter he has been encouraging people to take up the Government's rebates to support them with their energy bills.

Mr Jihad Dib: That is because they cannot afford their electricity bills.

Mr MATT KEAN: He is an enthusiastic supporter of our policies and we welcome the member for Lakemba's support.

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

Mr Jihad Dib: Because they have privatised it, they cannot afford electricity bills. So I am making sure that they can access them, as any good member would do.

Mr MATT KEAN: We welcome him enthusiastically supporting them in his newsletter.

The SPEAKER: I call the member for Lakemba to order for the third time. I placed the member on two calls to order for interjecting and one call to order for not sitting down when he was asked.

Mr MATT KEAN: They say one thing in the House and out in their communities they are spruiking our energy policies. They are putting it in their newsletters. They are trying to claim credit for our policies. That is what they do.

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

Mr MATT KEAN: They say one thing in here and out in their communities they do something entirely different. They are complete hypocrites. They are just like their leader, who was once against tolls, once for tolls. He designed the tolling regime across Sydney and now he is against tolls. There is no toll he does not like, even the ones he originally designed. He was once all for privatisation. In fact, he was the chief of staff to John Robertson, who privatised Parklea prison, and now he hates privatisation. Those opposite say one thing in here and another thing out in the community. They cannot be trusted. It is the same old Labor.

LOCAL COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE

Mrs LESLIE WILLIAMS (Port Macquarie) (15:13): My question is addressed to the Minister for Infrastructure, Minister for Cities, and Minister for Active Transport. Will the Minister update the House on the Government's vision for improving the livability of our local communities?

Mr Stephen Kamper: One more term, Rob. One more term.

Mr ROB STOKES (Pittwater—Minister for Infrastructure, Minister for Cities, and Minister for Active Transport) (15:13): I will stay if you go. I thank the member for Port Macquarie for her question. Members on this side of the House have a clear vision for improving the livability of every community around

the State, from strengthening frontline services to building the infrastructure that makes daily life better for everyone, even for the member for Prospect. Yesterday I was pleased to share that the New South Wales Government and the City of Sydney will work together to continue the pedestrianisation of George Street, just down the road from where we are right now, around 1½ acres of additional public space right next to Sydney Cove. This is only possible because of the CBD light rail, which was the catalyst to re-imagine George Street as one of the great boulevards of the world.

From the very beginning, the Coalition Government had a clear vision of what we want to achieve for this city and this State, and members of the Opposition should take notice. To have vision, we need to support brave, new ideas. To have a positive, progressive vision, we need to make the hard decisions and cannot simply oppose everything for the sake of it, because if you oppose everything, you stand for nothing. Looking back to 2015, the Opposition tried to generate a scare campaign against the light rail, claiming it would be a "Berlin Wall" dividing the city. Then shadow transport Minister, the member for Keira, thought it would be better to build a \$2 billion tunnel for diesel buses, claiming the light rail would create "congestion, chaos and confusion". Even today, the wonderful member for Coogee keeps complaining about the light rail extension down Anzac Parade, when, instead of complaining, she should get on board. She should literally get on board; it is the easiest way to get to the stadium.

If we had listened to Labor in 2015, George Street today would remain choked by traffic. Instead, George Street is a world-class boulevard improving the livability of Australia's only global city and securing a bright future ahead. I am certainly proud to be part of a government with the foresight and vision to build projects big and small right across this State, in the burbs, the beaches and the bush. Anywhere one looks across New South Wales, there are great projects happening because of the investments that this Government has been able to make. It is making New South Wales a great place to live, work, raise a family and buy a new home.

TAXI INDUSTRY

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER (Rockdale) (15:16): My question is directed to the Chair of the Law and Safety Committee. Is the Chair satisfied with the compensation to the taxi industry?

Mr Alister Henskens: Point of order—

The SPEAKER: The member for Rockdale will resume his seat. The Leader of the House has taken a point of order.

Mr Alister Henskens: My point of order is taken under Standing Order 127. A question must relate to the affairs of the committee. That question does not relate to the affairs of the committee. There is a Transport and Infrastructure Committee, but he is not the Chair of that committee.

The SPEAKER: The member for Rockdale will repeat the question.

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: My question is directed to the Chair of the Law and Safety Committee. Is the Chair satisfied with the compensation package that has been offered by the Government?

The SPEAKER: Standing Order 127 states that:

A Member, being the Chair of a committee, may be asked a question relating to the affairs of the committee.

I am not sure the question relates to the affairs of the committee, but I will hear from the Leader of the House on that.

Mr Alister Henskens: It does not because he has not referred to an inquiry or a report of any committee. It clearly does not relate to the affairs of the committee.

Mr Ron Hoenig: To the point of order—

The SPEAKER: I am happy to hear from the Manager of Opposition Business, but I am inclined to rule the question out of order at this stage.

Mr Ron Hoenig: Standing Order 127 enables the chairman of that committee to be asked a question, unless the Speaker has before him, or the Leader of the House puts before him, the resolution of this House that that committee cannot deal with that subject matter. Then it must be in order because—

The SPEAKER: I have heard enough. Standing Order 127 states that the question must relate to the affairs of the committee. The question is out of order.

FEE-FREE TRAINING

Mr PETER SIDGREAVES (Camden) (15:19): My question is addressed to the Minister for Skills and Training. Will the Minister update the House on how the Government's future-focused vision for skills is delivering fee-free training to help people get in-demand jobs?

Mr ALISTER HENSKENS (Ku-ring-gai—Minister for Skills and Training, Minister for Science, Innovation and Technology, Minister for Enterprise, Investment and Trade, and Minister for Sport) (15:20): I thank the member for his question and his absolute passion and strong interest in skills and training. It was great to join him for the sod turning on the first building at the Bradfield City Centre, which is an absolutely visionary undertaking to turbocharge advanced manufacturing in the new city of western Sydney as well as this State. What a great hub that is going to be for the jobs of the future, because that is what this Government is focused on. Whether it is revolutionary policies like our institutes of applied technology or the new education and training model that is being delivered in Bradfield in western Sydney, New South Wales is absolutely leading the nation in skills and training.

On Friday I joined the skills Ministers from the Commonwealth, the States and the Territories and worked collaboratively to secure more fee-free funding for VET in New South Wales. This investment will go towards in-demand jobs in the construction, hospitality and IT industries. Fee-free training is able to boost people's jobs and results in big increases in people undertaking apprenticeships and traineeships, including female apprentices and trainees. The new funding is in addition to New South Wales' record skills budget. This year's budget has a \$3.1 billion investment in skills and training. New South Wales is leading Australia in fee-free skills and training.

Opposition members do not care about fee-free training courses, unless it is for them—unless it is for dodgy Khal, the mayor of Canterbury-Bankstown council, charging ratepayers almost \$50,000 for an MBA, or the Leader of the Opposition getting his Ivy League education paid for by other people, or perhaps free boxes at Allianz Stadium. They love those, those hypocrites. They love it. They love the freebies.

Ms Yasmin Catley: Point of order: My point of order is taken under Standing Order 74 (2). The Minister is obviously inciting quarrel across the Chamber, and he should be called to order.

The SPEAKER: The Minister will return to the leave of the question.

Mr ALISTER HENSKENS: It is great to see Tania in teal again. Why does everyone in her own party keep leaking on her? Why do they keep leaking on her? Lazy, lazy, lazy. We have a plan for skills and training. We have a vision for this State. We are investing in people. Opposition members are worried only about their own jobs.

TAXI INDUSTRY

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER (Rockdale) (15:22): My question is directed to the Treasurer. Does the Treasurer stand by his announcement of last week on taxi plate compensation, including compensation as low as a grubby \$25,000 per plate for some regional areas, or was he rolled by his own backbench?

The SPEAKER: The member for Rockdale will repeat the question.

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: My question is directed to the Treasurer. Does the Treasurer stand by his announcement of last week on taxi plate compensation, including compensation as low as \$25,000 per plate for some regional areas, or was he rolled by his own backbench?

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

Mr MATT KEAN (Hornsby—Treasurer, and Minister for Energy) (15:24): I thank the member for Rockdale for his interest in taxis. I state for the House that taxi licence holders across the State will receive an additional \$500 million in assistance payments as part of a comprehensive \$645 million package. Some \$145 million has already been paid out to licence plate owners and additional payments will be made early next year. The Government is focused on recognising the challenges that taxi plate owners face. That is why we have given one of the most generous compensation packages in the country.

Mr David Elliott: It is the most generous compensation package in the country.

Mr MATT KEAN: I note the interjection of the Minister for Transport. This is about helping taxi licence holders adapt to these changes. The package will provide \$100,000 for each eligible Sydney metro taxi licence for up to six licences per owner, and up to \$130,000 for each taxi licence outside of Sydney, with no cap on the number of licences per owner. As the Minister for Transport says, this is the most generous package to compensate taxi plate licence holders in the country. This is a good package, and the Government stands by it.

WYANGALA DAM

Mr PHILIP DONATO (Orange) (15:26): My question is directed to the Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional New South Wales, and Minister for Police. On 31 March 2020 the former water Minister announced that there would be shovels in the ground by October 2020 for the nation-building Wyangala Dam wall-raising project. Given that this project is essential to increasing water security during dry times and is equally important for flood mitigation and the protection of downstream communities in the Lachlan Valley, which is presently bracing for another damaging flood, will the Deputy Premier inform the House why he has not fulfilled this promise and when it will actually commence?

Mr PAUL TOOLE (Bathurst—Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional New South Wales, and Minister for Police) (15:26): I thank the member for Orange for his question. Having faced a number of years across the State that were impacted by droughts, we know how tough it is for so many of our communities and farming areas. Announcements by this Government have committed to doing the work that is required to raise the Wyangala Dam wall. That work is coming to completion. That business case is important for the investment needed to build Wyangala Dam. The dam is significant not only for providing water security but also for protecting down users from the dam wall.

I have been to Forbes on a number of occasions and I have seen the significant impact of the dam spilling and flooding areas within those communities. We know that those areas might continue to flood with the rainfall that is expected from now until the end of the year. We also know that commitments were made by the Commonwealth Government to also fund the project. The Government's commitment remains to raising the Wyangala Dam. We also want to see that commitment from the Federal Government. I expect the Federal Labor Government to put its dollars on the table for this significant project.

Ms Kate Washington: Are you going to ask Morrison for it?

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

Mr PAUL TOOLE: The member for Port Stephens might be mocking the people of Forbes, who have been impacted by flooding waters in those communities, but the business case is essential.

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

Mr PAUL TOOLE: We also know that in raising the dam wall we will have to release water from behind it.

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

Mr PAUL TOOLE: The member for Maroubra is another member who attacks the people in Forbes, who have been flooded time after time after significant rainfall landing behind the dam wall. The Government's commitment for the dam wall remains. The member for Orange is committed to ensuring that it happens. I look forward to him ensuring that we lobby the Federal Government for its commitment to come to the project as well. Again, I make the point that raising the dam wall today would see water being released from it. Work is continuing and I thank the member for his interest in this topic.

WESTERN NEW SOUTH WALES FLOODING

Mr GURMESH SINGH (Coffs Harbour) (15:29): My question is addressed to the Minister for Agriculture, and Minister for Western New South Wales. Will the Minister update the House on how the recent wet weather is affecting communities in western New South Wales?

Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS (Dubbo—Minister for Agriculture, and Minister for Western New South Wales) (15:30): I thank the member for his question. A bit of a theme today is the recent wet weather. Our thoughts are with people across central, western and southern New South Wales where flooding is happening right now. Since I became Minister, I have visited basically every part of western New South Wales since December last year. Right now the common thread is that all of these towns, whether it is Bourke, Condobolin, Lake Cargelligo, Cobar or Nyngan, are facing that significant La Niña event. There has been flooding, spilling dams, farm dams overflowing and water flowing over areas that have never seen it flow before.

Unfortunately, the wet weather is forecast to continue across the State this week from Friday through until Sunday and into the new year. Dam levels are now almost at all-time record highs. Burrendong is at 139.6 per cent, Wyangala is at 100.6 per cent, Copeton is at 99 per cent, Burrinjuck is at 104.3 per cent and Windamere Dam near Mudgee is spilling for the first time since 1990. It has almost never been wetter in some parts of western New South Wales. Menindee Lakes, just outside Broken Hill, is now expecting an extra 2,000 gigalitres to arrive by

the end of December. Although it is slightly different depending on where it is in the State, every region is being impacted.

In my home region of Dubbo there have been reports of farm dams breaking and water running through paddocks. On the weekend the Emile Serisier Bridge had to be closed due to the inundation. There are lots of issues for farmers, which we are concerned about. Paddocks in some places are too wet to get onto to tend to livestock. In some cases, harvest, which is due to start in the not-too-distant future, will be extremely difficult. Farmers have been unable to spray crops with fungicides, and windrowing for canola, which is due to start in northern areas anytime now, is unlikely to occur on time, if at all. We are keeping our fingers crossed, but there is no doubt that the wet weather is delivering a lot of uncertainty and anxiety for our farmers.

I reiterate the message that the Government has been talking about for a while: We need farmers to use the Department of Primary Industries damage assessment survey, which is available on the DPI website. All of that feedback helps to determine the significance of the disaster declaration that happens. Crops that are not being impacted and inundated at the moment are expecting above average yields and prices are still good, which is good news. Let us keep our fingers crossed. If machines can get onto the paddocks, then a good crop can come in. The Government and the Minister for Emergency Services and Resilience are on high alert for the next few weeks to make sure that we are supporting communities to get through the wet weather and this lingering La Niña event.

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 as at 30 June 2022 (volumes 1 and 2). I order that the document be printed.

PARLIAMENTARY BUDGET OFFICE

Reports

The SPEAKER: I table the report of the Parliamentary Budget Office entitled *Parliamentary Budget Office Operational Plan 2022-23*, dated October 2022. I order that the report be printed.

AUDITOR-GENERAL

Reports

The CLERK: In accordance with section 38E of the Government Sector Audit Act 1983, I announce receipt of the Performance Audit Report of the Auditor-General entitled *Student attendance*, dated 27 September 2022, received out of session on 27 September 2022 and authorised to be published.

Committees

LEGISLATION REVIEW COMMITTEE

Reports

Mr DAVID LAYZELL: As Chair: I table the report of the Legislation Review Committee entitled *Legislation Review Digest No. 48/57*, dated 11 October 2022. I move:

That the report be printed.

Motion agreed to.

Mr DAVID LAYZELL: I also table the minutes of the committee meeting regarding *Legislation Review Digest No. 47/57*.

Petitions

PETITIONS RECEIVED

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

Bega Electorate Radiation Oncology Centre

Petition requesting the Legislative Assembly call on the Government to re-evaluate and reconsider its decision not to provide a radiation oncology centre for the Bega electorate, received from **Mr Michael Holland**.

Edmondson Park High School

Petition requesting the Legislative Assembly call on the Government to approve funding for and fast-track construction of a master-planned public high school in Edmondson Park, received from **Mr Anoulack Chanthivong**.

Business of the House

BUSINESS LAPSED

The SPEAKER: I advise the House that in accordance with Standing Order 105 general business notices of motion (general notices) Nos 3679 to 3766 have lapsed and general business order of the day (for bills) No. 6 [Water Management Amendment (Flood Plain Harvesting Licences) Compensation Bill 2022] has lapsed.

Committees

JOINT MODERN SLAVERY COMMITTEE

Membership

The SPEAKER: I report receipt of a message from the Legislative Council informing the Legislative Assembly that the following Legislative Council members have been appointed to serve on the Joint Modern Slavery Committee: the Hon. Aileen MacDonald, the Hon. Wes Fang, the Hon. Greg Donnelly and Reverend the Hon. Fred Nile.

Bills

SECURITY INDUSTRY AMENDMENT BILL 2022

Second Reading Debate

Debate resumed from an earlier hour.

Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect) (15:35): I resume my speech. I was talking about new section 39X and the reform of the bill. I do think the offence of inducing a commission of an offence under new section 39X deserves a harsher penalty than two years of imprisonment. Security guards who entice others to intimidate people pose a danger to our community and deserve a sentence longer than a maximum of two years, in my opinion. While I believe these reforms to the security industry are necessary, I question why it has taken the Government this long to enact these reforms. The Liberals have been in office for 12 years and not once have they previously sought to make these reforms.

It is interesting that alongside a number of other bills concerning law enforcement and the criminal justice system, this Government is also making these reforms to the security industry. I ask whether they are trying to ram these reforms through so they can go to the election in March 2023 claiming they have a strong record on law and order issues. They have had 12 years to make these reforms. The Liberals are now only advocating this reform as an attempt at political advantage. We should never have a situation where security guards are permitted or were permitted to provide false or misleading documents when seeking a security licence.

The police Minister Paul Toole stated in his second reading speech introducing this bill for debate on 21 September 2022 that a purpose of the bill is to "mitigate the risk of our security industry from being infiltrated by a criminal element". The Minister also stated the bill "continues to support and strengthen the industry's resistance to organised crime infiltration, which is the key driver for the creation of the Act". I believe the bill will strengthen this resistance to organised crime and mitigate the risk of our security industry being infiltrated by a criminal element through the proposed reforms to licences and background checks. However, if a cause for this bill is the Government's concern about the rise of organised crime in New South Wales infiltrating the security industry then it is yet another example of delayed action when this Liberal Government is supposedly combating organised crime.

The New South Wales casino inquiry report released in February 2021 noted how members of organised crime have infiltrated casinos operated in New South Wales, most prominently The Star casino. The report mentions that this includes within the security personnel at these casinos. It has been almost two years since this report was released. Why has it taken the Government this long to act on the findings of this report if it cares about mitigating the risk of security personnel at these casinos being infiltrated by organised crime? It is absolutely absurd that the Government has waited this long to act.

It is further evidence of this Government attempting to gain political advantage for the upcoming election in March 2023 by once again appearing to be tough on law and order at the very last minute. NSW Labor takes this policy issue very seriously, especially as it relates to organised crime. A Minns NSW Labor government would not wait for as long as the Liberal Government has to prevent organised crime from further infiltrating the security industry. Labor will act to further reduce this risk of infiltration, as Labor is the party that is committed

to keeping our community safe from organised crime. Labor would not wait to do it at a time of political advantage as the Perrottet Government has done. Despite this concern for organised crime, the vast majority of security workers are not involved in any element of criminality. We should never forget this. We should never infringe on the rights of security guards who do the right thing and are law-abiding members of our community. [*Extension of time*]

This bill will have a significant impact on workers in the security industry. As the party which prioritises workers and the only party which listens to the trade union movement, NSW Labor has consulted the trade union movement for their views on this bill. The relevant trade unions consulted include United Voice, the Health Services Union, the Transport Workers' Union, the Police Association of New South Wales and the Professional Tattoo Association of Australia. None have identified any concerns with this bill. As a committed trade unionist who takes any concerns expressed by relevant trade unions seriously, I trust their judgement.

If these trade unions have not raised concerns, then I am confident that this bill will not negatively impact on security guards who are working to do the right thing, who follow regulations, unlike those who commit wrongdoing, which this bill targets. To conclude, I believe the proposed reforms contained within this bill are necessary. However, I am disappointed that it has taken the Government so long to propose these reforms. If a reason for this bill is the Government's concern that the security industry is being infiltrated by organised crime then it should have acted far sooner, years ago. The security industry and our community deserve a State government which will always respond to the threat of organised crime, not just when it is politically convenient. I commend the bill to the House.

Mr PAUL TOOLE (Bathurst—Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional New South Wales, and Minister for Police) (15:41): In reply: I thank the member for Wollongong, the member for Tweed and the member for Prospect for their contributions to the debate on the Security Industry Amendment Bill 2022. This bill ensures that the Commissioner of Police and her delegates, as industry regulator, are appropriately empowered to keep the industry honest and to make sure that the wrong people do not make their way into the security industry in New South Wales. These amendments are important in ensuring the legislation remains effective in maintaining the high levels of probity and integrity across the New South Wales security industry. I am proud to commend the bill to the House.

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

Motion agreed to.

Third Reading

Mr PAUL TOOLE: I move:

That this bill be now read a third time.

Motion agreed to.

CRIMES (ADMINISTRATION OF SENTENCES) AMENDMENT (NO BODY, NO PAROLE) BILL 2022

Second Reading Debate

Debate resumed from 21 September 2022.

Mr JIHAD DIB (Lakemba) (15:43): I lead on this bill for the New South Wales Opposition in this place. I am pleased to speak on this bill on behalf of the Hon. Tara Moriarty, MLC, NSW Labor's shadow Minister for Corrections. I also thank her and her office for the notes they have given me to enable me to deliver this speech. The Opposition will not be opposing this bill. Labor supports the intent of this bill, which seeks to provide a stronger incentive to offenders to disclose the location of a victim's remains and further assist families of homicide victims to gain closure and give them every opportunity to lay their loved ones to rest. The bill will bring New South Wales into line with other States and Territories in Australia, which have stronger laws to incentivise those convicted of homicide offences to comply with the law and identify the location of their victims if they have not done so already. It is a long overdue change.

From the outset, it is important to understand the context of the bill in relation to our parole system. Parole refers to the conditional release of an offender from custody to serve the balance of their sentence in the community beyond their minimum term of sentence. Parole is a privilege not afforded to all. If an offender is placed on parole, they may be required to meet conditions to ensure the safety of the community. If those conditions are breached, it may result in a return to custody. In New South Wales an offender can be released on parole in two ways: The first is under a statutory order for sentences under three years, and the second is by an order of the State Parole Authority for sentences more than three years. Offences involving the death of a victim

whose remains are not recovered due to a lack of cooperation by the offender would mostly likely involve a sentence of more than three years and, therefore, require a State Parole Authority decision for parole to be granted. The bill deals specifically with the latter of those orders: an order of the State Parole Authority.

The objective of the State Parole Authority is to act in the interests of the wider community to keep us safe. It is an independent body governed by the Crimes (Administration of Sentences) Act 1999, and under that Act it cannot decide to release an offender on parole unless it is satisfied that the community safety condition can be met. The Act stipulates several mandatory considerations that the State Parole Authority must consider when determining parole, one of which is the failure of the offender to disclose the location of the remains of the victim. While it is a consideration, it is still within the State Parole Authority's discretion to grant parole, irrespective of whether the offender does not reveal, or assist in revealing, information about the location of the victim's remains.

Currently, such considerations and discretion are dictated by section 135 (3) (e) of the Act. The bill seeks to amend that section. While the provision contained in section 135 (3) (e) of the Act provides a framework for considering the degree of an offender's cooperation in locating remains, it leaves open the possibility that an offender may still be released on parole even if they do not disclose the location of their victim. The Opposition does not oppose the new provision, which seeks to make it tougher for an offender to gain parole under those conditions.

The bill replaces section 135 (3) (e) with new section 135A. This new section removes the discretion currently given to the State Parole Authority to grant parole to an offender convicted of homicide when the remains of a victim have not been found unless the relevant offender has cooperated satisfactorily with authorities to identify the location of the victim's body. For the purposes of the new section, the definition of "homicide" will capture all serious offences that may involve missing remains: murder, manslaughter, infanticide, assault causing death, conspiracy to commit murder and accessories after the fact to murder. The new section 135A will apply to an offender who is serving a period of imprisonment for any of these homicide offences in which some or all of the remains of the victim or victims have not been located.

The new section 135A (7) will ensure that the provision also extends to offenders serving sentences in New South Wales but who committed their offence interstate. In deciding whether an offender has "satisfactorily cooperated", the bill requires the State Parole Authority to consider a written report from the Commissioner of Police as to the nature of the cooperation and to what extent it has taken place. This is outlined under proposed section 135A (4). The bill also amends section 160 of the Act to make clear that the requirements of the new section 135A—that is, for the offender to satisfactorily cooperate in attempts to locate the victim's remains—also apply where the making of a parole order is being considered by the State Parole Authority due to exceptional circumstances, such as where the offender is dying, or in other exceptional extenuating circumstances.

It is important to note that all remaining considerations in section 135 of the Act will continue to apply. That means that cooperation in locating remains is required but is not of itself sufficient for a grant of parole to be made by the State Parole Authority. Section 135 contains a range of mandatory considerations to be taken into account by the State Parole Authority when determining whether it is in the interest of community safety to grant parole, even when that offender has cooperated to locate a victim's remains. An offender's criminal history, risk to the community and impact on victims are all considered holistically by the State Parole Authority when determining the granting of parole.

When the bill was announced, the New South Wales Opposition publicly stated that it supported the bill in principle and that it would consider the bill when further detail was provided. With the tabling of the bill on 21 September 2022, the Opposition has been able to examine the details of the bill and to engage with key legal bodies and interested stakeholders. Most of them raised concerns, particularly regarding the lack of consultation and the unnecessarily rushed nature of the bill. We acknowledge their concerns. The Government has been in power for 12 years. The bill deserved better consideration than the rushed job it has been given.

It is concerning that key legal bodies have not been consulted on the content of the bill. That is extraordinary, given that the bill is a substantive change to the parole system. Whilst we acknowledge the concerns raised by legal bodies, including the New South Wales Bar Association and the Law Society, particularly in relation to the handling of this matter, Labor will not oppose the bill as it is in the interest of the community—in particular, homicide victims and their loved ones—that every opportunity be provided to them to lay their loved ones to rest. The additional incentive that the bill will provide to offenders to disclose all relevant information regarding the location of victims is important. This is an overdue legislative reform. New South Wales has trailed behind other States and Territories in this area. It is critical that we give families of victims of homicides every opportunity for closure. The New South Wales Opposition does not oppose the bill.

Mr TIM JAMES (Willoughby) (15:51): I speak in support of the Crimes (Administration of Sentences) Amendment (No Body, No Parole) Bill 2022. The bill makes amendments to the Crimes (Administration of

Sentences Act) 1999 to introduce tougher "no body, no parole" laws in New South Wales. The bill strikes at what is right, what is at the heart of our justice system and obviously that which reflects upon a case that has been of significant public interest and concern for some time. It is terrific to see this getting done.

The bill brings New South Wales into line with other jurisdictions and demonstrates this Government's commitment to ensuring that parole laws in New South Wales are strong, and fully reflect community expectations and the interests of justice. The introduction of new section 135A in the bill will mean that the State Parole Authority will no longer have the discretion to release an offender on parole unless it is satisfied that the offender has cooperated to a satisfactory extent with authorities in locating the body or remains of a victim or victims. Where the offender has not assisted satisfactorily in efforts to locate the remains, a parole order must not be made. Prior to a parole decision being made, the Commissioner of Police must provide the parole authority with a report outlining whether and to what extent an offender has cooperated in efforts to locate the victim's remains.

The bill amends section 160 of the Act to make it clear that, even in exceptional extenuating circumstances, homicide offenders who have failed to cooperate in disclosing the locations of their victims will not be eligible for parole. That provides the strongest possible incentive for offenders to disclose the remains or location of their victims. The bill will apply retrospectively and will also cover parole matters that are currently up for consideration. The new provisions will apply to offenders incarcerated in New South Wales who committed their offences interstate, as well as to offenders who committed their offence in New South Wales.

The bill strikes the right balance between treating offenders approaching the end of their non-parole period with fairness and supporting the families of victims to locate the remains of their loved ones. The bill strikes that balance by allowing parole where an offender has cooperated in efforts to locate the body or remains of their victim. The amendments in the bill effectively provide an offender convicted of a homicide offence with a choice: to cooperate and increase the likelihood of their release on parole, or to refuse to cooperate and serve the remainder of their sentence in prison. Parole will not be contingent on authorities finding a victim's remains, but it will be contingent on offenders genuinely cooperating in efforts to do so.

The bill also provides for the State Parole Authority to consider information about the offender's capacity to cooperate, which recognises that in some cases there may be limits to an offender's capacity to cooperate, such as a mental or cognitive impairment. The State Parole Authority will still be required to consider a number of other mandatory factors when determining whether releasing an offender on parole is in the interests of the safety of the community. In New South Wales parole is intended to support the reintegration of suitable offenders into the community to ultimately reduce reoffending and promote community safety. An offender convicted of homicide-related offences who has refused to disclose the location of their victim's body is not demonstrating readiness for rehabilitation and community reintegration. It is appropriate that offenders such as these continue to serve the remainder of their sentence in prison.

The introduction of this no body, no parole reform responds to the expectations of the community and recognises the immense suffering experienced by the loved ones of homicide victims whose remains have not been found. Withholding the location of a victim's body or remains causes prolonged, intense suffering for the families and friends of victims. The bill is intended to assist in uncovering the remains of more victims of homicide-related crimes and bring some degree of comfort and closure to those families. The bill makes clear that parole is not an entitlement for homicide offenders who have not cooperated with attempts to locate the missing remains of their victims. This Government is upholding strong parole laws to keep the people of New South Wales safe and uphold justice across the State. This is a much-welcomed reform, and I commend the bill to the House.

Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect) (15:56): I contribute to debate on the Crimes (Administration of Sentences) Amendment (No Body, No Parole) Bill 2022. The bill will be a significant reform to the process of parole in New South Wales. It will give justice to victims of homicide, as well as their families and loved ones, even after their murderers have been convicted. I therefore support its passage. Too often victims of homicide are not granted the dignity they deserve, with law enforcement officials unable to locate their remains. Too often those who have been convicted of homicide deny families of victims the opportunity to put their loved ones to rest. These murderers deny families this right through their refusal to cooperate with law enforcement and provide the location of their victim's body.

A murderer's refusal to assist law enforcement in locating a victim's remains is a disrespectful act of cruelty. It is clear that convicted murderers who refuse to assist in these searches have a lack of remorse for their crime. This lack of remorse would indicate that these murderers may not be capable of rehabilitation during their term of imprisonment and could still pose a danger to society. Members of this Parliament should be doing everything in our power to deny consideration for parole to these dangerous murderers, who lack any remorse for their actions. The bill aims to deny this consideration of parole through amendments to the Crimes (Administration of Sentences) Act 1999. New section 135A of the bill states:

135A Parole order must not be made where offender has not cooperated in locating victim's body or remains

The specifics of circumstances in which this denial of parole is applicable are clarified under new section 135A (1), which states:

- (a) the body or remains of the victim of the offence have not been located, or
- (b) because of an act or omission of the offender or another person, part of the body or remains of the victim has not been located.

Furthermore, new section 135A (8) defines a "victim's location" as follows:

victim's location means—

- (a) the location, or the last known location, of every part of the body or remains of the victim of the homicide offence, and
- (b) the place where every part of the body or remains of the victim may be found.

These amendments to the Crimes (Administration of Sentences) Act 1999 are important in defining what a victim's location is and the circumstances in which a convict should be denied parole for refusing to reveal a victim's location. I believe the recommended process proposed for denying parole in this bill is well thought out and just. That process is outlined in new section 135A (4), which states:

- (4) The Commissioner of Police must, at least 28 days before the Parole Authority proposes to make a decision about making a parole order directing the release of an offender to which this section applies, give the Parole Authority a written report that—
 - (a) states whether the offender has given cooperation mentioned in subsection (2), and
 - (b) if the offender has given cooperation, includes an evaluation of—
 - (i) the nature, extent and timeliness of the offender's cooperation, and
 - (ii) the truthfulness, completeness and reliability of any information or evidence provided by the offender in relation to the victim's location, and
 - (iii) the significance and usefulness of the offender's cooperation.

Further, when deciding whether the State Parole Authority is satisfied by the offender's cooperation, as mentioned in subsection (2), new section 135A (5) states that the parole authority:

- (a) must have regard to—
 - (i) the report given by the Commissioner of Police under subsection (4), and
 - (ii) any information the Parole Authority has about the offender's capacity to give the cooperation, and
- (b) may have regard to any other information the Parole Authority considers relevant.

Therefore, new subsections 135A (4) and (5) give the convict the opportunity to cooperate with law enforcement to locate the remains of their victims and give the victims' families peace. This process is to be conducted in consultation with the commissioner of the NSW Police Force and the State Parole Authority, with at least 28 days to review the option for parole. This is a reasonable amount of time to review all the facts before making a decision to either approve or deny parole. Providing convicts with this opportunity is how we can achieve results, increasing the incidence of a victim's body being located and holding their convicted murderers, who refuse to cooperate, to a greater level of accountability.

Change needs to occur now, with this issue currently in the public imagination due to the conviction of Chris Dawson. On 9 January 1982 Lynette Dawson disappeared, leaving behind her two daughters and her husband, Chris Dawson. Lynette was not reported missing by her husband until six weeks later. The following year Chris filed divorce proceedings against Lynette and then married one of his former high school students, who he had been grooming while married to Lynette. Tragically, Lynette was never found, but Mr Dawson was charged with her suspected murder in December 2018 and found guilty of the murder on 30 August this year. After being found guilty of murdering his wife and convicted, Chris Dawson has refused to cooperate with the NSW Police Force in locating the remains of Lynette. This lack of cooperation denies Lynette, her family and two daughters the closure and complete justice that they deserve.

Another case that I find most disturbing, and which captured the attention of New South Wales, is the murder of Samantha Knight. In 1996 serial paedophile Michael Guider was already in jail for more than 60 offences of child abuse when he admitted to killing nine-year-old Samantha Knight, who had disappeared a decade earlier. Guider claimed that he accidentally gave Samantha an overdose of sleeping pills, causing her death. He told police that he originally buried Samantha's body in Cooper Park in the eastern suburbs before moving the body to a skip bin at the Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron club in Kirribilli. Samantha's body was never found. The NSW Police Force and other victim support groups hold theories that Guider provided a false location

for the body as it may show evidence of an alternative cause of her death and even more extreme abuse he may have inflicted on her.

It is an absolute disgrace that, despite Samantha's body never being located, Michael Guider was released from prison in 2019. Michael Guider clearly showed no signs of rehabilitation during his time in prison, as only a few weeks ago he was arrested for the possession of child pornography. It is clear that Michael Guider should have spent the rest of his life behind bars, given that he has returned to indulging in his paedophilic lifestyle and continues to pose a danger to children in our community. I believe convicted murderers who have committed such an act of evil—inflicting continued emotional suffering on the families and loved ones of the victim, who may never be able to lay their loved one's body to rest—must be denied parole.

I am glad that the New South Wales Government has taken action through the bill following the trial of Chris Dawson. The bill should ensure that murderers like Dawson and Guider, who refuse to cooperate in locating the remains of their victims, may never be granted freedom. However, this is yet another example of delayed action from the Liberal Government after 12 years in office. Between 2015 and 2017 five other States and Territories in Australia legislated no body, no parole laws, including Queensland, South Australia, Victoria, Western Australia and the Northern Territory. I note that the no body, no parole legislation was introduced and enacted in those five States and Territories by State Labor governments.

The South Australian Weatherill Labor Government was the first State government to enact this form of legislation through the Correctional Services (Parole) Amendment Bill 2015. That was followed by the Northern Territory Gunner Labor Government's Parole Amendment Bill 2016, the Victorian Andrews Labor Government's Justice Legislation Amendment (Parole Reform and Other Matters) Bill 2016, the Queensland Palaszczuk Labor Government's Corrective Services (No Body, No Parole) Amendment Bill 2017 and, most recently, the Western Australian McGowan Labor Government's Sentence Administration Amendment Bill 2017. *[Extension of time]*

Over the course of two years, five other State governments legislated for this reform to their parole system but the New South Wales Liberal Government chose to do nothing. I must ask why the Baird and Berejiklian Liberal governments failed to make this reform to our State's parole system at a time when the majority of State governments were doing so. Perhaps we will never know the answer to that question, but it is telling that the New South Wales Liberal Government was among three other States and Territories that did not make the reform at the time, including Tasmania's Hodgman Liberal Government. Furthermore, five years have passed since the last no body, no parole bill became law in an Australian State. It should not have taken the conviction of Chris Dawson for the issue to be considered in legislation in our State.

It is clear from the correlation between five State Labor governments already enacting the no body, no parole legislation that Labor governments are more conscious of this issue, as well as other issues relating to the criminal justice system, compared with the current Liberal Government. The Australian Labor Party truly is the party that is tough on crime, not the Liberal-Nationals Government. A Minns New South Wales Labor Government will be no exception to the other State Labor governments in Queensland, South Australia, Victoria, Western Australia and the Northern Territory.

Dr Geoff Lee: Point of order: The member for Prospect should return to the leave of the bill rather than going on a political rant.

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER: There is a bit of wiggle room during a second reading debate, and the member for Prospect has been relevant overall to the bill. However, he has certainly departed from that path. The member for Prospect will return to the leave of the bill.

Dr Geoff Lee: You're better than this.

Dr HUGH McDERMOTT: Unfortunately, you are not better than this. That is the problem.

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER: I uphold the point of order. The member for Prospect will return to the leave of the bill.

Dr HUGH McDERMOTT: New South Wales should lead the nation in crime prevention and punishment for those who are beyond rehabilitation. Legislation such as this keeps our communities safe from dangerous convicts who display a lack of remorse. We should not wait five years after most other States have introduced similar laws. To conclude, despite my outrage that it has taken this long for the legislation to be introduced in New South Wales, I am confident that the reforms to the parole system the bill proposes will bring justice to the families of murder victims. It is devastating to lose a loved one at the hands of a convicted murderer. The suffering of a victim's family is made worse when they are deprived of the right to bury the victim or even know what became of the body. Convicted murderers who refuse to cooperate with law enforcement to locate the bodies of

their victims are not deserving of the opportunity for freedom through parole. The bill gives justice and closure to victims and their families. I commend the bill to the House.

Ms JENNY LEONG (Newtown) (16:10): On behalf of The Greens, I contribute to debate on the Crimes (Administration of Sentences) Amendment (No Body, No Parole) Bill 2022, which we do not support. The bill prevents parole being granted to an offender who is serving a term for a homicide offence where the victim's body or remains have not been located, unless the State Parole Authority is satisfied that the offender has cooperated in attempting to find or discover the body or remains. I appreciate that contributions so far have been significant. The member for Prospect spoke in graphic detail about some horrific murder crimes and the inability of family members to locate the body. Only those who have experienced that level of trauma and complete tragedy will understand the grief associated with that ongoing situation and lack of closure.

With that said, it is very important in responding to that kind of grief that members in this Chamber do not offer false hope when there is scant evidence that these laws have any effect. All of us in the Chamber will agree that these are the most horrific circumstances imaginable. When a person has been murdered and they are unable to locate the body we must not offer false hope to families, friends and the community by suggesting that the law will in any way resolve the issue we are trying to address, nor alleviate their grief. The Greens will move amendments to the legislation in the upper House. It is important to recognise The Greens are concerned that, in drafting and introducing the bill, the Government has not consulted directly with external stakeholders. The Bar Association is opposed to the bill without amendments and, as far as we are aware, no forensic psychiatrists were consulted during the drafting process.

The evidence for or against the effectiveness of the bill is limited by the lack of publicly available information, the very small number of offenders to whom the provisions apply and the relatively short time that the laws have been in place in other jurisdictions. I understand that fewer than 10 people in New South Wales would be impacted by the law. When considering what could happen with these laws, it is important to look to those who have particular expertise and have analysed the legislation that has been introduced in other jurisdictions. I refer members to a 23 September 2022 article that appeared in *The Conversation* written by Jarryd Bartle, Greg Stratton, Michele Ruyters and Monique Moffa. They raised concerns about the no body, no parole laws both in terms of their effectiveness—or ineffectiveness—and the risk of them being disastrous for those who are wrongfully convicted. The article states:

These laws are designed to provide closure to friends and families of homicide victims, allowing them to bury their loved ones. However, there's scant evidence they are effective. And they could prove disastrous for people in Australian prisons who have been wrongfully convicted.

In addition to that, they go on to say:

We believe "no body" laws lack evidence to support their use and may offer false hope to victims' families if remains cannot be found. They rely on many assumptions about how crimes occur, how offenders may cooperate, and effective policing investigations post-disclosure.

They particularly highlight the concerns they have around the no-body laws and people who are wrongfully convicted:

"No body" laws add a further complication for the wrongfully convicted. The factually innocent are clearly unable to provide information to authorities about the location of the victim as they did not commit the crime and would not know where the body is.

They cite the very well-known case of Lindy Chamberlain, who was wrongly convicted. She obviously was in no position to indicate where the body of her daughter was because it was later found to have been taken by a dingo. It is very important for us to recognise that while we have very strong feelings and wish that we could solve everything that is causing grief and heartache to people in our society by making laws in Parliament, those laws do not always solve or resolve all the problems we need to address in our society. When people have a loved one who has been murdered, their grief and lack of closure cannot be solved by us making a law in this place to force people to do things when they have been acting in a way—for a whole range of reasons—that we, as reasonable people, know is completely unfathomable.

We need to reflect on the idea that we think we can come to this Chamber and, on the fly, introduce a response that seeks to address an outrageous situation of homicide or murder in an attempt to resolve or limit the grief of individuals. There is so much that we need to fix in our society, but the solution is not always to create more laws. The solution does not always come from further amending the Crimes Act. We need to recognise what causes this violence, in most cases against women. What are the foundations of that violence? What are the systemic issues in our society that mean we are seeing women being murdered at an outrageous rate compared to men? What are we doing as a Parliament? What is this Government doing to address the ongoing violence that is occurring against women? The law before us is seeking to provide some closure, or is a pretence of an attempt to provide some closure or some ability for families to address their lack of closure. But there is no evidence to

suggest that this law in other jurisdictions has offered that closure. There is no evidence to suggest that it will offer closure in the future for families in these horrific circumstances.

What is clear is that we know right now that we have the answers on how to stop violence against women and how to stop women being murdered at the hands of their intimate partners. The systemic problems in our society are linked to a whole range of issues that mean women are left in very dangerous situations such that they are unable to escape violence—that is, patriarchy, a lack of housing funding and a whole range of other reasons that we can solve in this Chamber. But we are not doing that. We are seeing yet another attempt to solve everything through getting tough on law and order and changing the Crimes Act, which The Greens do not support in this instance. We support a whole range of measures that would address the root cause of why women are being murdered by their partners in the first place. That is what we should be working on together to prevent. Unfortunately, this law is an attempt by the Government to make it look like we can do something when in fact we know this change to the law in other jurisdictions has not had the effect it is purported to have had. That is why The Greens oppose this legislation.

Dr GEOFF LEE (Parramatta—Minister for Corrections) (16:18): In reply: I thank all members who contributed to debate on this important legislation: the member for Lakemba, the member for Prospect, the member for Newtown and the member for Willoughby. It is great to see the Opposition enthusiastically supports this important change to the crimes administration legislation. In the words of the member for Prospect, this is well thought out and just legislation. I thank him for his enthusiastic support because when a terrible tragedy happens, such as a murder, and when a body or parts of a body are not recovered, it is important that friends and families have some sort of closure that they can symbolise in their own way.

I acknowledge the member for Newtown's contribution and opposition to this legislation. I must remind her that it is our responsibility in this place to do everything we possibly can to try to find the bodies or body parts of victims. It would be terrible to think that a person could have a murdered loved one but the body could not be found. We have to do everything we possibly can and that is what we are doing. If this legislation benefits only one family or one single group of people, I think we will have achieved our aim. I remind the member that the Opposition and the Government support this legislation. We all agree that it is about time we brought this legislation forward and have it enacted in Parliament. I compliment the member for Willoughby on his well thought out commentary on the legislation. I thank him for understanding the nuances of the legislation and providing a robust account of it.

In conclusion, the bill will strengthen the Crimes (Administration of Sentences) Act 1999 by removing the State Parole Authority's discretion to grant parole to an offender who has not cooperated satisfactorily with authorities to identify the location of their victim's remains. Offenders with the capacity to do so must cooperate with authorities to locate their victim's remains to be released on parole. This strikes the right balance between the rights of the offenders and the rights of the victims and their families. The New South Wales Government is committed to upholding strong parole laws so that families and communities of New South Wales are kept safe. That involves listening to the people of New South Wales and meeting their expectation when it comes to releasing offenders on parole. The bill introduces stronger no body, no parole laws into New South Wales that are similar to those already found in a number of other Australian jurisdictions. This reform incentivises offenders to disclose the location of the remains or body of the victim and helps to give families and those close to the victims receive the closure that they deserve. I commend the bill to the House.

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

Motion agreed to.

Third Reading

Dr GEOFF LEE: I move:

That this bill be now read a third time.

Motion agreed to.

CRIMES AMENDMENT (MONEY LAUNDERING) BILL 2022

DEDICATED ENCRYPTED CRIMINAL COMMUNICATION DEVICE PROHIBITION ORDERS BILL 2022

LAW ENFORCEMENT (POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES) AMENDMENT (DIGITAL EVIDENCE ACCESS ORDERS) BILL 2022

Second Reading Debate

Debate resumed from 21 September 2022.

Mr PAUL SCULLY (Wollongong) (16:23): At the outset I indicate that New South Wales Labor will not oppose the Crimes Amendment (Money Laundering) Bill 2022 and cognate bills. The shadow Attorney General and I have been briefed by senior officers of both the NSW Police Force and the New South Wales Crime Commission, and I thank them for the time they took to take us through the considerable detail of the bills. Opposition members listened carefully as the content and intent of the provisions of these bills were outlined and are convinced by the arguments for and purpose of these bills, which are proposed to curb certain behaviour. Over the past couple of years we have seen organised crime take a greater hold of Sydney streets. The daily media reports and screaming front-page headlines tell a dismal story. We have seen this activity manifest itself in a range of areas—including drugs supply, fraud, cybercrime and money laundering—and spill over into violence with pools of blood in our streets. Like many other things in modern society, organised crime, which used to take place behind closed doors in the secrecy of dark places, is now also taking place, or at least is being organised and coordinated, over digital platforms.

The Australian Institute of Criminology estimated that the cost of serious and organised crime in Australia in 2021 was between \$24.8 billion and \$60.1 billion. That is an extraordinary amount. It is a huge cost in anyone's language, and is primarily borne by governments, businesses and individuals. The institute further breaks down those figures into direct serious and organised crimes, defined as those crimes that have a clear and direct link with serious and organised crime, which were estimated to cost up to \$37.3 billion in that year; and consequential serious and organised crime, which had an estimated cost in the same year of up to around \$6.4 billion. The institute noted:

Interestingly the upper estimate of total direct costs, including consequential costs, of serious and organised crime in 2020-21 (\$43.7b) was only slightly less than the total recurrent expenditure of all government agencies with some responsibility for serious and organised crime control in Australia in the same year (\$45.1b).

That certainly gives some insight into the size of the problem, which, as I mentioned earlier, has grown in New South Wales. In discussions with senior New South Wales police about this issue, including the commissioner, it was clear that the size of the problem and the increasing sophistication in the execution of organised crime and the means through which it is undertaken is why New South Wales police are seeking the powers established by the bills before the House. The bills cross the portfolio responsibilities of both police and the Attorney General. Accordingly, I will confine my contribution to debate to the provisions of the Dedicated Encrypted Criminal Communication Device Prohibition Orders Bill 2022. The shadow Attorney General, who is in the Chamber, will provide the further remarks on behalf of NSW Labor on the other bills.

As I indicated earlier, just as so many other parts of our lives have moved online, so too has a great deal of organised crime activity. As such, police in criminal investigations and investigators also need to have the tools at their disposal adjusted through time. An example of the extent and reach of criminal syndicates in the digital world was evidenced by the ANOM sting operation. ANOM gave law enforcement agencies and the general public an insight into the size and sophistication of organised criminal activities. These organisations are no longer local operations, nor are they constrained by borders. They are very large, very complex multinational criminal ventures.

The bill establishes a legal framework around the devices that people are using to engage in serious organised crime. The bill seeks to establish and outlaw dedicated devices used by criminals that have been specifically developed to use high levels of encryption and closed networks to avoid detection of activities by law enforcement. Naturally, my and many people's first reaction when they heard about this bill and the Government's plans was to wonder whether or not it captures the personal use of their encrypted apps on their smart phones. We are assured that it does not. Those wanting to check for themselves can look at how this is established through the proposed legislative changes.

The bill amends the Crimes Act 1900 to add a definition of a dedicated encrypted criminal communication device by setting a high bar for the types of devices captured by this legislation and, accordingly, by the prohibition orders. Under the new meaning, a dedicated encrypted criminal communication device must be a device that is designed to facilitate communication between people suspected of being involved in serious criminal activity. That test alone means that the provisions of the bill seek to apply to only a very well defined and very small group of people. The device must have been devised to defeat detection by law enforcement. It must use hardware modifications or have software on it that modifies the factory operating systems in a way that enables encrypted communication between users. It also must be configured in a way that impedes law enforcement.

The meaning proposed also defines what is not captured among those devices. As the Deputy Premier noted in his second reading speech, considerable care has been taken to develop that definition so as to limit it to communication devices that are developed for, and used exclusively by, criminal groups. The logical concerns of anyone who carries a modern communication device were certainly on my mind when I discussed this definition with officers of the NSW Police Force and the New South Wales Crime Commission during briefings on the bill.

I wanted to be sure that firm boundaries were placed on the type, nature and purpose of communication devices to be captured by this proposal.

I note that in addition to a range of matters relevant to the making, use and revocation of prohibition orders, the definition of the devices in question has been crafted so as to clearly not capture the lawful activities of individuals and businesses seeking to use legally and widely available encryption apps on their devices. I note that the bills before us also provide regulations that mean that updates can be made to both what is a device captured under the regulations and, importantly, what is not. Along with limits on the nature of devices, the bill proposes a review of the Act two years after its commencement, should it pass this House and the other place. That is an important provision.

The bill also establishes a dedicated encrypted criminal communication device prohibition order scheme. The scheme, modelled on the Drug Supply Prohibition Order Pilot Scheme, provides police with search powers intended to be used in respect of criminals who should be restricted from accessing these devices. The prohibition orders will be available for police to apply for for those who have been convicted of a serious criminal offence, which includes serious offences under the Crimes Act, money laundering offences, serious drug offences and offences under the Firearms Act, to name a few. A police officer will be able to make an application for an order if they reasonably believe that the eligible person is likely to use a dedicated encrypted criminal communication device to avoid law enforcement detection of criminal activity.

In determining an application, the authorised magistrate must have regard to the same considerations. That is aimed at making sure a prohibition order is focused on serious or organised criminal activity by capturing individuals with a likely risk of using a dedicated encrypted criminal communication device to avoid law enforcement. If a prohibition order is issued, police will be provided with specific powers to search a person, their premises and their vehicle to ensure or determine whether the person is in possession of a dedicated encrypted criminal communication device. It does not prevent the subject of an order possessing a lawful communication device.

With provisions similar to the Drug Supply Prohibition Order Pilot Scheme, orders can be granted only by an authorised magistrate and last for a maximum duration of two years. A police officer of the rank of superintendent or above must approve an application, which provides scrutiny and oversight by a commissioned officer so that they are satisfied that the application contains sufficient grounds before being put to the authorised magistrate. The bill also provides that the subject of an order may apply to the Local Court to have the order revoked. The Commissioner of Police and the oversight commissioner also may apply to revoke an order.

The bill outlines the reporting requirements for the Commissioner of Police about dedicated criminal communication device prohibition orders and establishes the role of an oversight commissioner. Setting a clear definition of what a dedicated encrypted criminal communication device is—and, importantly, what it is not—and setting clear and quite stringent requirements around the application for a prohibition order place clear limits on the application of the provisions proposed in the bill.

The advice from senior officers indicates that the bill is targeted at those people who are engaging in the sort of organised criminal activity that is increasingly being played out in the streets and suburbs of Sydney. Police have among the toughest jobs in our State. NSW Labor has always been clear that it will support our police in their role, particularly when it comes to curbing the scourge of organised crime that is flourishing in our streets and suburbs. As I indicated earlier, this is a debate on cognate bills. The two other bills cross into the portfolio responsibilities of the shadow Attorney General.

While I have confined my contribution to the Dedicated Encrypted Criminal Communication Device Prohibition Orders Bill, the shadow Attorney General will have more to say on behalf of NSW Labor on the other bills that make up the cognate debate. As I said at the outset, NSW Labor will not be opposing the bills. We have had detailed discussions with the NSW Police Force and the New South Wales Crime Commission, as well as the Police Association of New South Wales. Modern policing needs modern tools to beat sophisticated criminals and their organisations. Just as criminal activity seeks to stay ahead of the laws of the State in an effort to escape detection and to keep their complex and expansive organised crime activities underway, the Parliament needs to consider the types of powers that are needed by law enforcement bodies to not only keep up with the continual shifts in murky criminal activity but to get ahead of it.

Over the past couple of years Sydney's streets have been peppered with bullets as part of an outbreak of gang violence. Execution-style killings have been rampant, and people have been murdered in front of young children. We know that money and the drug trade are at the heart of the violence and gangland wars. They are the battles of criminals engaged in organised crime, and deadly, ruthless gangland wars are being played out on our streets in usually peaceful and quiet suburbs. NSW Labor wants to make sure that the police have the power to detect, disrupt and ultimately prosecute criminal gangs and people involved in organised crime.

NSW Labor wants to see safe streets. We want to see peaceful neighbourhoods and suburbs. None of us should ever be comfortable that there are ruthless gangs and contract killers wandering our streets, ready to fire bullets into houses, windows and cars. None of us should be comfortable that organised crime bosses ruling the streets are fighting over drugs, laundered cash, human trafficking and terrorism. None of us should be comfortable that the people involved in organised crime are using devices that have been designed and built and which operate in a way that not only facilitates crimes on dedicated networks in closed loops among people who are engaged in crime but also in a way that actively avoids detection by law enforcement bodies.

As I said earlier, police have a tough job. They do a fantastic job on our streets, and we should provide them with the powers they need when they need them. It has been made very clear to the shadow Attorney General and me that the powers in the bills have been requested by police to pursue a very small group of people to shut down their organisations, make sure they are not taking over anything more and deal with the activities that they are involved in, not just domestically but also international efforts to shut down organised crime activity. Police cannot fight back to keep our communities safe with one arm tied behind their backs. It is for that reason that NSW Labor will not oppose the cognate bills. The Dedicated Encrypted Criminal Communication Device Prohibition Orders Bill 2022 provides new powers for new approaches to fighting sophisticated, well-organised criminal activities while placing appropriate and responsible limits on the exercise of those powers.

Mr DAVID LAYZELL (Upper Hunter) (16:37): I support the Crimes Amendment (Money Laundering) Bill 2022, which is part of the cognate bills before the House. The Crimes Amendment (Money Laundering) Bill 2022 amends the Crimes Act 1900 to crack down on organised crime. The reforms are extensive, and rightfully so. Money laundering is a key enabler of organised crime, which has been estimated to cost the Australian community up to \$60 billion in 2020-21. The bill introduces some of the most comprehensive anti-money laundering laws in the country. It draws on extensive stakeholder input to address barriers to prosecution and introduces new offences to counter them.

The reforms strike at the heart of criminal networks' financial cores and are a crucial step in our plan to dismantle organised crime in New South Wales. The bill introduces new proceeds of general crime offences, increases the penalties for the offence of dealing with suspected proceeds of crime and introduces new aggravating factors to better align with the severity of criminality involved. It expands the circumstances that give rise to reasonable grounds to suspect that property is the proceeds of crime and closes a legislative loophole that could derail undercover operations that target money laundering.

The Government is committed to shutting down organised crime. To be truly effective, we must apply maximum pressure to the main artery that pumps its heart. Those planning on exploiting New South Wales to wash their dirty money will no longer be able to practise strategic ignorance and hide behind legal technicalities. They will be met with new offences and significantly harsher penalties. Of paramount concern is the practice of strategic ignorance amongst launderers. I am told that those criminals intentionally create separation between the criminal offending that produced the proceeds of crime and the laundering activity to thwart prosecution attempts to link the primary offence with the laundering. That causes inherent difficulties for the prosecution to establish the requisite mental element under the current offence, which is that the accused knew or was reckless as to whether the property was proceeds of crime. As a result, the State is often left pursuing the lesser offence, which carries a much lower penalty of five years as opposed to 20 years behind bars. That is contrary to achieving maximum deterrence, and we must act now to ensure that our laws can be effectively prosecuted.

To overcome strategic ignorance, the bill introduces new offences for proceeds of general crime, which reduces the prosecution's burden when seeking a conviction for the more serious offence, requiring them only to have to link the proceeds to a general crime rather than a specific offence. The inclusion of a \$100,000 monetary threshold for the new offences is a welcome feature of the bill and symbolises our commitment to targeting serious criminal syndicates. The status quo is unacceptable. We need to give law enforcement agencies the tools they need to keep pace with money laundering techniques in New South Wales and make it easier for prosecutions to proceed. The inclusion of new proceeds of general crime offences to address prosecution barriers will capture those criminals who rely on strategic ignorance to launder their ill-gotten gains.

The bill also extends the definition of "deal with" to capture those syndicates who use New South Wales as a launching pad to operate across borders, within and outside of New South Wales. With organised crime becoming increasingly borderless, we must do our bit to support the national and international efforts in combating organised crime. We cannot allow New South Wales to become a haven or a geographical mule for organised crime. The bill also extends the alternate verdicts provision to this new offence so that offenders can still receive convictions for the lower general crime offence in circumstances where a conviction is not secured for the more serious crime that carries the tougher penalty.

The bill also introduces increased penalties proportional to the severity of criminality involved. Laundering \$100,000 is very different to laundering \$5 million, and our penalties must be scaled to recognise that reality. The

offences will be supported by new aggravating factors in recognition of the seriousness of criminality involved. For example, we know there are links between organised crime and terrorism financing in Australia. That is unacceptable and must be shut down. The methods underpinning organised crime operations are changing. While very helpful, the current indicators must be updated to ensure we are responsive to organised crime practices. Amendments in the Crimes Amendment (Money Laundering) Bill 2022 will include new factors, such as possessing over \$100,000 without lawful excuse. Apart from some cash-handling professions, it is hard to conceive a legitimate reason why anyone would carry that amount of cash other than for criminal purposes.

We are also addressing the emergence of tokens and unique identifiers that preserve anonymity in unlawful exchanges and the emergence of falsely subscribed telephone devices and dedicated encrypted communication devices. Dealings involving clandestine meetings or the use of a concealed compartment will also be captured under those additions. We want to close off a potential legal loophole to preserve the intent of our anti-money laundering policy in situations involving controlled operations under the Law Enforcement (Controlled Operations) Act 1997. Currently, where law enforcement receives information that a person is suspected to be willing and able to launder funds that come from questionable sources, controlled operations, commonly known as undercover operations, can be pursued; however, it can be challenging to classify the property used by police as part of the operation as proceeds of crime.

That is potentially fatal to the prosecution of the primary money laundering offence under section 193B. The bill clarifies that the property will be taken to be proceeds of crime in those situations. Put simply, the noose around organised crime networks must be tightened. The Government is not afraid of doing what is necessary to put an end to money laundering in New South Wales and truly shut down organised crime. The reforms are an integral part of a suite of broader organised crime reforms and represent the toughest response to money laundering by any Australian government to date. I commend the bill to the House.

Mr MICHAEL DALEY (Maroubra) (16:45): As the shadow Attorney General, I follow my colleague the shadow Minister for Police and member for Wollongong in contributing to debate on the Crimes Amendment (Money Laundering) Bill 2022 and the Law Enforcement (Powers and Responsibilities) Amendment (Digital Evidence Access Orders) Bill 2022. My colleague led for the Opposition on the Dedicated Encrypted Criminal Communication Device Prohibition Orders Bill 2022—that is a mouthful. The bills are spread across two portfolios, although they have been introduced by the Minister for Police.

As my colleague the member for Wollongong indicated at the outset of his contribution, the Opposition does not oppose the cognate bills. I am privileged to have been Minister for Police with responsibility for the NSW Police Force and the Crime Commission. As I said at the time and have said many times since, I wish every citizen of New South Wales could be the Minister for that portfolio for a week to give an idea of what the men and women who are charged with fighting crime in our State do day after day. After having the privilege of working closely with them, dedication for them simply increases. I thank the Minister for Police, his staff and the police and Crime Commission officers who were present at the briefing the member for Wollongong and I were given on these bills.

Money laundering is not a victimless crime. In fact, when I was a Minister, it was described to me by one of the best police officers Australia has ever seen, Nick Caldas, as Australia's most serious crime, and it is. It enables those who commit serious offences to keep refinancing themselves. Those who commit these offences are not nice people. They participate in drug running, drug selling, drug peddling and drug cultivation. They exploit sex workers and modern slavery, and they are bikies. They are serious criminals. They are becoming increasingly sophisticated and so the law and the methods that are employed against them must become increasingly sophisticated. It is right that the Government introduces legislation to keep reacting to the changing circumstances and environments of crime in New South Wales. But there is a question about the Crimes Amendment (Money Laundering) Bill, which I will get to in a minute. Currently, money laundering is dealt with in the Crimes Act. Section 193B states:

- (1) A person who deals with proceeds of crime—
 - (a) knowing that it is proceeds of crime, and
 - (b) intending to conceal that it is proceeds of crime,
 is guilty of an offence.

The maximum imprisonment is a whopping 20 years, and deservedly so. Section 193B continues:

- (2) A person who deals with proceeds of crime knowing that it is proceeds of crime is guilty of an offence.

Maximum penalty—imprisonment for 15 years.
- (3) A person who deals with proceeds of crime being reckless as to whether it is proceeds of crime is guilty of an offence.

Maximum penalty—imprisonment for 10 years.

The Crimes Amendment (Money Laundering) Bill introduces new section 193BA, which was advanced by the Minister in his second reading speech. He said:

This is necessary following recent court decisions in *Chen v Director of Public Prosecutions (Cth)* [2011] and *R v McKellar (No. 3)* [2014], which have had a significant impact on how primary money laundering offences under section 193B of the Crimes Act are interpreted. Those decisions mean that in order to prove an accused knowingly or even recklessly dealt with proceeds of crime, the prosecution must prove that the accused had knowledge of the type of offence that generated the alleged proceeds of crime. That is despite the operation of section 193F of the Crimes Act, which states that in order to prove that property is proceeds of crime, it is not necessary to prove:

- (a) a particular offence was committed in relation to the property, or
- (b) a particular person committed an offence in relation to the property.

Those court decisions held that this provision only relieve the prosecution of the burden of proving the alleged proceeds of crime were derived from a particular criminal event.

The key part states:

That makes successful prosecution very difficult where money launderers practise strategic ignorance to distance themselves from the offending that generates the proceeds of crime. To address this barrier to prosecution, the Crimes Amendment (Money Laundering) Bill 2022 will introduce two new offences for dealing in proceeds of general crime.

The Minister referred to *Chen v DPP* and *R v McKellar*. Chen was prosecuted in the New South Wales Court of Criminal Appeal; the date of the decision was 6 September 2011. McKellar was prosecuted before the New South Wales Supreme Court; the date of decision was 18 February 2014. The Minister referred to those cases and the principles laid down within them as being barriers to prosecution. I therefore ask the Minister to answer the following questions in his speech in reply: What has gone on for 11 and almost six years respectively since those decisions were handed down? Have we brought on prosecutions under section 193B of the Crimes Act? Is it the case that prosecutions have been brought under Commonwealth legislation? Is it the case that prosecutions were brought and we have continued to lose, or is it the case that the Government has done nothing? When did the Crime Commission and the police first plead with the Government to bring this legislative response to those two very old cases?

In relation to the Law Enforcement (Powers and Responsibilities) Amendment (Digital Evidence Access Orders) Bill, currently in New South Wales police have the power to direct a person to provide access to an electronic device when they are discovered in the course of execution of a search warrant and when New South Wales offences with a Commonwealth aspect are being investigated. Otherwise, the police powers to investigate the contents of encrypted devices in relation to New South Wales related offences only are limited. Briefly, the regime proposed under this bill will allow a law enforcement officer to apply to a judge or other authorised person for a digital evidence access order at the same time as they are applying for a search warrant. The effect of this access order will require the person on whom the order is served to do all things necessary to allow the officer to gain access to information on a computer, as it is defined in the Act, or, generally, electronic devices that contain information.

That will be a legislative mechanism by which law enforcement officers will be able to access password-protected or encrypted data contained on a phone, laptop, computer, iPad or the like. Failure to comply with such a direction will be an offence, as it should be. People cannot refuse access to a bookcase, a safe or a cupboard if law enforcement officers are executing a search warrant to their home. It is only fair to consider digital information contained on an electronic device as analogous to a written word on a piece of paper. There is no difference whatsoever. It is just another form of information and if the law requires it, you are required to serve it up. The bill introduces a new division to the Law Enforcement (Powers and Responsibilities) Act and makes several amendments to existing sections. The bill consists of two schedules. Schedule 1 defines a digital evidence access order. [*Extension of time*]

The bill inserts provisions into the Act to provide for digital evidence access orders that authorise an executing officer to provide certain information to the issuing officer and to require a specified person to provide reasonable and necessary information or assistance to enable access to data held in a computer. Proposed subdivision 2 sets out the particulars of applications for digital evidence access orders, provides the information an application must contain and makes it an offence to give false or misleading information to an eligible officer in connection to a digital evidence access order. Proposed subdivision 3 sets out the particulars the eligible officer must consider when determining an application for a digital evidence access order and the particulars that must be satisfied before the eligible officer may grant an application for a digital evidence access order.

Proposed subdivision 4 sets out the form a digital evidence access order must be in, the period of time the order is in force, the effect of the order on the specified person and the requirements to show the order, and makes it an offence to fail to comply with such an order, with a maximum penalty of 100 penalty units or imprisonment

for five years, or both. Proposed section 76AP provides the record-keeping requirements of an eligible issuing officer in relation to digital evidence access orders. Proposed section 94A sets out that while an occupier may apply for a review of the issuing of a digital evidence access order, this does not stay the operation of such an order. The bill inserts a provision requiring a review of the new provisions within two years from commencement. As I indicated at the outset, the Opposition does not oppose these bills.

Debate interrupted.

Public Interest Debate

WARRAGAMBA DAM WALL

Mr KEVIN CONOLLY (Riverstone) (16:57): I move:

That this House acknowledges that, moving forward, raising the Warragamba Dam wall is the best way to protect the people, homes and businesses of western Sydney.

The New South Wales Liberal Government is committed to raising Warragamba Dam's wall. Simply, it is the option which produces the greatest reduction in the height of floods in the valley, it is the option which does not put Sydney's water supply at risk and it is the option in an increasingly variable climate which optimises both the water storage and flood mitigation potential of the dam. Members may know that Sydney has officially recorded its wettest year on record since 1858 already—in mid-October—and the fact is there is the likelihood of significantly more rain coming.

It was only four years ago, in 2019, that we were in drought. Back then, Warragamba Dam had fallen to 42 per cent of its capacity. Sydney was in severe water restrictions. Our water security was at real risk. But memories are short. Now that we are experiencing the opposite conditions, towns and communities across the State are inundated, racing from flood waters yet again. Hundreds of hardworking SES crews and volunteers are doing everything they can to save lives and protect property from flooding. In this context, the people of the Hawkesbury-Nepean region obviously need flood protection, and they deserve it.

The Hawkesbury-Nepean region downstream of Warragamba Dam comprises dozens of suburbs, all or part of four local government areas and all or part of the State electorates of Penrith, Londonderry, Hawkesbury, Mulgoa and Riverstone. Hundreds of thousands of people live in these communities. A significant minority of those live in locations which are so low that they would not be approved for residential development today, nor indeed at any time over the last 30 years. This is reality. Those residents, their homes, their businesses, their public facilities and infrastructure are already there.

As governments over the years have confronted the issue of flooding more directly and learnt more about the flooding potential in the valley, planning regulations have been introduced, then tightened and then tightened some more, but the past is still with us. For the protection of the people who already live in the region, for the protection of their homes, for the protection of businesses, for the protection of public infrastructure like schools, community buildings, railway lines, sewerage facilities, and power and telecommunication utilities, there is a clear need for flood mitigation.

I am advised that raising the dam wall can be done in four years from approval to completion—just four years, not 10 years or decades, as some members of the Labor Party have misleadingly claimed. That is because planning-wise it is the most advanced option of any flood mitigation project on the table. A number of expert studies have been undertaken over the past quarter of a century and they have all found that the option which produces the most reduction in flood levels is the raising of the wall. The most recent major investigation of all the suggested options is summarised in the *Hawkesbury-Nepean Valley Flood Risk Management Strategy Taskforce Options Assessment Report* of 2019.

Before that 2019 study there were the Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Warragamba flood mitigation dam in 1985, the Hawkesbury-Nepean Floodplain Management Strategy of 1987, the *Hawkesbury Floodplain Risk Management Study & Plan* of Hawkesbury City Council in 2012 and a number of other reports. All of the supposed alternatives which some people have suggested in recent times were investigated in those earlier studies, as well in 2019. Raising the dam wall was consistently found to be the most effective at providing mitigations. They have all been looked at.

Some proposals, such as better land use planning and enhanced evacuation capacity, were shown to be complementary to raising the wall but were in no way a substitute for it in providing mitigation of existing risk. After considering all of the alternatives, after doing the due diligence the people of western Sydney expect and deserve, this Government rightfully declared the wall-raising project to be critical State significant infrastructure. By declaring the wall raising to be critical State significant infrastructure, the Government has cut the red tape which could have held up the project. The robust assessment processes will still have to be completed, but there

will be no unnecessary delays in getting them done. This important step allows the Government to get on with building the infrastructure we need to save lives and protect properties across western Sydney.

The investigation done by the Hawkesbury-Nepean Valley Flood Management Taskforce found that in a flood similar to the worst on record in the valley, back in the 1860s—about a one-in-500 event, as we calculate it now—raising the wall would reduce the number of homes impacted by flooding from 15,000 down to about 5,000. Damages in the flooding scenario would be reduced by about \$6 billion. Most importantly, for this scale of flood only 14,000 people would need to be evacuated rather than the 90,000 under current conditions. It also provides more time for those evacuations to occur. This dramatically reduces the likelihood of loss of life. To protect people's lives, raising the wall is the most effective option. This is the best option for western Sydney, which ensures the greatest number of people there now are protected from flooding without undermining Sydney's water supply.

Sydney's water supply of course needs to grow as Sydney grows. We need to do various things, as the Greater Sydney Water Strategy has proposed, to ensure the stability of our water supply. But all of them assume that we have access to the water currently stored in Warragamba Dam and we keep that dam supply unchanged. If we were to rely on additional manufactured water, desalination or purified recycled water, that would lead to the water system being more energy intensive, with higher operating costs. If we started a drought period with 40 per cent less water in the dam than we currently would have available to us, we could find that in a mere two years we are at critically low levels and we would need more water than our current desalination plant is able to provide. It would take perhaps two more desalination plans, with a cost to the tune of \$2 billion to \$3 billion each, to generate enough water to meet Sydney's demand if the level of storage in Warragamba was to be reduced as proposed. Raising the Warragamba Dam wall is the best option for western Sydney.

Mr GREG WARREN (Campbelltown) (17:04): On this side of the House, we know that there is only one greater dam wall in western Sydney, and that is this Government. When we look at the Premier, the member for Epping—

Mr Peter Sidgreaves: What's your policy?

Mr GREG WARREN: I will get to that, mate. Do not worry. I will come back to you. When we look at the member for Epping, we see his track record in western Sydney is trying to get out of the place as quickly as he could. After 12 long years, the Government's ignorance is very clear. I thank the member for Riverstone for bringing this issue to the House because it gives us the opportunity to have this debate and highlight yet again the flaws of this Government and its ignorance about western and south-western Sydney, of which this dam wall is just another example. It is big on talk, but nothing on delivery. We all know not one person in this House would not agree about the importance of protecting and saving lives. But if the Government is fair dinkum, why has it done nothing? This Government is like the *Seinfeld* show—a government about nothing. That is clearly on display with this particular issue.

The reality is that the Government's own inquiries have found that this project will not fix the problem it is trying to solve. Forty-five per cent of floodwater comes from other catchments, so it is not going to fix the problem. After 12 years, the Government has done—what a surprise—absolutely nothing to improve evacuation routes, build flood levees or investigate options for using the current dam for flood mitigation. After 12 long years of this lazy Government and four flooding events in Sydney, all it has done is talk about an unfunded project with no business case that even the Treasurer says does not stack up. The Treasurer himself has said it does not stack up. There is not one dollar allocated to this project after 12 years—not one dollar.

The member for Epping and former member for Hawkesbury—he could not wait to get out of western Sydney and move to Epping by putting his mate in the other place—and his Government's own flood inquiry did not recommend this project. It said the best way to protect lives is to stop building on the flood plain. This Government is planning for thousands more people to live in harm's way, and its members have the audacity to talk about protecting lives and saving people's homes. Does the Government have any idea what families in western and south-western Sydney have had to go through—what they have experienced? We see a government saying everything but doing nothing. That is the legacy of this Government. It is a government about absolutely nothing, and this is just another example. But the Government itself is divided on raising the wall. The member for Camden has opposed it. The member for Hawkesbury and the member for Riverstone have begged the Government to consider flood mitigation measures now, and they have been ignored.

Mr Peter Sidgreaves: Point of order—

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The member for Campbelltown will resume his seat. The member for Camden rises on a point of the order. What is the member's point of order?

Mr Peter Sidgreaves: I have not once opposed it.

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

Mr GREG WARREN: Labor has a more comprehensive plan to address floods, which includes building levees, ensuring evacuation routes and improving emergency communication. Our position is based on community expectation—what local families need right now. Yet again, we saw the Premier, the member for Epping, on television making a fluffy announcement with not one dollar attached to it and then doing nothing—just like the Government has done for 12 years. The greatest barrier in western and south-western Sydney is the Liberal Party of New South Wales. This once-great party is nothing more than a decaying carcass on the fringes of New South Wales politics, and the people of west and south-west Sydney should not have to pay the price for its incompetence. Yet again, this issue highlights that those opposite are lazy and out of touch. We have had 12 long years of a lazy government that simply needs to go. This issue highlights the Government's inadequacy and its ignorance of west and south-west Sydney.

Ms ROBYN PRESTON (Hawkesbury) (17:09): In its day, the Warragamba Dam was a pinnacle of engineering achievement in the twentieth century. When it was finished in 1960, Warragamba was the highest concrete gravity dam in the world on stone foundations. It took 1,800 workers 12 years to build, and today the dam provides around 80 per cent of Greater Sydney's water supply. It is the largest urban water supply in Australia and one of the largest domestic water supply dams in the world. Last week I joined the Premier, Minister Roberts, Minister Cooke and Minister Anderson on a visit to Warragamba Dam to declare the proposal to raise the dam wall by 14 metres critical State-significant infrastructure [CCSI]. I applaud the Premier for that announcement.

Raising the dam wall is about protecting people's lives, homes, property and businesses, farmers and their stock, and infrastructure that is severely damaged by floods. Members opposite have never been out there like I have—in gumboots, with water up to here, picking up after a flood. These people are spent, and you are turning your back on them. You are turning your back on Hawkesbury. You are turning your back on Camden. You are turning your back on Londonderry. How could the member for Londonderry not support this motion?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The member for Hawkesbury will direct her remarks through the Chair.

Ms ROBYN PRESTON: Protecting our community is the New South Wales Government's number one priority. As Minister Roberts explained on the day, the CCSI declaration will not affect the assessment and stakeholder scrutiny that the proposal to raise the dam wall will have to go through. The proposal has already undergone an 82-day public exhibition, allowing stakeholders to give their feedback. The recent flood inquiry confirmed that the most effective flood mitigation measure available is raising the Warragamba Dam wall. It will protect us during floods while not putting us in harm's way in time of drought, resulting in severe water restrictions—which Sydneysiders will remember well. We have gone from drought to floods.

As Leader of the Opposition, Chris Minns has stated publicly that he does not support raising the Warragamba Dam wall. Let me repeat that: Labor will not support raising the dam wall. There is our point of difference. The Liberal Government is committed to this project. What do Labor members do? They walk away. The Leader of the Opposition does not live on a flood plain. Sure, he visits Hawkesbury—in fact, he has come out about three times in recent days—shakes his head, does a Facebook post, stands there with the locals and makes media announcements. What is his plan? He suggests building levees in McGraths Hill and Pitt Town and spending \$225 million on solutions. There are all these great announcements, but guess what? He did not even wait for the independent inquiry to be tabled by Professor Mary O'Kane. He knows better.

It makes me wonder whether Labor's announcement was made on the run, without thought or seeking the advice of those who are more learned. When it comes to real commitment, the Leader of the Opposition will not put people first; he puts plants ahead of people because of his cosy relationship with The Greens. Five floods in 18 months gives me some authority to speak on behalf of the people of Hawkesbury. I ask the Opposition leader: When he visited Pitt Town, did he notice all the signage nailed on farm after farm after farm that said, "Build the dam wall. Save Hawkesbury from floods", or did he just ignore that to suit himself? I note the member for Blue Mountains, who I have great respect for—you are very passionate about your beliefs—is in the Chamber. Your comments were that you cannot do it because of the impact it will have on the heritage area in your end of town. I am putting people before trees. I am putting people ahead of everything else. It is not about development downstream. Where do you get that from?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Again, I ask the member for Hawkesbury to direct her comments through the Chair.

Ms ROBYN PRESTON: I do not know how the member for Blue Mountains can comfortably say that is true. I stood in the press conference and heard the Premier announce that there will be no more development on the flood plain. We are on a flood plain; we flood. But we have to look after the people that are there. There are

homes in Windsor built in 1896 that are right beside the river. They are there, and we have to protect them. We cannot walk away from our responsibility as a government.

Ms TRISH DOYLE (Blue Mountains) (17:14): This is a bad policy introduced by a crooked government on behalf of vested interests and Liberal Party donors in the property development industry—nothing more, nothing less. This is the same criminal Government—

Mr Kevin Conolly: Point of order: My point of order relates to Standing Order 73. If the member wants to make allegations of corruption there is a proper way to do that.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is no point of order. The member for Blue Mountains will continue.

Ms TRISH DOYLE: This is the same Government that was responsible for water theft along the Murray River. The impacts of the proposal to raise the dam wall are well established. In my electorate we will see hundreds of square kilometres of pristine World Heritage national park flooded. We will see sacred Aboriginal sites inundated and destroyed. We will see huge cost imposts placed on taxpayers. The budget for the proposal has blown out from \$690 million to \$2 billion—and rising. How will the Government pay for it? On the economics of the dam wall raising, the now Treasurer said in 2019:

... I intend on being a very loud and robust voice, standing up for our environment and that includes standing up for the Blue Mountains National Park when it comes to the raising of the Warragamba Dam wall.

... the reality is there are other ways that you can mitigate the potential for floods along that river. I think that the economics of raising the dam wall will make that project unviable.

What a backflip! We will see huge costs and we will see rampant property development take hold of areas that were until now deemed too dangerous to build upon. But members do not need to take my word for it.

Ms Robyn Preston: Absolute rubbish!

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The member for Hawkesbury will resume her seat. Members without the call should not approach the lectern unless they are taking a point of order.

Ms TRISH DOYLE: Do not take the word of the Blue Mountains member who self-identifies as an environmentalist. Let us go to the testimony of that western Sydney traitor, the Minister for toll roads and member for Penrith, Stuart Ayres. In 2015 on *Nine News* he was pictured standing in an empty field in front of a flood level marker that maxed out at four metres high. He cast his arm out wide and said, "As far as the eye can see, to that tree line, all the way around—that's the urban development land. As far as the eye can see." Well, Stuart, you are blind and cannot see past the self-interest of your political donors, your party's greed and its ideological obsession with destroying the environment for profit.

This is a dumb idea, and those opposite demean themselves and the positions they hold in this Parliament and this Government by running this agenda on behalf of the developer lobby instead of demanding sane public policy and better outcomes for the people they represent. A January 2017 Infrastructure NSW report commissioned by the Government states:

The Hawkesbury-Nepean Valley is changing from a semi-rural landscape to an urbanised floodplain ... Up to 134,000 people live and work on the floodplain and could require evacuation. This number is forecast to double over the next 30 years.

There we have it. That is what this is all about. It is reckless in the extreme. The long-term plan, as this lot opposite calls it, for Warragamba Dam is something they have not done for 12 years. We are talking about a government that has been in power for 12 years. Only now, after a decade in power—

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

Ms TRISH DOYLE: —is it saying that it is an absolute priority to lift the Warragamba Dam wall. It has not put a single dollar into the project. Despite the fact that the budget handed down in June was the highest-spending State budget in New South Wales' entire history, no money was allocated to Warragamba Dam. This cannot be a priority for the New South Wales Government. As has been noted in this Chamber by other members before, it is important that people understand that even if the wall is completed, the threat is not diminished. Some 45 per cent of floodwaters come from the Colo, Grose and Nepean rivers, which are tributaries that do not come over the top of the Warragamba Dam. It is the failed former member for Hawkesbury and his crooked Government that is egging on property developers to build bad housing on high-risk, flood-prone areas. He is not just disingenuous; he is outright hypocritical and he lies.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member for Oatley will come to order. He had an opportunity to speak in this debate if he wished to do so.

Ms TRISH DOYLE: He is being disingenuous because WaterNSW, former water Minister Niall Blair, Australian National University Associate Professor Jamie Pittock and many others acknowledge that raising the dam wall will not eliminate the risk of flooding in the region. I do not buy the line that raising the dam wall will mitigate flood risk in real terms for people living in the Hawkesbury region right now. All it will do is justify a huge amount of new property development on land that should be left well enough alone. This Government has refused to consider alternatives to raising the dam wall.

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

Ms TRISH DOYLE: This Government has taken no interest in alternatives. It has pressed ahead with this issue and uses the fig leaf of flood risk as a justification to let property developers rip. Further, the Gundungurra people are fighting for Indigenous heritage protections for what is left of the Burragorang Valley so they can continue to tell and share their stories for generations to come. As the next big rain event begins, and with serious threats of more flooding, this Government has no plans for immediate flood mitigation. It is time to go. *[Time expired.]*

Mr STUART AYRES (Penrith) (17:19): I start my contribution to the public interest debate by taking a line from the previous contribution of the member from the Blue Mountains: "the fig leaf of flood risk". If you are a resident of Hawkesbury, Penrith or any community in western Sydney—even parts of Camden and Georges River—who has had to hose out your living room, replace all of your furniture or evacuate your family, that is the "fig leaf of flood risk". We spent a lot of time in this State after 1995 living through one of the worst and longest droughts in our nation's history. During that time we ignored the risk of flood because it did not rain. The time we had to build the flood mitigation infrastructure was not taken. Members can shout across the table at each other in this Chamber or we can accept that the risk is real.

We cannot do anything to stop it from raining. It will rain and the Hawkesbury-Nepean will flood. We must decide whether we want to hold those floodwaters behind a higher dam wall—so they are not in people's living rooms, flowing down the main streets or stopping kids from going to school—or whether we let those floodwaters flow into those communities like they have done in the past three years. If we build a higher dam wall, we will hold well over 1,000 gigalitres of water back. That is 1,000 gigalitres of water that is not flowing into communities downstream. Yes, it will be held back behind that higher dam wall and, yes, it will be there temporarily, but we will then let that water out. The impact that happens behind that dam wall will be a temporary impact. This is not about increasing water storage. It is absolutely not about increasing development in inappropriate areas.

Ms Trish Doyle: Yes, it is.

Mr STUART AYRES: No, it is not. It never has been. There is not one suggestion before this Chamber, the other place or the Department of Planning and Environment to open up any additional land for development in areas that are already high risk. Every member on the other side of the Chamber knows that there is a standardised planning mechanism of a one-in-100 or 1 per cent chance each year where we take a risk on that development. There is no doubt that there are opportunities for us in high-risk locations, particularly in the north-west of Sydney, where based on the availability of flood evacuation routes we should continue to restrain development.

As the science and technology have improved and we have learnt more about how floods work in the Hawkesbury-Nepean community, what has this Government done? It has continued to restrict that development. When it was once considered appropriate to develop the Penrith Lakes, it is now considered not appropriate. We made that decision. When those opposite rezoned the North West Growth Sector and allowed areas that would be impacted by flood to be developed, what did this Government do? It recognised that the flood risk had changed and pulled back on development.

Raising Warragamba Dam is not about adding extra people into harm's way of floodwaters. It is about making sure that people who are living in houses that are already impacted by floods get better protection. Some 5,000 homes are in the path of floodwater in the Hawkesbury-Nepean as a result of decisions of past governments—going all the way back to Governor Macquarie, I might add. We will not spend billions and billions of dollars relocating those people from low-cost housing into housing they cannot afford.

They expect members of the Government, and everyone in this Chamber, to assess all of the options and make the decision that is best for them; we have done that. In the most extensive environmental impact statement in this State's history, tens of thousands of pages say that this is the best way to mitigate floods. It does not remove the flood risk completely—no-one is arguing that. We cannot remove flood risk completely from a flood plain. We are not God—we cannot stop it from raining. But we can learn from what science and engineering has taught us in order to reduce that risk. I say this about the business case: Nearly \$8 billion worth of expenses are associated

with the past three years, and that is significantly more than we would spend on raising the dam wall to protect people from floodwaters because they damn well deserve it.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I call the member for Londonderry. It is wonderful to have you back in the Chamber. I wish you well.

Ms PRUE CAR (Londonderry) (17:25): Thank you, Deputy Speaker. I have had a day of people being nice to me. I make a contribution to the public interest debate introduced by the member for Riverstone, which the Opposition opposes. I seek to amend the motion. I move:

That the motion be amended by removing the words after "House" and inserting instead:

notes:

- (1) The Liberal-Nationals Coalition has been in government for 12 years.
- (2) The New South Wales Government's latest cost estimate for raising the Warragamba Dam wall is \$2 billion.
- (3) That raising the Warragamba Dam wall would take a minimum of eight years from commencement to completion.
- (4) That on average 45 per cent of floodwaters in the Hawkesbury-Nepean come from catchment areas that are not upstream of Warragamba Dam.
- (5) Calls on the Perrottet Government to implement immediate constructive measures such as building levees, evacuation roads and moderate reductions in the Warragamba Dam water levels.
- (6) Calls on the Perrottet Government to renounce plans to double the population on the flood plain.
- (7) Calls on the Perrottet Government to consult experts on immediate ways to reduce risk.

The Government has been in power for 12 years—that is, over a decade in office. For the vast majority of that time, those opposite have been arguing amongst themselves about the notion of raising the Warragamba Dam wall. Not one of them can refute that they have been arguing amongst themselves. Suddenly, 160 days before the election, they would have the people of Sydney, particularly western Sydney, believe that they wanted to do it all along. But they are going to raise the dam wall now. They have made it critically State significant. If it was such an important project, what have they been doing for 12 years?

The truth is that four recent floods in the Hawkesbury-Nepean have impacted all of our communities. I take particular offence to the member for Hawkesbury saying that no Labor members of Parliament helped people to clean up after the floods. That is blatantly untrue and offensive because many members of this Parliament and the Federal Parliament have provided help—the Federal member for Macquarie, for one—to people as they have been cleaning up their homes, farms and businesses after the floods. I put that on record. The Government has had 12 years to do something about flood mitigation—evacuation routes, roads and infrastructure, and finding ways to use existing infrastructure such as the existing dam for mitigation, not to mention the fact that there is a giant crack in the wall anyway. Is there a plan to do anything about that? Government members have not done any of that work.

This will be a trend in the lead-up to the next election when Government members are all about panicked, bottom-of-the-drawer grandstand projects. The people of western Sydney really need to know that this is an unfunded project. There is no business case to stop flooding in the catchment. The proposal is economically unviable, environmentally reckless—we cannot escape that fact—and will not be delivered anytime soon. Government members talk a big game, but when it comes to flood mitigation in western Sydney they fight amongst themselves and do not deliver. Not only is the project unfunded, but it will not stop the flooding for Hawkesbury-Nepean communities when so much of the floodwater in the area originates from catchment areas that are not upstream—and I am talking about the Nepean, the Grose, the Colo, South Creek and other smaller tributaries. Members who live in those areas well know that what I am saying is correct.

If the Government cared about flood mitigation, it would not build more houses on the flood plain. The member for Penrith can say that that is not what the Government is going to do, but he cannot escape his own words. He said it with his own words and there is no escaping that. The truth is that Government members have been arguing amongst themselves and fighting about the dam wall, yet on the eve of the election they would have people believe that they are serious about this. The Treasurer of New South Wales, Matt Kean, was one of the biggest opponents to the plan. Now he is talking about putting people before plans. Do Government members think the people of New South Wales are mugs? Do they think the people of New South Wales are idiotic? The Treasurer has zero credibility on this issue and the people of western Sydney have every right to be wary. We need concrete solutions for the people in western Sydney who have gone through the ringer when it comes to floods. [*Time expired.*]

Mr PHILIP DONATO (Orange) (17:30): I am delighted to contribute to the public interest debate introduced by the member for Riverstone. One might ask why the member for Orange would speak on the raising

of the Warragamba Dam wall. I will get to that later in my contribution. I and my colleague Mr Roy Butler are not opposed to supporting the motion as it stands. My colleague the member for Barwon sought and received information from Infrastructure NSW and WaterNSW in relation to some of his concerns around the proposal, which is the topic of this public interest debate. We appreciate the support and assistance that has been provided to his office. It has made us more comfortable in coming to the decision to support the motion.

As has been said, the Warragamba Dam wall was built in 1960 following 12 years of construction. Primarily it was built for water security for the people of Sydney at the time and, more importantly, as time has evolved, for the people of western and south-western Sydney. Water security is one of the most important issues facing us. Only a few years ago we were in drought and I was talking in the Chamber about drought across regional New South Wales when no other member—certainly no National Party member—was talking about drought and the impacts that it was having on our communities. The importance of water then was certainly highlighted. I called for the raising of the Wyangala Dam wall, which I will come to later in my contribution.

Certainly during the drought we saw water restrictions in place for people across Sydney and many other parts of the State, which impacted businesses. It was not long ago that we were looking at worst-case scenarios to ship in and transport water throughout the State, to service some of the communities that were running out of water—how quickly things have changed. But it will happen again. As night follows day, droughts and floods will continue to occur. We must be prepared for that into the future. I am quite comfortable supporting the member for Riverstone's motion to raise the Warragamba Dam wall and provide flood mitigation for those people who live downstream. I see them on the news. I appreciate, understand and sympathise with them because communities in my electorate—in places like Forbes, Peak Hill and Canowindra—have also been affected by floods in their communities. That has had an impact on residents, properties, local businesses and local community infrastructure.

In taking into account all of those factors, we are quite comfortable supporting the motion. In the time remaining I will talk briefly about the Wyangala Dam wall. In question time today I asked the Deputy Premier about honouring a commitment to raise the Wyangala Dam wall and on the Wyangala Dam empowerment—an empowerment that was built back in 1935, so it is nearly 100 years old. I think it was the second dam to be built in New South Wales. It was enlarged in 1971, but over the last half a dozen or so years we have seen a number of flood events happen down the Lachlan River. We saw the Newell Highway—the spine of New South Wales people frequently call it—closed for six weeks during 2016, which left towns like Forbes isolated and left communities and local businesses struggling. We saw many businesses close during that time, and that is the main freight corridor for heavy vehicles throughout New South Wales. We saw a number of other floods in ensuing years when the Forbes communities were affected.

The recurring theme presented to the Federal member, Mr McCormack, and me in the Forbes community is raising the Warragamba Dam wall. It is an important issue that we need in our community. I hope the State Government listens and similarly applies the same principles in terms of accelerating that proposal, and is not making another promise or commitment on that, but delivering. I look forward to that happening. I support the motion and thank the member for Riverstone for bringing it before the House and giving me the opportunity to speak.

Mr KEVIN CONOLLY (Riverstone) (17:35): In reply: I thank the member for Orange and other members who have contributed to the debate. I must say that I am incredibly disappointed by some of the contributions to the debate by Labor members, in particular the typically grubby and defamatory contribution by the member for the Blue Mountains, who spread imputations of improper motives around like graffiti. The problem that we have, and that Labor simply has refused to even address, is that there are existing populations—thousands of people and thousands of homes—in harm's way from decades ago. In the case of the Hawkesbury-Nepean, settlement goes back 200 years. We would never dream of putting some of those houses where they are now, but we cannot undo the past. Labor ignores those people and does not have their backs. It is prepared to let those people suffer and will do nothing to help them.

I will address a couple of points that were raised. The cost of raising the dam wall is somewhere between \$1.6 billion or maybe \$2 billion, which is significant. But it pales to insignificance when we realise that more than a decade ago Labor built a desalination plant for \$1.8 billion.

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

Mr KEVIN CONOLLY: The price of building that today would be significantly greater.

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

Mr KEVIN CONOLLY: If we follow Chris Minns' plan for flood mitigation and lower our storage capacity, we would have to build two more of those plants at a cost of \$3 billion, \$4 billion or \$5 billion. That makes the raising of the dam wall sound like a bargain by comparison. In terms of the development of the flood

plain, the member for Penrith is exactly right. There has never been a proposal before any authority to lower the flood planning level—the level at which people can build in the Hawkesbury-Nepean region. Nobody has suggested that, and nobody will.

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

Mr KEVIN CONOLLY: Some of the areas involved were rezoned under Labor—for example, the Riverstone precinct and the Alex Avenue precinct. There was no attempt to change the planning level by the Labor Government in those days. Precincts that have been rezoned under this Government were all on public exhibition and not a single Labor Party member ever made a submission about the flood planning level. They have not made any submissions about anything in the exhibitions of those precincts in the Northwest Growth Area in the years since. For Labor members to suddenly pretend they are interested in the height at which homes can be built is pure hypocrisy. They have had ample opportunity and they have never taken it.

Ms Trish Doyle: You had ample opportunity, too.

Mr KEVIN CONOLLY: I put submissions in, by the way. You didn't. [*Time expired.*]

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

The House divided.

Ayes39
Noes44
Majority.....5

AYES

Aitchison, J	Greenwich, A	Minns, C
Atalla, E	Harris, D	O'Neill, M
Bali, S	Harrison, J	Park, R
Barr, C	Haylen, J	Parker, J
Car, P	Hoenig, R	Piper, G
Catley, Y	Kamper, S	Scully, P
Chanthivong, A	Lalich, N	Smith, T
Cotsis, S	Leong, J	Tesch, L
Crakanthorp, T	Li, J	Voltz, L
Daley, M	Lynch, P	Warren, G
Dib, J	McDermott, H	Washington, K
Doyle, T	Mehan, D (teller)	Watson, A (teller)
Finn, J	Mihailuk, T	Zangari, G

NOES

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

PAIRS

Holland, M	Anderson, K
Hornery, S	Bromhead, S

PAIRS

Saffin, J

Kean, M

Amendment negatived.

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

Motion agreed to.

*Bills***CRIMES AMENDMENT (MONEY LAUNDERING) BILL 2022****DEDICATED ENCRYPTED CRIMINAL COMMUNICATION DEVICE PROHIBITION ORDERS
BILL 2022****LAW ENFORCEMENT (POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES) AMENDMENT (DIGITAL
EVIDENCE ACCESS ORDERS) BILL 2022****Second Reading Debate**

Debate resumed from an earlier hour.

Mr GEOFF PROVEST (Tweed) (17:49): I speak in debate on the Dedicated Encrypted Criminal Communication Device Prohibition Orders Bill 2022. The bill amends the Crimes Act 1900 to create a new offence that prohibits the possession of a dedicated encrypted criminal communication device, known as a DECC-D. This offence will operate if there are reasonable grounds to suspect that the possession of a DECC-D was to commit or facilitate serious criminal activity. World-leading reforms are targeting the use of DECC-D devices by people who are involved in serious and organised crime. The bill will enable law enforcement to specifically target the possession of DECC-Ds and will be a vital tool for police in targeting organised crime. The bill also enables digital evidence access orders to apply to DECC-Ds. Police officers will be able to apply for those orders. It cannot be denied that the operating environment for New South Wales police has become increasingly challenging due to criminal uptake of new technologies and methodologies.

Criminals are using DECC-Ds to facilitate and undertake a wide range of serious crimes, including money laundering, illicit drugs and firearms smuggling, and the production and dissemination of child explicit material. The New South Wales Crime Commission advised in its 2019-20 annual report that the use of dedicated encrypted networks has increased and is now regarded as an essential tool for organised crime networks. These so-called DECC-Ds comprise a large component of these networks. DECC-Ds are a crucial form of communication between criminals because the encrypted and closed network features of the devices sit outside the standard telecommunications system. That means that the suite of options available to law enforcement under the Surveillance Devices Act 2007 for the lawful surveillance and interception of data is ineffective.

From the experience of law enforcement officers, the use of DECC-Ds by organised crime groups limits the ability of law enforcement to utilise lawful disruptive powers. DECC-Ds also pose challenges for police when seizing items in the course of an investigation through a search warrant. For example, when one of those devices is encountered, law enforcement can face difficulties in accessing and extracting potential evidence of criminal conduct that is stored or accessed from those devices. Currently, there is no standalone offence for the possession of a DECC-D in New South Wales. Law enforcement can consider offences relating to the planning and conduct of criminal activity using a DECC-D; however, those offences do not specifically target the possession of a DECC-D and can be administratively burdensome.

Police have had wins over recent years in the organised crime space. For example, Operation Ironside was a cross-jurisdiction collaboration with a range of law enforcement agencies that centred on law enforcement developing an encrypted app called ANOM, which was used by criminal networks to communicate. In short, criminal networks were using the app as they would any other encrypted app; however, in the case of ANOM, law enforcement had access to those communications. Operation Ironside highlighted the appeal and the use of encrypted communications by organised crime.

The bill enables police officers to apply for a DECC-D access order from a magistrate if they suspect on reasonable grounds that a certain device is a DECC-D and that a specific person may be committing an offence of the possession of a DECC-D. This is a necessary step to ensure that police can confirm a device is a DECC-D before commencing legal action. A key difference between the general operation of a digital evidence access order and a DECC-D access order is that the latter can only be granted by a magistrate as an authorised officer and will not need to be in connection with a search warrant. However, the provisions of the DECC-D access order have

been tailored to ensure that these can be applied for and issued to police officers for the purpose of confirming whether a suspected DECC-D device is in fact a device that meets the definition set out in the legislation.

I also support the second element of the DECC-D reform component; the dedicated encrypted criminal communication device prohibition order scheme. The bill creates a new order-based scheme that provides police with specific search powers. It will be used in respect of higher risk individuals who should be specifically restricted from accessing these devices. The orders will complement the proposed offence of possession of a DECC-D. Dedicated encrypted criminal communication device prohibition orders have been designed to provide New South Wales police officers with fit-for-purpose search powers to disrupt the use of DECC-Ds by organised crime. They are largely modelled on the Drug Supply Prohibition Order Scheme introduced by the New South Wales Government under the Drug Supply Prohibition Order Pilot Scheme Act 2020.

Once implemented, the prohibition order scheme will provide for heightened scrutiny and disruption of those engaged in criminal enterprise, which is a key element in suppressing and reducing the impact of organised crime in New South Wales. Under the scheme, the NSW Police Force is provided specific powers to search a person, their premises and their vehicle to ensure compliance with the regime and issue directions for the person to assist in accessing devices in connection with those searches. The powers provide an additional mechanism for the disruption of organised crime. They are not to be taken lightly, and that is reflected in the bill. It balances transparency in the application process with operational needs for orders of this kind.

Similar to the Drug Supply Prohibition Order Pilot Scheme, the orders can only be granted by an authorised magistrate and last for a maximum duration of two years. Additionally, a police officer of the rank of superintendent or above will have to consent to a DECC-D prohibition order application being made. That will provide a degree of scrutiny by a commissioned officer to ensure that the application contains sufficient grounds before they are put to the authorised magistrate for determination. The bill also provides that a subject of an order may apply to the Local Court to have the order revoked. Similar arrangements for the revocation of orders apply as to those which apply in the similar Drug Supply Prohibition Order Pilot Scheme Act. The Commissioner of Police and the oversight commissioner may also apply to revoke an order.

The reforms mark a turning point in New South Wales legislation. The landscape of organised crime is increasingly shifting to the digital space, and our laws must keep pace. We also must give police and the Crime Commission the powers they need to combat organised crime. The introduction of legislation that not only acknowledges that but also takes steps to combat organised crime is one that I support. Being located on the border, my electorate is often a pipeline for illicit activities coming from Queensland into New South Wales and vice versa. If there was ever a positive to come out of my good friend Annastacia Palaszczuk, the Premier of Queensland, locking down the border, it is that it significantly stopped the movement of drugs and illicit activities across the border. Unfortunately, the border lockdown has been lifted and we are back to the good old days of Queensland criminals coming into New South Wales. I fully support the bill.

Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect) (17:57): I contribute to debate on the cognate bills: the Crimes Amendment (Money Laundering) Bill 2022, the Dedicated Encrypted Criminal Communication Device Prohibition Orders Bill 2022 and the Law Enforcement (Powers and Responsibilities) Amendment (Digital Evidence Access Orders) Bill 2022. The bills aim to significantly empower the NSW Police Force to tackle the scourge of organised crime in New South Wales. As the member for Prospect, I take the threat of organised crime very seriously. Our western Sydney community has suffered from the effects of violent crime and gun violence perpetrated by organised gangs for a number of years.

Prior to being elected to Parliament, I spent 15 years working in this space against organised crime in this country as a senior manager in charge of major fraud at ASIC, as the director for the financial crime programs at the School of Policing and Security, and for a number of years as a lawyer working throughout the Asia-Pacific, the UK and in the Cayman Islands. I know this area very well and it concerns me a great deal that I believe New South Wales has become a bed for organised crime, that the Crime Commission is ineffective and that we have seen the growth of organised crime, especially money laundering, in our casinos and high-end organised crime worth billions of dollars throughout the State.

Over the past seven years I have spoken many times, discussing and demanding that the New South Wales Government take action to give law enforcement the powers to effectively crack down on organised crime. I raised the issues of organised crime and gun violence affecting our community in a private member's statement I delivered to this House as recently as Thursday 9 June, pleading with police Minister Paul Toole to take further action. After years of inaction from this Government, I am glad some concerns I have raised have not fallen on deaf ears. I am glad that Minister Toole is now taking action through these cognate bills. I therefore support the passage of the bills through the House.

The cognate bills would tackle organised crime through three key methods. Those methods include the targeting of unexplained wealth and money laundering, the investigation of criminal activity involving dedicated encrypted criminal communication devices and the ability to provide for digital access orders. Firstly, I deal with the Crimes Amendment (Money Laundering) Bill 2022, which aims to prevent and disrupt organised and other serious crime by making amendments to the Crimes Act 1900 and the Criminal Procedure Act 1986. An offence is introduced in clause 193BA (1), which states:

A person is guilty of an offence if the person deals with proceeds of general crime with a value of \$100,000 or more—

- (a) being reckless as to whether it is proceeds of general crime, and
- (b) intending to conceal or disguise features of the property.

Further, the punishment for that offence is outlined in clause 193BA (3), which states:

A person is guilty of an offence if the person deals with proceeds of general crime with a value of \$100,000 or more being reckless as to whether it is proceeds of general crime.

Maximum penalty—Imprisonment for 10 years

Clause 193C, which deals with property suspected of being proceeds of crime, also has a penalty of 10 years of imprisonment, as outlined in clause 193C (1AB). I believe the punishment of 10 years of imprisonment for these acts of money laundering will be effective in disrupting organised crime syndicates and individuals that engage in this illicit financial activity. The blood money generated from organised crime should never be allowed an opportunity to be converted into legitimate sources of profit for these criminals. Cutting these criminals off from their means to launder their profits from their criminal enterprises will leave them exposed to law enforcement. That will further allow law enforcement in New South Wales to crack down and target them for unaccounted income, making it easier to directly trace that income to the trade of narcotics, sex trafficking, stolen items and other commodities they sell within the criminal underworld.

The unexplained wealth laws will be key and must be put through in New South Wales. Those types of laws were implemented in the UK, from memory, back in 2004 or 2005 and in other parts of the Commonwealth over 20 years ago. I remember working in this space before I came into Parliament in New South Wales, and the States could not work out and agree to unexplained wealth laws because they were too busy arguing over who would get the money once it was seized. The New South Wales Government was responsible for not letting the unexplained wealth laws at a Federal level go through because of that. It is about time the Government put this type of legislation before the House. It is key because it makes it so much easier for law enforcement to go after organised crime, and seize the property, cash and profits of organised crime, which are so key to what it means to be a criminal. Once we take away their toys by seizing their cars, their boats and their cash, they are disrupted to a degree that they often cannot recover.

The second bill within the cognate package, the Dedicated Encrypted Criminal Communication Device Prohibition Orders Bill 2022, aims to grant law enforcement greater powers to investigate criminal activity involving dedicated encrypted criminal communication devices. The powers granted to law enforcement within the bill are outlined in clause 5 (1), which states:

If a dedicated encrypted criminal communication device prohibition order is in force against a person, a police officer may, without a warrant, do one or more of the following for the purpose of determining whether the person is in possession of a dedicated encrypted criminal communication device—

- (a) stop, detain and search the person but not another person,
- (b) enter and search the following premises (searchable premises)—
 - (i) premises at which the person resides,
 - (ii) premises the police officer reasonably suspects are owned by the person or under the direct control or management of the person,
 - (iii) premises the police officer reasonably suspects are being used by the person for an unlawful purpose,

...

These same courses of action under part 2, clause 5, subclauses (1) (b) (i), (1) (b) (ii) and (1) (b) (iii) are also applicable under clause 5, subclause (1) (c) in the case of a vehicle being involved. Granting these powers to police officers without requiring a warrant allows law enforcement to act decisively and without delay. The ability to take swift action gives law enforcement the capacity to apprehend a criminal, such as a suspected drug dealer, and stop them continuing their sale of narcotics to lower-level drug dealers or drug users through the dedicated encrypted criminal communication devices that they are likely to be carrying on their person. The power to seize these communication devices is granted under part 2, clause 7, which states:

A police officer may, in the exercise of powers under section 5, seize and detain all or part of a thing the police officer suspects on reasonable grounds—

- (a) may provide evidence of the commission of an offence involving a dedicated encrypted criminal communication device, or
- (b) is stolen or otherwise unlawfully obtained ...

It is important that law enforcement has the power to seize these encrypted devices, study their contents and determine what encrypted applications are being used to conduct illegal activities. To avoid concern about civil liberties being infringed and giving police officers the power to stop and search anyone they suspect of owning a dedicated encrypted criminal communication device, an application process for the prohibition orders has been put in place under part 3, clause 9, subclauses (1) and (2) of the bill, which state:

- (1) A police officer, or another person on the police officer's behalf, may apply to an authorised magistrate for a dedicated encrypted criminal communication device prohibition order to be made against an eligible person.
- (2) The application may be made only if—
 - (a) the police officer reasonably believes the eligible person is likely to use a dedicated encrypted criminal communication device to avoid law enforcement detection of criminal activity, and
 - (b) The application has been approved by a senior police officer.

The process under which the authorised magistrate approves the prohibition order application is outlined under part 4, clause 12, subclauses (1) and (2). [*Extension of time*]

Subclauses (1) and (2) state:

- (1) An authorised magistrate may make a dedicated encrypted criminal communication device prohibition order against a person if the magistrate is satisfied the person—
 - (a) is an eligible person, and
 - (b) is likely to use a dedicated encrypted criminal communication device to avoid law enforcement detection of criminal activity.
- (2) The authorised magistrate—
 - (a) must not make a dedicated encrypted criminal communication device prohibition order unless satisfied the oversight commissioner has been given a reasonable opportunity to make a submission in relation to the making of the order, and
 - (b) may ask the oversight commissioner for advice on any matter relating to the application or the making of the order.

Police officers are therefore accountable to the magistrates in making an application for the prohibition orders and the magistrates are in turn accountable to the oversight commissioner. The guidelines for considerations that the magistrates must make to approve the prohibition orders are outlined in part 4, clause 13 (2), which states:

... the authorised magistrate may consider the following—

- (a) the potential risk to public safety presented by the eligible person,
- (b) whether the person associates with persons who are suspected to be involved in serious criminal activity,
- (c) criminal intelligence about the person's suspected involvement in serious criminal activity or drug-related crime,
- (d) whether the person is a member of, or associates with, a criminal group within the meaning of the *Crimes Act 1900*, section 93S,
- (e) information from registered sources,
- (f) surveillance reports,
- (g) whether the person has cash or assets that are significantly out of proportion to the person's income.

While the bill allows police officers to act swiftly, it also has many safeguards in place to ensure that law enforcement is targeting the right person who may be in possession of a dedicated encrypted criminal communication device. That should also ensure that Police Force resources are used efficiently in these investigations.

Finally, the third bill within this package of cognate bills is the Law Enforcement (Powers and Responsibilities) Amendment (Digital Evidence Access Orders) Bill 2022. The bill will assist in combating organised crime by granting the Police Force the ability to provide for digital evidence access orders through amendments to the Law Enforcement (Powers and Responsibilities) Act 2002 and the Criminal Procedure Act 1986. Coupled with the powers granted to police officers in the Dedicated Encrypted Criminal Communication Device Prohibition Orders Bill 2022, this bill will give police officers greater powers to obtain digital evidence from individuals suspected to be involved in organised crime. Those individuals conduct their business on digital

devices such as phones or computers. The effect that digital evidence access orders will have on criminal investigations is described in subdivision 4, new section 76AM, which states:

- (1) The executing officer for a digital evidence access order may direct the specified person to—
 - (a) give the officer any information or assistance reasonable and necessary to enable the officer to access data held in or accessible from a computer specified in, or within the scope of, the order, or
 - (b) give the officer any information or assistance reasonable and necessary to allow the officer to—
 - (i) copy data from a computer specified in, or within the scope of, the order to another computer, or
 - (ii) convert the data into a documentary form or another form intelligible to a computer used by the officer.

This gives law enforcement the power to compel suspects to hand over digital information that can be evidence of their crimes. This makes the criminal investigation far more efficient, with law enforcement having the ability to search and seize this digital evidence. While the use of search warrants will not allow action as fast and as efficiently as the dedicated encrypted criminal communication device prohibition orders, they will still have a significant impact on obtaining evidence of criminality conducted on these devices, thus heavily undermining the activities of organised crime members in New South Wales.

While I am glad that these reforms are finally being implemented, this is another example of the Liberal Government's delayed action. Gun violence relating to organised crime has been on the rise since the beginning of this year and only now is Minister Toole choosing to act. The reforms contained within these bills should have been enacted months ago, let alone at any time in the past 12 years that this Government has been in office. Could it be that, once again, Minister Toole has only introduced these reforms at the very last moment, in one of the last sitting weeks of the year before the March election, so that this Government can go to the election claiming that it is tough on organised crime?

A Minns Labor Government would not be as slow to respond to the threat of organised crime as this Government has been. We understand that organised crime is a serious issue for our communities. We should always be working to eliminate its presence in our society, not just when it is politically convenient for the Coalition Government. To conclude, I support the reforms in the bills. I am glad that the Government is now taking action to fight organised crime. However, I am disappointed that it has taken the Government this long to act. I commend these cognate bills to the House.

Ms JENNY LEONG (Newtown) (18:12): On behalf of The Greens, I contribute to debate on the Crimes Amendment (Money Laundering) Bill 2022 and cognate bills, the Law Enforcement (Powers and Responsibilities) Amendment (Digital Evidence Access Orders) Bill 2022 and the Dedicated Encrypted Criminal Communication Device Prohibition Orders Bill 2022. I make it clear from the outset that The Greens oppose the principal bill in its current form and we are looking at whether there is scope in the other place to send the bill to an inquiry. We raise serious concerns about the intentions of the bill that seriously undermine concepts of innocence and natural justice and also concerns about breaches of people's civil liberties.

The bill before us will do a number of things, as has been outlined by the Minister. I question whether there has been adequate consultation with those who are aware of the need to look at issues of privacy, civil rights and civil liberties. There is also the need to consult organisations like Digital Rights Watch that understand the complexities of the technical aspects of what we are dealing with here and the need to recognise people's rights under the law. This is a very large concern of ours. I will go into detail because I have received a comprehensive briefing from the Council for Civil Liberties on their concerns around the bill. I ask that the Minister respond to those concerns when he speaks in reply, particularly the concerns outlined by the Council for Civil Liberties that this bill overall should not be passed. The Greens share these concerns. Even with significant amendments, the bill will still likely infringe on the fundamental principles of the criminal law and will remain inadequate.

Access to encrypted devices should only occur by way of warrant issued by a judge, and the Law Enforcement (Powers and Responsibilities) Act rules should remain the principles that govern access to evidence. Oversight mechanisms need to be strengthened and the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission needs more funding to be able to keep up with the development of these regulatory regimes. Such laws may become more permissible if we had stronger privacy and data protection laws, but it is clear that we do not. This makes the contemplated laws more offensive and objectionable. These laws again demonstrate why it is so important for New South Wales to have some kind of human rights protection. Sadly we do not have that. This Chamber and this Government—and successive governments—have failed to introduce human rights protection in this State, unlike other jurisdictions which have managed to do so.

This is also a continuation of pre-crime preventative logic in the criminal law. This is dangerous and continues to creep into more dangerous territory. It is also harder to attack on human rights and civil libertarian grounds because of the logic that risk management and protection to community safety can be difficult to resist.

We see this with the Suspect Target Management Program. We see it now with this program. I highlight particular concerns about the Crimes Amendment (Money Laundering) Bill, which I will now speak on in detail. The bill will provide, amongst other things, a non-exhaustive list of factors that may be relevant to whether a person intended to conceal or disguise features of the proceeds of crime. The Minister stated in his second reading speech:

It is intended that when determining whether a person has effective control of the money or other property, regard may be given to shareholdings in or directorships of a company that has an interest in the money or property; a trust that has a relationship to the money or property; and family, domestic and business relationships between the persons having an interest in the money or property, or companies or trusts in kind, and other persons. Family relationships are taken to include, for example, relationships between de facto partners.

There is therefore potential for completely innocent and unaware persons to be caught up in an offence that carries heavy penalties. One would have thought that there would have to be very clear defences or appeal mechanisms in place for innocent persons inferred to have been in possession of the proceeds of crime. That is not the case.

In addition to that, the Council for Civil Liberties raises concerns about the new section 193CB. Section 193CA (1) (h) is very imprecise and I ask the Minister to clarify, if it were to remain in the bill, why it could not be reworded to at least import a reasonable person test. It is unclear what the Minister and the Government intend by the phrase "grossly out of proportion" and what is "a reasonable period". I also recognise that clause 13 (2) (g) of the Dedicated Encrypted Criminal Communication Device Prohibition Orders Bill 2022 frames this in a better way and may be the way that the Minister wishes to address this. I point out that section 193CA (1) (i) is also strange where it refers to a clandestine meeting, which seems a little too amorphous to include in a bill and should be removed.

There are a number of other concerns raised by the Council for Civil Liberties in terms of the Law Enforcement (Powers and Responsibilities) Amendment (Digital Evidence Access Orders) Bill 2022. I will go into some detail about those concerns. The particular concerns relate to the potential for considering whether a necessity or a proportionality requirement should be built into law so that police can only seek the warrant if they are able to demonstrate that it is necessary to gather evidence that cannot be gathered in some other way, and that, in recognition of harm done to civil liberties, the gathering of such evidence is proportionate to the mischief that is being investigated.

Members may or may not be aware of what is happening in terms of the details of this bill. The Law Enforcement (Powers and Responsibilities) Amendment (Digital Evidence Access Orders) Bill will give express powers to the NSW Police Force to issue directions requiring a person to assist the officer to access the device, such as providing passwords and other access codes. This is achieved by the use of the digital evidence access order and it is an offence to not comply with that direction. The order must be made in connection with a search warrant or a crime scene, and the order applies to all relevant computers at the same time as a search, or the application for the order can be made if a computer is found after a search is executed. It does not abrogate legal professional privilege.

But it is important to recognise that from a civil liberties point of view, accessing computers and electronic devices should be special cases requiring a greater level of scrutiny and privacy safeguards than other search warrants. This is because information stored on one device increases the potential to inadvertently find information that might relate to other matters being investigated, or for self-incrimination, and for information that is privileged being discovered. Accessing electronic devices such as computers has significant privacy concerns, including the potential for manipulation and fraud, which may not be justified in many cases and can affect innocent third parties.

When we give police these unchecked powers, the people who are most violated by these unchecked powers are young people. They are people from vulnerable and marginalised communities and they are people that the police seek to try and attack in the course of their daily work. It is very clear that the police target certain groups of people consistently and in an excessive manner. There are systemic racism issues within the NSW Police Force. The idea that we would give the NSW Police Force these broad-ranging powers to be able to access digital devices in this way is something that The Greens are opposed to and is cause for serious concern.

It is absolutely critical that, in relation to this, the risk of self-incrimination will not be a lawful reason to fail to comply with a digital evidence access order under section 76AO (2). Once the police have access to these devices, much about the specified person and anyone that they are associated with can be learned. This information could be used to incriminate the specified person for crimes other than that which relates to the original warrant. If the power is retained—and our strong preference would be for it not to be—and operates in a way which abrogates the privilege against self-incrimination, derivative use immunity should be built into the provisions of the bill, where if the individual takes objection to compliance then this evidence cannot be used in proceedings against them.

It is clear with the idea that the police are able to access this—and we have the Government and the Opposition lining up in support of this reform—that we are not considering the broader implications here. What we are doing in this Chamber, as we have done on so many occasions under this Liberal-Nationals Government over the past 12 years and successive governments in New South Wales before this, is once again strengthening police powers in this State without a view to human rights, civil liberties or a sense of natural justice. We are moving towards trying to identify types of people who the police think might have been engaged in a crime and giving the police powers to be able to act and undermine their rights. That is not something The Greens can support. It is not something the Council for Civil Liberties supports. It is something that causes great concern to me as we head into an election, with the major parties once again lining up with another law and order agenda, trying to give police more powers, which will hurt the vulnerable people in our community and do nothing to address issues of crime.

Mr PAUL TOOLE (Bathurst—Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional New South Wales, and Minister for Police) (18:23): In reply: I thank the member for Maroubra; the member for Wollongong; the member for Upper Hunter; the member for Tweed, my Parliamentary Secretary; the member for Prospect; and the member for Newtown. I note the member for Newtown spoke on behalf of The Greens and raised a number of concerns. I put on the record that I find those ill-founded. The member for Newtown raised the issue around digital evidence access orders. The question is: How does this differ from police ordering people to open safes or filing cabinets? We know that when we are talking about encrypted devices, we are talking about technology that is being used by organised crime at another level. This is the modern technology that is being used by criminals out there in our communities. What we are doing is giving our police the powers and the ability to deal with organised crime here in this State.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Ms Sonia Horner): I apologise for interrupting. Visiting us in the public gallery are the finalists and the winner of Parli-Flicks, the New South Wales Parliament's Democracy Day Short Film Award, sponsored by the Australasian Study of Parliament Group and the Communication, Education and Engagement team. Welcome. We are in the middle of debating many important bills tonight.

Mr PAUL TOOLE: I too extend a very warm welcome to everyone in the gallery. I congratulate them all and hope they enjoy their evening. The member for Maroubra raised an issue relating to the Crimes Amendment (Money Laundering) Bill 2022 concerning the Government's actions following the Chen and McKellar decisions. In the cases of *Chen v Director of Public Prosecutions* and *R v McKellar*, the court found that the prosecution must prove that the accused knew or was reckless towards the type of offence from which the proceeds of crime were derived. That means that the prosecution must prove that the accused knew the money was gained through an armed robbery as opposed to dealing in prohibited drugs or receiving stolen motor vehicles. Powerful circumstantial evidence that the cash was derived from some form of serious criminality was not enough to prove the offence. Those cases made it challenging to prosecute under the primary money laundering offences in section 193B.

I can assure the member for Maroubra that law enforcement officers have still brought successful prosecutions and have also been able to use the offence in section 193C, which carries lower penalties. However, the bill will make the money laundering offences more effective for use against persons involved in dealing with the proceeds of crime. It will enhance the ability of our law enforcement officers to take action and secure successful prosecutions. Through the bill, this Government has taken action to strengthen our criminal laws relating to money laundering activity. Those laws are the result of thorough consultation with the NSW Police Force and the New South Wales Crime Commission to ensure that they focus on criminals involved in serious crime. It is important that reforms of this nature are considered and involve consultation with all relevant stakeholders to ensure that all risks and impacts are considered.

The bill strikes at the heart of organised crime and is a fit-for-purpose response to the scourge of money laundering. The bill strengthens the powers that our police will have. I know that we are talking about a small group of people who are involved in serious crime, but we are giving the police another tool to add to their arsenal to deal with this scourge of activity that occurs within our communities across the State. I thank the police for their efforts in keeping our community safe. I have had many conversations with the Police Association of New South Wales and the NSW Police Force, and they have informed me that this is another tool in their arsenal to deal with this insidious crime and activity. I commend the bill to the House.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Ms Sonia Horner): The question is that this bill be now read a second time.

Motion agreed to.

Third Reading

Mr PAUL TOOLE: I move:

That this bill be now read a third time.

Motion agreed to.

CRIMINAL PROCEDURE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (PROSECUTION OF INDICTABLE OFFENCES) BILL 2022

Second Reading Debate

Debate resumed from 21 September 2022.

Mr MICHAEL DALEY (Maroubra) (18:28): I lead for the Opposition in debate on the Criminal Procedure Legislation Amendment (Prosecution of Indictable Offences) Bill 2022. I indicate to the House that the Opposition will support the bill. I will be brief because the bill is brief, although I have a couple of questions that I would like the Minister to address in reply. In April 2018 amendments were made to the Criminal Procedure Act 1986 to implement the early appropriate guilty plea, or EAGP, reforms. An aspect of those reforms was to ensure that all relevant material was provided to a defendant well prior to committal for trial, and to require a prosecutor to certify that they have received and considered a disclosure certificate from the person who effectively conducted the investigation and prepared the brief.

Under the Criminal Procedure Act 1986, the disclosure certificate can only be provided to the Director of Public Prosecutions, the DPP, by a person defined as a law enforcement officer. A law enforcement officer was defined only as a police officer or an officer of the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission, the New South Wales Crime Commission or the Independent Commission Against Corruption. However, other regulatory bodies such as SafeWork NSW, the NSW Resources Regulator and, I think, the NSW Environment Protection Authority are able to investigate and bring prosecutions. However, their officers are not defined as law enforcement officers under the Act. That means that this precondition cannot be satisfied where a regulatory agency has investigated an offence and seeks to refer the offence to the DPP or the regulatory agency intends to prosecute the matter in the name of the Attorney General. That means that such matters cannot proceed on indictment.

The bill seeks to make amendments to remove the procedural bar to prosecuting indictable regulatory offences. The bill amends the Criminal Procedure Act to require certain law enforcement or investigating officers to make disclosures about offences to prosecutors other than the DPP; to clarify what prosecutors must certify in a charge certificate about compliance with duties of disclosure about alleged offences being prosecuted; and to require certain trial papers about a person committed for trial or sentence in the court to be given to prosecutors as soon as practicable after the papers are received by the registrar of the court concerning a person committed for trial or sentence in the court. The bill also amends the Director of Public Prosecutions Act 1986 to include additional persons involved in investigating certain alleged offences among the persons with duties to make disclosures to the DPP concerning alleged offences and makes other minor or consequential amendments to the Criminal Procedure Act 2017 and the Director of Public Prosecutions Regulation 2020.

I was grateful to receive a statement of public interest from the Government, which helped to inform the Opposition's views in respect of this. I refer not only to the statement of public interest but also to the Minister's second reading speech, in which the Minister said:

The amendments will remove the procedural bar to these prosecutions established by criminal procedure legislation, and ensure that regulators, such as SafeWork NSW and the NSW Resources Regulator, can prosecute indictable regulatory offences and the Director of Public Prosecutions can also prosecute such offences, regardless of whether a law enforcement officer or another investigator conducted the investigation of the offence.

This recognises that, in line with intended practice, in some cases it is best for regulators with specialised expertise to prosecute serious offences against regulatory legislation, whereas in other cases it will be appropriate for the Director of Public Prosecutions to conduct the prosecution.

We are informed that the procedural bar was an unintended consequence of the EAGP legislative reforms and can be addressed only by legislative amendment. We are also informed that no other options can address the issue because the bill is necessary to allow existing laws to operate as intended—that is, for regulatory agencies to be able to prosecute indictable offences against individuals. We are also informed that some stakeholders raised concerns about the introduction of the disclosure provisions, indicating that there are other mechanisms, both statutorily and through common law, that adequately govern disclosure. My question to the Minister is a question in good faith; I am not criticising. The EAGP reforms were enacted in 2018.

Why has it taken four years for these provisions to arrive in the House? What has happened in the interregnum, if you like? Is it the case that regulatory authorities have not brought prosecutions? Is it the case that

they have brought them as common law prosecutions? Is it the case that they have not brought them at all or brought them as summary offences? I would like to know what the trigger is for the realisation that there was a shortcoming in the 2018 legislation and what these regulatory bodies have been doing in the meantime. But, as I said, the Opposition supports the bill.

Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect) (18:34): I contribute to debate on the Criminal Procedure Legislation Amendment (Prosecution of Indictable Offences) Bill 2022. The bill seeks to remove the procedural bar to prosecuting indictable offences. I believe the process for prosecuting indictable offences should be made more streamlined and easier for the Director of Public Prosecutions, or DPP, to approve. I therefore support the bill before the House. The bill seeks to remove these procedural barriers to prosecuting indictable offences through amendments to the Criminal Procedure Act 1986. The stated aims of the bill, through amendments to that Act, are as follows:

- (i) to require certain law enforcement or investigating officers to make disclosures concerning alleged offences to prosecutors other than the Director of Public Prosecutions, and
- (ii) to clarify what prosecutors must certify in a charge certificate about compliance with duties of disclosure about alleged offences being prosecuted, and
- (iii) to require certain trial papers about a person committed for trial or sentence in the court to be given to prosecutors as soon as practicable after the papers are received by the registrar of the court ...

The process of disclosures is outlined in new section 36B of the bill, which states:

36B Disclosures by law enforcement or investigating officers

- (1) Law enforcement or investigating officers for alleged offences have a duty to disclose to prosecutors of the alleged offences all relevant information, documents or other things obtained during the investigation that might reasonably be expected to assist the case for the prosecution or the case for the accused person.
- (2) The duty of disclosure continues until one of the following happens—
 - (a) the prosecutor decides the accused person will not be prosecuted for the alleged offence,
 - (b) the prosecution is terminated,
 - (c) the accused person is convicted or acquitted.
- (3) Law enforcement or investigating officers for alleged offences also have a duty to keep the documents or other things referred to in subsection (1) for as long as the duty to disclose them continues under this section.
- (4) Subsection (3) does not affect any other legal obligation about the possession of the documents or other things.
- (5) The regulations may make provision about the duties of law enforcement or investigating officers under this section, including about—
 - (a) the recording of information, documents or other things, and
 - (b) verification of compliance with a duty imposed by this section.
- (6) The duty imposed by this section is in addition to any other duties of law enforcement or investigating officers in connection with the investigation and prosecution of offences.
- (7) The duty imposed by this section does not require law enforcement or investigating officers to provide the prosecutor with any information, document or other thing (*protected material*) that—
 - (a) is the subject of a claim of privilege, public interest immunity or statutory immunity, or
 - (b) would contravene a statutory publication restriction if provided.
- (8) The duty of a law enforcement or investigating officer in relation to protected material is to inform the prosecutor of—
 - (a) the existence of the material, and
 - (b) the nature of the material and the claim or publication restriction relating to it.
- (9) However, a law enforcement or investigating officer must provide the prosecutor with protected material if the prosecutor requests it be provided.

...

Therefore, there is a thorough process of disclosures that is provided for in new section 36B. There needs to be a transparent process of disclosures between law enforcement officials and the DPP so that delays to indicting suspects are avoided and the DPP has all the facts at hand. I believe the bill will achieve this through the process in the new subsections that I have outlined. Indictable offences need to be made more streamlined through these reforms to combat the rise of organised crime and other forms of crime. The subjects of indictments by the DPP are often members of violent criminal gangs, money launderers and suppliers of narcotics, who are affiliated with organised crime in our State. I am glad that this Government is now serious about tackling organised crime through

this reform, as well as reforms contained within other bills that have been debated today. In fact, this is the fourth time in today's sitting that I have discussed bills linking to organised crime.

However, this bill—as I have said in relation to all the other bills—is long overdue. In April 2018 amendments to the Criminal Procedure Act 1986 were made to implement the early appropriate guilty plea, or EAGP, reforms. An aspect of these reforms was to ensure that all relevant material was provided to the defendant well prior to committal for trial and to certify that they had received a "disclosure certificate" from the person who effectively conducted the investigation. Under the Criminal Procedure Act 1986, a law enforcement official was defined only as a police officer or an officer of the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission, the New South Wales Crime Commission or the Independent Commission Against Corruption. The Act now defines other regulatory bodies such as SafeWork NSW and the NSW Resources Regulator as having law enforcement officials. This can be found in item [7] of schedule 1.4 to the bill, which states:

This form needs to be signed by a superior officer only if the disclosing law enforcement or investigating officer is a police officer or an officer of the NSW Crime Commission, the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission or the Independent Commission Against Corruption. For a police officer, it must be signed by a police officer who holds a rank in the NSW Police Force senior to the law enforcement officer. For other officers, it must be signed by the Commissioner or an Assistant Commissioner of the agency.

These agencies where a commissioner or assistant commissioner is required to sign the form of course include SafeWork NSW and the NSW Resources Regulator. While the bill proposes to rectify the omission made in 2018 of law enforcement officials through amendments to the Criminal Procedure Act 1986, it is ridiculous that it has taken 4½ years for this error to be corrected through this bill. This is yet another example of this Government's laziness and inaction when it comes to making necessary reforms to our criminal justice system. A Minns NSW Labor government would not be this slow to respond to required reforms that should have been made years ago. We would improve the culture of integrity and transparency, which this bill seeks to do. We would also seek to improve and further recognise the important law enforcement work that SafeWork NSW and the NSW Resources Regulator contribute to apprehending criminals in coordination with the DPP.

To conclude, I support the passage of the bill as I believe it is necessary to further streamline the criminal procedure of prosecution for indictable offences. The bill will contribute to tackling organised crime in our State through the enhanced ability for indictments to be issued by the DPP through consultation with the NSW Police Force. Indictments will also be issued by the DPP in consultation with SafeWork NSW and the NSW Resources Regulator. It is very disappointing that the New South Wales Liberal Government has taken 4½ years to make this reform, which may have given these government agencies the power to prosecute criminals or criminal entities that their agency has investigative jurisdiction over. I commend the bill to the House.

Mr VICTOR DOMINELLO (Ryde—Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government, Minister for Small Business, and Minister for Fair Trading) (18:43): In reply: As members have heard, the Criminal Procedure Legislation Amendment (Prosecution of Indictable Offences) Bill 2022 will remove a procedural bar to the prosecution of indictable offences by regulatory agencies. The amendments will ensure that the Criminal Procedure Act and associated legislation provide an appropriate framework for the prosecution of indictable offences under regulatory legislation. Regulators will be able to commit individuals for trial for indictable offences as they did before the introduction of the early appropriate guilty plea, or EAGP, reforms. This addresses an unintended consequence of that reform.

At present the criminal procedure law does not provide an adequate framework for the prosecution of indictable offences by regulatory bodies such as SafeWork NSW. Once passed, this legislation will enable all regulators to conduct committal proceedings for the most serious offences, which must be prosecuted on indictment in the District Court or Supreme Court of New South Wales. This is achieved by making clear that the existing EAGP committal procedure applies to offences prosecuted and investigated by regulatory agencies as it does to offences investigated by police and prosecuted by the Director of Public Prosecutions [DPP].

This process is required to take place in the Local Court before a matter is committed for trial. It involves the parties conferencing about the case and the prosecutor certifying the charges that will proceed. Regulatory agencies should be able to prosecute serious offences under legislation that they administer on indictment. The key reason is that they have specialist expertise about the subject matter of those offences that the DPP does not. It is well-established practice that the regulators usually investigate and conduct their own prosecutions; however, importantly, regulators who investigate and prosecute offences will also be subject to appropriate disclosure obligations.

I thank the member for Maroubra for his contribution to debate. He raised some valid points about what essentially took place between 2018 and 2022. On face value there is that lacuna, but I am instructed by the agency that the category 1 offences that applied to corporations were still able to proceed. However, there were no category 1 offences relating to individuals where there was a bar in place until 2021. That was the first time a category 1 offence for an individual came into play. Obviously, the agency and the Government had to consult in

relation to the proposed amendments that are now before the House. It was a fair question, because I did not know the answer myself. I am grateful to the member for eliciting that response. The member for Prospect made some criticism of the Government for sitting on its hands, but my answer to the responsible question from the member for Maroubra explains why nothing was done. There was no trigger; nobody realised until that first case came into being in 2021.

In relation to the member for Prospect's concerns, the amendments do not change disclosure rules for the DPP prosecutors. When the DPP is prosecuting an offence, the prosecutor must still certify that they have received and considered verification of compliance with duties under section 15A of the DPP Act supplied by the relevant law enforcement or investigating officer. Although the bill proposes changes to the wording of section 66 (2) of the Criminal Procedure Act, in practice it retains the current certification requirement for the DPP. The only substantive change is that the class of people who can provide verification of compliance with duties under section 15A will be expanded to include all potential investigators. The amendments introduce clearer disclosure rules for non-Director of Public Prosecutions prosecutors.

New section 36B of the Criminal Procedure Act sets out disclosure obligations for law enforcement investigating officers where the DPP is not prosecuting the offence. The obligations under new section 36B mirror the obligations under section 15A of the DPP Act, creating a consistent approach to disclosure. A particular form has not been prescribed for disclosure by investigators to regulatory prosecutions in order to accommodate different disclosure procedures that may be adopted by regulatory agencies. I clarify something I just said in my response to the member for Maroubra. I indicated that it was 2021. In fact, I was in error. The issue was identified during a regulatory prosecution in 2020, not 2021. Subsequently, they undertook consultation. Again, I thank the member for Maroubra and the member for Prospect for their contributions. I commend the bill to the House.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Ms Sonia Hornery): The question is that this bill be now read a second time.

Motion agreed to.

Third Reading

Mr VICTOR DOMINELLO: I move:

That this bill be now read a third time.

Motion agreed to.

CHILDCARE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY FUND BILL 2022

Second Reading Debate

Debate resumed from 21 September 2022.

Mr ANOULACK CHANTHIVONG (Macquarie Fields) (18:49): I lead for the Opposition in debate on the Childcare and Economic Opportunity Fund Bill 2022. The Labor Opposition will be moving several amendments once other speakers have had the opportunity to make their own comments on the bill. The Treasurer went into detail on the provisions of the bill during his second reading speech, so I will not repeat them. Instead, I speak about the purpose of the bill. It is fair to say that both sides of the Chamber recognise the importance of accessible, affordable and quality child care. There are many reasons families need to access affordable, quality child care. A quality early childhood education benefits children by helping them develop social and emotional skills as well as their own independence. Access to affordable child care can mean parents are also able to return to the workforce or increase their working hours.

Increasing the participation rates of women in the workforce is the main economic objective of the bill; however, there is a much deeper social equity objective in recognising the sacrifices that have fallen predominantly on women to balance their working careers and family responsibilities. Any supportive childcare initiative from any level of government should be welcomed as a lever to help women and families balance their busy lives and to increase equity in our society. On that basis, the bill's objective has tremendous merit.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics potential workers survey offers sobering insights into the relationship between access to child care and a person's ability to look for work. In February this year, 36,500 people in New South Wales listed child care as the main reason they did not look for work in the week preceding the survey. Only 1,100 of the 36,500 were male. That means that more than 35,000 women in New South Wales wanted to work and were available to work in February but did not look for work because of a lack of childcare options. It is clear that the lack of access to affordable, quality child care is limiting the ability of women to enter the workforce. The question then becomes: What do we do about it?

The Government has introduced this bill to create a \$5 billion childcare and economic opportunity fund in the Special Deposits Account. It says the fund will target known barriers to families accessing quality child care by providing incentives to enable providers to extend their services to more families in a more affordable way. The Opposition notes that the \$5 billion fund is a significant and ongoing budget commitment. It also notes that the bill hands control of such significant funds to a board, which we believe could be improved with better oversight and transparency. The Opposition's consultation with major childcare employee representatives and unions has provided valuable insight into the childcare industry. Their feedback should be welcomed by the Government, not shunned.

I thank Unions NSW and the United Workers Union for taking the time to provide considered and constructive feedback on the bill. The United Workers Union expressed a concern that public money may well go to for-profit centres with no obligations regarding the workforce. Another concern was that the bill lacked detail on how the funds would actually make child care more affordable. Unions NSW gave feedback on the lack of employee representatives on the board. Both unions lamented the lack of accountability or transparency regarding funding decisions. The Opposition shares similar concerns and foreshadows several amendments during the consideration in detail stage after all speakers have had the opportunity to contribute to debate.

I now outline some general concerns with the bill and speak to the amendments we will introduce. The bill provides limited detail on the fund's disbursement processes and does not specifically address the skills shortage and workforce issues within the childcare and early childhood education sector. I make it very clear that childcare workers and early childhood educators are not babysitters; they are essential workers who have an incredible influence on the development of young people under their care. Childcare workers and early childhood educators comfort our children, provide nourishment and start the youngest in our society on their educational journey. Childcare workers and early childhood educators provide early childhood education that can help kids develop the social, cognitive and emotional skills they need before they enter primary school. Those workers and educators help determine the quality of a childcare centre; the physical centre is only as good as the people inside it.

Accordingly, Opposition members will introduce an amendment requiring a workforce plan to be produced every two years addressing skills, wages, standards and quality of training for workers within the childcare sector. The workforce plan would be prepared by the same person tasked with the independent market monitoring reports. Our amendments will also require quality standards to be considered when preparing the market monitoring reports. Access to quality, affordable child care is inherently linked to skills and workplace issues within the sector, and our proposed amendments will make sure the fund adequately addresses those issues.

In all significant public funding arrangements, transparency and accountability must be the cornerstone of any government spending. The bill seeks to establish a \$5 billion fund, and greater transparency over the board and the fund is accordingly required. It is just good corporate governance. The Opposition will introduce a number of amendments that will require all independent market monitoring reports be tabled in Parliament within 60 days of being given to the Minister. The Opposition will also move an amendment requiring the Auditor-General, as the appropriate authority, to conduct, every three years, a performance audit of the fund and the financial assistance provided. A performance audit would need to address whether payments from the fund have been made in accordance with the Act and whether it is actually meeting its objectives.

In keeping with the theme of transparency and accountability, the Opposition will also move amendments requiring an annual report for each financial year on the activities of the fund. The annual report would need to include the most recent performance audit and must be tabled in each House of the Parliament within six months after the end of the financial year. Opposition members will propose a statutory review of the fund to occur approximately three years after it commences. In the interests of accountability, we will also propose that the Treasurer be required to approve any amount of the fund to be carried forward and paid out in future financial years.

When it comes to the responsible spending of taxpayers' money, in all fairness, public confidence is at an all-time low under this Government. Jobs for mates, pork-barrelling, grants rorts and corruption scandals have eroded public trust in this Government, which is why it is so important that we ensure there are corporate governance arrangements in place to improve the level of trust, transparency and accountability. There is certainly the potential for the fund to be misspent or misallocated so that the only outcome is increased profits for private business, not more affordable child care for families in New South Wales.

We do not want the proposed fund to be set up as some sort of free venture capital funding pool to be used as free money to set up privately owned and profitable ventures where all the risk lies with the public purse and none with the private-sector operators. That does not sound like a good public investment framework to me. We do want more families to have access to affordable child care; we do not want public money to be used as a wage subsidy arrangement just so that private owners can make supernormal profits at the taxpayers' expense. We want the fund to properly address the skills shortage and the workforce issues within the childcare sector.

NSW Labor's amendments will ensure that transparency and respect for taxpayers' money are utmost when allocating funding. Transparency goes hand in hand with proper oversight, which is why the Opposition proposes an amendment to ensure that the board has suitably qualified members. Our proposed amendments will require at least one of the appointed board members to be appointed on the recommendation of an employee representative from Unions NSW. The amendments will also require at least one of the appointed board members to be appointed on the recommendation of industry—that is, Business NSW or the Australian Industry Group.

Opposition members are confident all our proposed amendments will strengthen the Childcare and Economic Opportunity Fund so that it can achieve its goal of increasing access to affordable, quality child care. We all know access to child care has been a major barrier to workforce participation, particularly for women. The female workforce participation rate is 10 per cent lower than that for men, and closing that workforce participation gap would grow the New South Wales economy by approximately 8 per cent. That is why NSW Labor will support the bill but will offer some sensible amendments. I understand that negotiations are currently happening between the Treasurer's office, the education Minister's office and the Opposition, and the amendments that are proposed may well change. I will be able to table that and go through that in detail once those negotiations are finalised in the coming hour or so.

Finally, I thank the staff from the offices of the Treasurer and the Minister for Education and Early Learning for their time in briefing the Opposition about the bill and for the negotiations that are taking place as we speak. We were also joined by Sam Mostyn, AO, who was the chair of the expert reference panel of the New South Wales Women's Economic Opportunities Review. Ms Mostyn gave us invaluable insight into the work of the expert panel and the barriers limiting the participation of women in the workforce. We can all agree that increasing access to affordable and quality child care is simply the right thing to do. I urge the Government to support and consider Labor's amendments as we go through the negotiations for the Childcare and Economic Opportunity Fund Bill 2022 so that we can achieve goals that make child care much better for families in New South Wales.

Mr JUSTIN CLANCY (Albury) (19:01): I welcome the opportunity to contribute to debate on the Childcare and Economic Opportunity Fund Bill 2022 and speak in support of the bill. I thank the Treasurer and the Minister for Education and Early Learning for bringing the bill before the House. On occasion, one gets the opportunity to speak in this House on matters that are so important to our community. As the previous speaker just touched on, this bill is the right thing to bring before this House. It is my privilege to speak to the case for action through the bill, and I will also speak to part 4, "The Fund". In terms of the case for action, the overview of the bill clearly states:

The object of this Bill is to improve access to affordable childcare and facilitate the participation of parents and carers in work by the provision of financial assistance ...

That is just such a crucial thing right across our State. I know that child care is traditionally the domain of the Commonwealth, but for the New South Wales Government to step in and provide support in that crucial area will mean so much for our families right across the State. I personally feel it is so important to speak to the bill because of conversations I have had right across my electorate, and I will come back to that. I have spoken to people in small regional communities such as Tumbarumba, Holbrook and Jerilderie, where that childcare component is so critical for employment within those communities, and not just in the larger regional cities like Albury. I would anticipate that the bill is important to families right across our State. As I said, it is an absolute privilege to play a small part in the Government bringing the bill before the House.

Women in Australia are some of the most educated in the world and yet, despite that, women continue to have lower levels of economic participation and security compared to men. Although women's participation in the workforce in New South Wales has grown steadily over the past 50 years to 74 per cent, as it stands today, that figure is still 8 per cent lower compared to men's participation. Women are also more likely to be employed in part-time or casual work compared to men and typically earn less over their lifetimes. The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated the impact of those pre-existing inequalities. Women were more likely to lose their jobs and hours of work compared to men, while many women also became responsible for more unpaid work during the pandemic, such as supporting children learning from home. Responding to those inequalities and increasing women's opportunities to participate in the workforce benefits not only women but also families and the broader New South Wales economy.

I have touched on some of those communities. I have strong memories of sitting down with some amazing women in the community of Tumbarumba, including Ali Grant, Vanessa McGrath, Bev O'Ryan and Flick Middleton. They are women who have young families and who want to participate in the workforce; they want to be engaged in employment but cannot be because of challenges that they face with child care. On the same day I also spoke to businesses within that community, such as Hyne Timber, that are crying out for employees. They cannot find people to work when they have demands on their business. We need to bridge that gap between women wanting to participate in the workforce and businesses seeking employees.

We saw the impact on the workforce during COVID. If women in New South Wales participated in the workforce at the same rate as men, our economy would have 210,000 extra workers. Initiatives such as this one that help enable access to child care would grow the New South Wales economy by 8 per cent by 2061. We know from the Women's Economic Opportunities Review that child care is one of the key reasons why women in New South Wales work less. Almost half of Australian women who are willing to work report that caring for children is the main reason they are unable to return to work or work more hours. The Commonwealth Government's Child Care Subsidy program has gone a long way to provide more women with the opportunity to work while raising a family. But despite the current subsidy we know that child care remains expensive, and it is hard for many families in New South Wales to get the days they need in the locations they need, leaving parents with difficult decisions about whether to return to work or care for children at home.

In my experience as a business owner with a veterinary practice, I know a large percentage of the veterinary workforce is made up of women. I have fantastic veterinary nurses who are faced with being unable to return to work because of the high costs associated with child care and the limit on childcare placements. Affordable and accessible quality early childhood education and care is the biggest lever available to make sure women do not have to choose between having a family and a career. That is why in the most recent budget the New South Wales Government is investing \$5 billion over the next 10 years to deliver affordable and accessible early childhood education and care through the Childcare and Economic Opportunity Fund. We are legislating to ensure that we have an ongoing funding commitment for the fund. It will boost access to and affordability of early childhood education and care by supporting providers and sector organisations to reduce the barriers to child care. The fund will help to create more childcare places and reduce fees passed on to parents who face the highest disincentives to work due to childcare costs. The fund will also help create new places in childcare deserts by establishing new services and supporting existing services to expand through investment that can target the challenges different providers face.

Delivering quality, affordable and accessible early education would not be possible without the outstanding early childhood education workforce. This fund will support the workforce so that the workforce can, in turn, support families and children. We want this fund to underpin a long-term expansion of the childcare system in New South Wales, which is why we are seeking to establish legislation through the Childcare and Economic Opportunity Fund Bill 2022 to protect this investment into the future. The passing of this bill will give confidence to the early learning sector and New South Wales families to be able to plan into the future and grow the early childhood sector. The bill will ensure that the fund and its future investments are subject to strong governance and a transparent process informed by independent evidence. It will ensure that the support we provide to childcare providers creates additional places in the areas that need them most, and that the Government's investment translates to more affordable, quality child care for children and families in New South Wales.

Together with the changes to the Child Care Subsidy announced by the Commonwealth Government, the Childcare and Economic Opportunity Fund is expected to create 47,000 additional ongoing and affordable childcare places. Alongside our other early education reforms announced in the budget, this fund is estimated to support up to 95,000 women to enter the workforce or take on more work, leaving households up to \$4,400 better off each year by 2032 as a result of increased gross State product. This translates to an increase of up to \$17.1 billion in New South Wales gross State product per year by 2032.

In conclusion, I reflect on a personal level on the importance of this bill. Previously in my contribution I spoke of Tumburumba. Just yesterday I spoke to Councillor Lea Parker at Holbrook about the importance of childcare in her community. I also note the importance of childcare to people like Steph Girdwood at Jerilderie. This important bill will establish a fund that takes us well into the future and will see the New South Wales Government make a significant improvement in this space. This bill delivers on our commitment to invest in a brighter future for all New South Wales families and responds to the call for change we have heard from so many women across our State. I commend the bill to the House.

Ms PRUE CAR (Londonderry) (19:11): I make a brief contribution to debate on the Childcare and Economic Opportunity Fund Bill 2022 on the back of many comments made by my colleague the member for Macquarie Fields. My contribution will be in line with the Opposition amendments to the bill that he foreshadowed in his contribution. Of course, the Opposition supports the overarching concept of providing more childcare opportunities for parents and families across the State of New South Wales, and we are presently working with the Government on those amendments.

As members have heard in several contributions to this debate, this bill establishes the New South Wales Childcare and Economic Opportunity Fund as a special deposit account. The Government intends to use the fund to provide incentives to providers to extend childcare services at lower prices. From an Opposition perspective, what we would like to see from this bill is a transparent fund that delivers genuine outcomes for increasing economic opportunity for women and families through increased access to affordable child care. I think all

members want to see the scarcity of childcare positions across New South Wales addressed. But, of course, it is vital that the bill also ensures that there are enough early childhood educators to provide those additional places.

We are in the midst of a teacher and early childhood educator shortage in this State. In fact, I would argue that one of the biggest issues facing the State of New South Wales is the labour shortage we have in vital services such as health and education, both in school-based and early childhood education. Members know that what happens in early childhood education is so crucial to making sure that children get on the right track. It is not just child care; it is actually early childhood education that is essential to improving education outcomes. There is so much evidence for this. We are drowning in evidence of how important early childhood education is to our children. But the truth is that services are battling to find enough staff to meet the current demand, let alone demand in the future.

In an ideal world, more funding for more services would therefore only increase the demand for more qualified early childhood educators in any new centres. The truth is that if we do not have the educators, additional places simply cannot be delivered. Promised improvements to access will not be realised. In our view it is therefore vital that the bill provides provision for workforce pay and conditions, and standards and quality of training, to be assessed through the review process into the childcare sector that the bill will establish. As I said, the member for Macquarie Fields has foreshadowed that he will be moving some amendments to the bill that go some way to addressing those concerns.

Early childhood educators and additional places must go hand in hand to ensure quality early childhood education becomes more readily affordable and available. Of course, the bill also provides for the creation of a board to oversee the fund. It is critical that the board provides strong levels of oversight and transparency to ensure that public money, taxpayers' money, is being used efficiently. The appointed board members should have strong experience within the early childhood education and care sector to ensure the success of the fund within this very complex sector, which is governed by various levels of government and needs much to be done within it. The NSW Labor Opposition believes childcare services should be more affordable and more accessible for all families. We certainly hope that through amendments, the bill will go some way to achieving that for the families of New South Wales.

Ms WENDY LINDSAY (East Hills) (19:15): I speak in support of the Childcare and Economic Opportunity Fund Bill 2022. It is clear that families, households, businesses and the broader community benefit enormously when there is greater female representation and equality of care and work between parents. But currently those benefits are not being fully realised and likely will not be fully realised in the near future without significant reform to address the major barriers women face in choosing to participate in the workforce. One of the most acute barriers for women is the cost of and lack of access to early childhood education and care. As part of the New South Wales budget, the Government committed to investing up to \$5 billion to expand access to quality, affordable child care across New South Wales.

The bill takes a huge step in cementing that transformative reform to increase economic opportunity for more women across the State by establishing the Childcare and Economic Opportunity Fund. The bill addresses the number one recommendation of the New South Wales Government's Women's Economic Opportunities Review to make child care more accessible and affordable and to provide more women with the opportunity to participate in the workforce. The review showed how women's engagement in the labour market declined significantly around the time of starting a family and never fully recovered after having children. That is largely due to two major drivers. The first is the high workforce disincentive rates that women face when the full costs of child care are considered. After factoring in childcare costs, income tax and the loss of family tax benefits, some women returning to work take home less than 25c in each dollar they earn.

The second major driver is that early childhood education and care is often not available to families who need it in the way and the location that meet their needs. I know that from experience. When my daughters were babies we had to put their names on the waiting list at the local childcare centre before they were born to get them a spot. Thankfully it has changed a little bit in my area, but it still provides challenges for young families in my electorate. However, in March this year the Mitchell Institute for Education and Health Policy at Victoria University released a report showing that there are many areas in Australia where demand for child care now outpaces local capacity to provide services, as it did in my area a couple of decades ago.

The report found that just over one-third of all children under four years of age live in neighbourhoods classified as "childcare deserts", where there is less than one childcare place for every three children. That issue is particularly challenging in western Sydney, south-western Sydney and the regions. The Childcare and Economic Opportunity Fund established by the bill will help to address many of the issues that are faced in the areas surrounding my electorate of East Hills. The fund's landmark investment will help to ensure that no-one has to choose between having a family or having a career. We estimate that the fund, alongside all the early childhood

education reforms that were announced in the budget and committed to by the Commonwealth, will support the delivery of about 47,000 additional ongoing and affordable childcare places.

The benefits of the bill will flow to not only children and women but also to families, communities and organisations by reducing the barriers to greater female workforce participation. We estimate that over the next decade the fund will help to see up to 95,000 women enter the workforce or take on more hours and drive down the gender workforce participation gap by up to 14 per cent. Not only will that help more women to enter the workforce and close the women's workforce participation gap; it will also increase economic activity in New South Wales by up to \$17.1 billion per year by 2032-33. The Commonwealth Government is also set to benefit from the reforms. Within a decade we project that Commonwealth revenues will be up to \$2.5 billion higher due to increased women's participation in the labour market.

It is imperative that our reforms work in tandem with the Commonwealth Government's policies, as both the New South Wales Government and the Commonwealth play crucial roles in the early childhood education and care sector. The Commonwealth Government provides support to households through the Child Care Subsidy and the income tax and family payment systems. Recently introduced Commonwealth legislation could see the Child Care Subsidy increase from July next year. That is likely to lead to increased demand for enrolments, so it is therefore even more important for New South Wales to act on supply-side reforms such as the Childcare and Economic Opportunity Fund to help meet the increased demand.

The bill will ensure the Government's landmark investment to boost the supply of child care is sufficiently safeguarded and enduring in order to give certainty of funding to the sector. Under the fund, the New South Wales Government will support the sector through investment and partnerships to provide incentives to increase the supply of affordable childcare places, alongside other efforts to address workforce constraints. As a government we know labour is an important factor and we know how important early childhood educators are.

Recently I spoke to Macy Carter, a young resident in my electorate of East Hills. She was among 400 students across the State to be awarded a \$25,000 scholarship to assist with their early education journey and degree. That is part of an \$11 million program, aside from this fund, that education Minister Sarah Mitchell says will support recipients to expand their understanding of childhood environments and gain additional skills and capabilities that will be passed on to the children that they are teaching. It is a very important investment to ensure that we have early childhood educators in order to increase our capacity in the workforce.

The Childcare and Economic Opportunity Fund will invest in projects that overcome the known barriers to child care and will target funding to areas with higher accessibility and affordability barriers to child care. The Government will work closely with the sector to develop effective and impactful proposals for investment. The fund has been designed to be flexible in order to respond to the needs of families and to allow us to invest in innovative solutions that are put forward by the sector. Proposals for funding could address the fees that are charged, infrastructure needs, workforce needs, new provision-of-care models, operational needs and investment partnerships. It may do that by considering proposals from a range of early childhood education and care services and preschool providers as well as other relevant partner organisations.

The New South Wales Government and the board will conduct extensive consultation with families and the sector to design the rollout of the Childcare and Economic Opportunity Fund. Importantly, the fund will work alongside other policy and funding announcements—such as the scholarship program I mentioned—made by the New South Wales Government and the Commonwealth to provide lasting change to the early childhood education and care sector and families with young children. I commend the bill to the House.

Mr ALEX GREENWICH (Sydney) (19:23): The Childcare and Economic Opportunity Fund Bill 2022 will quarantine a new fund dedicated to increasing access to and affordability of child care in New South Wales. A board will be set up to provide the Government with advice on how to best spend the fund, which aims to help mothers, fathers and other parents who take on the childcare load to get back into the workforce after having children. Having children can take a big toll on a person's career. The burden has generally fallen on women, who traditionally take on a larger role in caring for young children. That situation has contributed to the massive gap in women's participation in full-time work compared to men. In Australia the women's workforce participation rate is less than two-thirds that of men.

When they return to the workforce, they usually go part time and are missing out on opportunities for promotion and leadership roles. The interruption leaves women with fewer savings, less financial security and at greater risk of poverty and homelessness later in life. The economy and society also miss out on opportunities to engage some of our best and brightest minds, slowing our capacity to innovate and change. Increasing access to affordable child care will help to increase women's participation in the workforce, and I will support the bill. But it is not the only factor that impacts on women's participation in the workforce.

The jobs that traditionally have been performed by women, like child care, aged care, nursing and teaching, attract lower wages. When women perform other roles, they still earn less than their male counterparts due to biases in the system. The result is that where small children have a mother and a father, the mother typically earns less and the family is financially better off if she stays home and looks after the children. Cultural barriers in many sectors also turn women off whether they have children or not. Many workplaces have very white, heterosexual, male-dominated cultures that can feel unwelcoming and unsafe for women and others who do not fit that norm. The recent *Independent Review into bullying, harassment and sexual misconduct at the Parliament of NSW* demonstrated that even here we have a toxic culture that is turning women off participating in it.

Last week's release of the *Equal Power Now* survey by Plan International revealed that treatment of women in politics has made Australian girls and young women more disillusioned by politics than their overseas counterparts. The recent occurrence of a member of the other place stating that someone should have "clocked" a female member of this House because she did not toe the party line is a case in point. Just today the Hon. Greg Donnelly referred to the Minister for Women, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for Mental Health as "howling", which shows in this workplace we still have a lot more to do to support women and make it a safe and welcoming workplace for them. The Parliament's blokey culture is preventing us from attracting the diverse range of leaders we need to address the challenges of the future. The make-up of the House and the Ministry certainly fail to reflect the diversity in the community, and I hope the make-up of the new Parliament will be more diverse and our policies can therefore help to reflect that.

All workplaces benefit from diversity, which brings new ideas and new solutions while making the working environment more attractive and safe for all. Much of the discussion of this bill has focused on families where there is a mum and a dad, but there are families across the State that are very diverse. Many children have two mums, two dads, one mum, one dad, or one or two parents who are gender diverse. Focusing on stereotypes during this debate is not helpful for anyone. Indeed, it can entrench the expectation on women in families with a mum and a dad to sacrifice their career and take up the greater role of child rearing. Even with child care and after-school care, it can be difficult for parents to leave work in time to pick up their kids. Long work hours are challenging to all family life and the pandemic has shown that people want flexible working arrangements to achieve a better balance. All parents need support returning to work after having children and I acknowledge that diverse families certainly will benefit from the bill. It is great that the Government has taken the step to provide better access to child care and I look forward to more work in this space.

Mr PETER SIDGREAVES (Camden) (19:28): I support the Childcare and Economic Opportunity Fund Bill 2022. The bill will establish the Childcare and Economic Opportunity Fund with the principal objective of the fund to increase participation in the State's workforce, particularly for women, by making quality child care more affordable and more accessible. The fund will target known barriers to families accessing quality early childhood education and care by providing major incentives to enable providers to extend their services to more families, more affordably. It will help existing services—including not-for-profit and for-profit providers—to grow in size and quality, and it will improve the viability of existing services, particularly in regional and rural locations. The fund also will support sector organisations, which help break down barriers to children accessing education and care, drive down fees for families and help build, retain and better reward their workforce. Therefore, the success of the fund will be predicated on ensuring that the sector and families have certainty of, and confidence in, the fund and the Government's long-term commitment to invest up to \$5 billion in the early childhood education and care sector.

The bill will establish the Childcare and Economic Opportunity Fund in the Special Deposits Account. This means that the fund can be used only on goods and services within the scope and purpose of the fund as set out in the legislation. The benefits of the fund being held in a Special Deposits Account are threefold. First, by ring fencing the fund there will be certainty of funding for the sector on the Government's commitment to invest up to \$5 billion over the next 10 years into the sector. Providing long-term certainty to the sector will enable services to invest in their infrastructure, workforce and families and also encourage innovation. The needs of New South Wales families have changed from 20 years ago and we want to utilise this fund for services to try new things to better support their families and their children. Secondly, establishing the fund in a Special Deposits Account will ensure that there are transparent processes for disbursing funds, with clearly delineated approval by ministerial, board and departmental officers enshrined in legislation.

Lastly, the Special Deposits Account and enabling legislation will provide enhanced accountability for the performance of the fund, including regular public reporting and evaluation to support greater transparency. Given the significant investment the Government has committed to, with the aim to boost the supply of child care over the long term, it is appropriate that a strong governance framework is established to support the transparency, accountability and performance of the fund. The main pillar of the fund's governance framework is the establishment of a statutory body in the form of a Childcare and Economic Opportunity Fund Board. The board

will provide advice to the Government on the strategic direction of the fund, informed by expert independent reports commissioned by the Minister.

The board will comprise five members as follows: the New South Wales Department of Education Secretary or delegate; the NSW Treasury Secretary or delegate; and three additional members to be appointed by the Minister for Education and Early Learning and the Treasurer with appropriate expertise, with at least one employed in the Department of Education to ensure continuity with the broader Early Years Commitment. The board will exercise its functions in accordance with the principles of accountability, market understanding and fiscal responsibility, as with any grants program.

As the final decision-maker for granting funds and financial assistance, inclusion of the governance mechanisms for the board in legislation will ensure that there is a high level of accountability and transparency of the fund's investment. At the same time, the bill establishes that responsibility for the strategic direction of the fund will be with the Minister, ensuring the fund remains complementary to, and works effectively with, other early childhood education and care reforms under the Minister's portfolio. The board will also ensure adherence to best practice grants administration governance in accordance with the *Department of Premier and Cabinet New South Wales Government Boards and Committees Guidelines* and advice from the New South Wales Public Service Commission.

Child care is the key to ensuring that no-one has to choose between having a family or having a career. We are committed to giving women the genuine option to pursue a career while raising a family, without having to make unnecessary trade-offs. This bill is a huge step in delivering on cementing our landmark \$5 billion investment into child care. If we look at the Women's Opportunity Statement handed down with the budget, we see a number of priorities. This delivers on one of them. It is of great benefit to women who wish to pursue a career where both parents share looking after the children and their welfare. Having these funds committed to a special repository account safeguards the funds for investment in the childcare sector as established in statute, provides certainty to the sector, and enhances the transparency and accountability of these investments. I thank the Treasurer and the Minister for Education and Early Learning for bringing the bill to the House. I commend the bill to the House.

Ms TAMARA SMITH (Ballina) (19:35): On behalf of The Greens, I contribute to debate on the Childcare and Economic Opportunity Fund Bill 2022. Whilst we always support investment in public education, it is incredibly disappointing and an opportunity lost that this funding and initiative is aimed at private providers. New South Wales is the second worst performing State in Australia in terms of public provision, with only 5 per cent of preschools operating within the public education system. Let us see what those statistics look like. Across 1,700 public primary school sites, there are only 100 public preschools. I am incredibly disappointed and extremely cynical to see that this initiative is not geared towards public preschools or early childhood centres in the public domain.

The New South Wales Government must fulfill its responsibility to provide free preschooling as part of the broader provision of primary and secondary education. The public provision of preschooling and early intervention must begin by addressing the needs of our most vulnerable communities. I concur with the member for Sydney that there are many assumptions around this legislation that are utterly heteronormative. It does not address the fact that there are many families in our communities that do not comprise a man and a woman with children. The bill is incredibly utilitarian. It does not talk about the benefits of early childhood education as education. We are seeing that more and more. Having only 100 public preschools out of 1,700 public primary schools in the State says it all. It is not an education model; it is a different model.

I begin by acknowledging all the incredible early childhood educators in the Ballina electorate and all the preschool teachers across the electorates represented by the members for Balmain and for Newtown. We know that COVID was an incredible ordeal for them. I am not discriminating against public preschools because, let's face it, there are virtually none in my electorate. I am not criticising our teachers or early childhood workers; I am criticising a model that is aimed at increasing privatisation in education. The Greens' policies at a national and a State level are very clear. Our fundamental principle in early childhood education and care is that it should be a not-for-profit service. My colleague Abigail Boyd, MLC, will move amendments in the other place specifically so that, if there is not going to be an expansion of the mere 100 public preschools in the State out of 1,700 schools, we can at least focus on not-for-profits. That is not because we are being mean and it is not a criticism of not-for-profit early childhood centres per se, but it reminds us that this is about education.

How many reports, how much research and how much data do we need to see to realise that early intervention is key? As a former educator, I can tell members that there is an exact equation that starts at three years old and continues through preschool and into kindergarten. The gap based on socio-economic background and disadvantage, as well as disability, widens beyond repair by the time children are in year 2. I know we are all in furious agreement about the need for early childhood education, but it is disappointing that we are not focused

on public education and the provision of public preschools. We also have some huge issues around the appropriation of funds. It is unusual to have standing appropriation funds from the budget. This introduces unnecessary bureaucracy in the management of the funds, with very little accountability.

Transparency with this kind of fund is absolutely vital for a healthy democracy. The board administering the fund has an economics expertise focus, with no actual expertise in early childhood education. This is another lost opportunity. We get that the bill is geared to encourage greater participation of women in the workforce. That is a noble aim. But it is our view that connecting it with early childhood education is problematic because, as we heard from the member for Sydney, our families are not cookie-cutter models. It also belittles the requirement in our society to focus on high-quality education in the early stages. The Greens will be looking to introduce amendments that support public sector centres, no public money to prop up for-profit private centres, explicit provision to support workers in centres, and help to provide vocational education and training.

I am looking at salaries—which is a major issue—trimming down the bureaucracy and completely amending the purpose of the bill, which is aimed at women who are not currently in work to incentivise them into work. We propose changing the name of the bill so that it is more universal. Explicit recognition of early childhood education and care is critical from a child's perspective. There is nothing in the bill about the rights of a child in terms of all the lenses we need to bring to this discussion. We want to match the provisions of the Victorian response, which is universal free child care for four-year-olds—simple—and confine discretion for the use of funds by aligning more closely with the Early Years Commitment statement, including a focus on children and their education and separating that from women's participation in the workforce.

To be frank, there is a real dumbing down of these issues. The Greens' policy at both the New South Wales and the national level is explicitly against public money going to private childcare centres. At its annual conference this year the New South Wales Teachers Federation made it very clear that it believes 100 public preschools out of 1,700 public primary schools is absurd and flies in the face of the so-called aims of the bill.

Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore) (19:42): I speak in support of the Childcare and Economic Opportunity Fund Bill 2022. The bill will establish the Childcare and Economic Opportunity Fund. The fund will cement one of our most transformative reforms—that is, increase women's economic opportunity across the State and invest in children for their future. It is not only the right thing to do by families and children across New South Wales, but also one of the biggest productivity reforms that we can implement to increase prosperity across the New South Wales economy. In this place we all know that the women of New South Wales are some of the highest educated anywhere in the world. In my electorate we have the most highly educated community in New South Wales. Yet our workforce participation for women across New South Wales is 9 per cent lower than the participation rate of men.

We know that by giving women choice we can lift the workforce participation rate of women so that it is equal to that of men. By doing so, we will see the flow-on benefits to the entire community by growing our economy so that by 2060-61 it is 8 per cent larger. That is the equivalent of increasing the average income of every household in our State by \$22,000 per year. It is an economic opportunity that we cannot ignore. The real, fundamental reason we are investing in this policy is we know that we need to deliver the best opportunities for children and families into the future. Through this policy, our youngest kids will have new opportunities to thrive. That is made possible through the groundbreaking introduction of our universal year of free, play-based learning prior to kindergarten for all New South Wales children. That is also an approach to tackling the child care affordability and accessibility crisis. Analysis shows that areas of oases and areas of drought exist across New South Wales with regard to access to child care and its cost.

The reforms will boost our affordable child care supply by up to 47,000 places, which is backed in by the Childcare and Economic Opportunity Fund of up to \$5 billion. We will facilitate that through additional plans to attract, support and retain early childhood teachers and carers. This is fundamentally and historically an area of Federal responsibility, but we have stepped up to deliver this package because we want to ensure that families across the State, no matter their financial circumstances or geography, their pay cheques or postcodes, have access to high-quality affordable child care and early learning that delivers the best outcomes for children, for families and for providers.

My own children are some of those across New South Wales who benefit from the exceptional care and learning that early learning educators provide. The fund is going to be part of the building block for lifelong success for our kids and give them the best start in life. Too many kids are missing out due to barriers, including the cost and availability challenges. I made a commitment when I came into Parliament to ensure that children would not miss out, particularly if it was due to where they were born or the amount of money their parents earned, and that is why I am so proud of this shake-up. It is the biggest shake-up in the State's history. By transforming accessibility and affordability, we are going to make sure that every parent can make choices about their own economic opportunities and that children have the greatest opportunities.

When it comes to reflecting the needs and choices of women, the reform is estimated to allow up to 95,000 women to either enter the workforce or to take on more hours. Women are disproportionately taking on caring responsibilities, particularly when it comes to young children. Closing that workforce gender participation gap by up to 14 per cent and increasing household incomes is good for New South Wales and the country, but it is particularly empowering for women to have choices, to maximise their own opportunity and to advance their own opportunities.

The superannuation gap, for instance, is significant between women and men. Lifelong earnings can be impacted by women taking time out of the workforce, particularly early on in their career, and missing out on promotional opportunities and training, education and advancement opportunities. That leads to women being left behind, which will continue well into the future, and disproportionately being able to access future opportunities. That can be seen when it comes to the disproportionate number of older women who are experiencing homelessness or who do not have any housing security. In many ways, that is because of the historic nature of women's household and caring responsibilities not being valued in the same way as paid work outside of the home, and women not being able to access those same opportunities, particularly historically not being able to access superannuation to ensure that they had financial security into retirement, even if they were not retiring from the paid workforce.

The changes will be transformative, not just in the short term but also in the long term. As the member for Ballina acknowledged, the dividend will keep returning to the people of New South Wales and to children and families because we know that early childhood education is just that. I look at my own children and their educators. I look not just at their social skills development and their ability to interact and engage and their language development, but I also look at the knowledge attainment, the kinds of things that they understand and their capabilities. I know that educators are transforming their little lives and setting them up for a great future.

As the member for Ballina acknowledged, if we are not getting in early enough and rectifying that imbalance to ensure that children are not left behind, regardless of financial capability to access this type of early education, then children are going into school sometimes months or years behind their peers, who might be in different geographic or socio-economic areas. That is compounded year on year throughout schooling, including after schooling. We know how important those first five years are. Evidence even suggests that the disproportionate impacts and disadvantage of not accessing early learning can lead to higher rates of incarceration, higher rates of welfare dependency, and some of the challenges that spread throughout society and impact individuals' lives, not just as children but as they become adults too. This is the kind of policy that can really go about changing that.

It is an investment in New South Wales that is on a scale never seen in Australia. It will provide a strong educational foundation and deliver intergenerational results for our kids. We are making sure that families across the State are going to have that brighter future while also easing the pressure on household budgets. It should not be a choice for parents between getting their kids a great early education or paying for household expenses. That is not the dichotomy that we want people to see. I will talk a little bit about the fund and the package in the fund. *[Extension of time]*

The package in the fund commits up to \$5 billion in funding over 10 years towards making quality child care more affordable and accessible. That is a key part of the Government's \$15.9 billion Early Years Commitment, as we are referring to the broad package. That is the 10-year plan to transform early childhood education and development for New South Wales families. We are ensuring that every child is given the best start in life no matter where they live. The fund complements the suite of proposals announced in the recent budget, which included \$5.8 billion towards the introduction of a universal pre-kindergarten year, as I mentioned, which is for all students in the year before school by 2030, and also \$1.3 billion for fee relief for children in preschool settings commencing January 2023.

I acknowledge that we get a lot of information about accessibility and affordability, and while I recognise that in my own community of North Shore we have a higher level of accessibility than a lot of other geographic parts of the State, we also have the highest average costs of any region across Australia. Depending on their income and circumstances people might receive different levels of Federal Government assistance, but that does not always mean that they are able to get the full five days a week or maybe 11 hours every single day. I note that childcare subsidies cap out at 100 hours a fortnight, even if you have 110 hours a fortnight, which is a really great mechanism within the model. Receiving that assistance does not always mean that you are going to be able to access those opportunities.

My children attend a not-for-profit centre and we love that centre, but in an area like mine there are also very high overheads and costs for things like real estate. We have a lot of local educators and carers and staff, but people are also travelling from across Sydney to work in our local centres. Delivering these types of services is associated with a lot of costs. Private centres come in and sometimes they are much more expensive, and some of

those costs reflect the costs of opening more places in these communities. Often that is market driven. We did not want to see a model that would enable more and more centres to put up prices even more and still gain government support and funding. The model we are introducing is looking at the supply side rather than the demand side. It will ensure that we are focusing particularly on affordable places so that providers can increase their places and make sure they are affordable for individuals who need it. They will benefit to deliver those places.

The bill establishes the fund in the Special Deposits Account and it provides for the standing appropriation into the fund in line with the Government commitment to invest \$775 million over the next four years. From 2026-27 to 2031-32, the New South Wales Government will invest an annual amount informed by the estimates in the independent expert reports commissioned by the Minister for Education and Early Learning to ensure New South Wales families have adequate access to child care at affordable prices to maximise workforce participation, capped at \$650 million a year indexed to CPI. Having those funds committed into a Special Deposits Account will safeguard them for investment into the childcare sector as established in statute. It cannot be raided. It will provide certainty to our sector and it will enhance the transparency and accountability of those investments.

The bill also establishes an independent market monitoring report mechanism. The Minister may commission experts to review, monitor and report on the early childhood sector. These regular, independent market monitoring reports will be used to ensure that the fund is flexible and responsive to the evolving needs of the sector in New South Wales. The reports will provide advice on areas with high demand and low access to childcare places and where households face the biggest barriers, financial or other, to working because of childcare costs. Priority investments to address those issues could include grants or commissioning services to expand infrastructure; establishing new centres in childcare deserts, to which I have referred; developing new approaches to help attract and retain the next generation of early childhood teachers and educators; or trialling new service models to meet the needs of modern families.

By committing this fund into legislation, the Government is signalling its ongoing and lasting commitment to the early childhood education and care sector. It is intended that this investment will support innovative investment partnerships that support families to access childcare. The bill also establishes a childcare and economic opportunity fund board, which will be an independent statutory body, to administer and approve payments from the fund. Together with the Special Deposits Account, there will be clear and independent approval pathways for this investment that will promote transparency, accountability and fiscal responsibility.

We will also establish a governance structure between the board, the Department of Education and Treasury to provide clear operating processes and to align objectives. That will ensure that the fund complements broader early childhood education and care reforms being undertaken by the Department of Education. The first stage of investment will be informed by industry consultation to ensure that the most immediate sector issues are prioritised. That will include a thorough consultation with the sector when developing program guidelines for the fund.

The Australian Government recently introduced legislation to significantly increase the Commonwealth Child Care Subsidy. Through the Childcare and Economic Opportunity Fund, New South Wales has an opportunity to maximise the Commonwealth Government's commitment to increase the subsidy with complementary investment to support the sector to respond and grow, and to work together to realise the benefits of early childhood education and care system reform.

I had the great benefit of participating in a lot of the work on this reform by joining with the expert panel in their deliberations. I acknowledge the work of those who really put the legwork into the expert panel in the Women's Economic Opportunities review. That includes the Chair, Sam Mostyn, but also the members of the expert panel, including Maha Abdo, Jillian Kilby, Daisy Turnbull, Leslie Loble and Blair Comley. I recognise the two departments that worked quite heavily on this—Treasury and the Department of Education—and their staff. I particularly recognise the Treasury staff who led this, including Jenny Merkley, Alison Aggarwal and Nallini Rajaretnam. I thank the Treasurer's team, Ava Hancock and Charlie Hoffman, who worked in great detail and depth to put these proposals together and to ensure that they meet the needs of people across New South Wales.

I thank the Treasurer for championing this. We both have small children, and we now understand just how hard that is for parents. We realise in particular how much harder it is for mothers than it is for fathers across the State and what more we need to do for women across New South Wales to give them greater opportunities and greater choice. I thank the education Minister, as well, for always being a champion in this space. I am very proud to support the bill, and I commend it to the House.

Ms JODIE HARRISON (Charlestown) (19:57): I contribute to debate on the Childcare and Economic Opportunity Fund Bill 2022. This is a topic of particular interest to me, as the shadow Minister for Women and the former shadow Minister for Early Childhood Education. I was also an organiser for what is now the United Workers Union, which covers large numbers of workers in the early childhood sector. I worked in that space with

those workers. At the outset, I acknowledge that for many years early childhood educators, early childhood learning and care providers, and parents have been pushing for reforms in this sector. Early childhood learning and care is often prohibitively expensive for families and there are limited places, meaning some children miss out totally, and early childhood educators are way too undervalued for the important work that they do.

I note that early childhood educators recently took industrial action across New South Wales to raise public awareness of their poor recognition. That action is basically unheard of in that sector, particularly within this generation of educators, who care so much for our children. Early childhood education is a game changer for young children. We know that it is one of the best ways to help children develop the social, emotional and cognitive skills that they need for future learning. Every child in this State deserves the best start in life and their families should not be priced out of that opportunity. Early childhood education is also essential to ensure that parents are able to fully participate in the workforce if they want to. With the skills shortages we are experiencing across large parts of the economy at the moment, that is incredibly important. It is also important for gender equity.

The bill arises following the Government's Women's Economic Opportunities review. An expert panel was established to identify reform options to support women to enter, re-enter, stay and succeed in the workforce and to improve women's economic security throughout their lifetimes. I thank the members of that expert panel for their input. In its recommendation to the Government, the panel stated:

Our most significant recommendation to create generational change across the NSW economy is a long-term commitment to a guarantee of free or low-cost high quality, accessible childcare, and preschool across the state.

That was the most significant recommendation, in the words of the expert panel. The bill does not actually do that. There is certainly more work to be done. It is a shame that the opportunity has not been taken by the Government to take up that recommendation fully. The bill establishes the New South Wales Childcare and Economic Opportunity Fund as a vehicle to address the lack of accessible and affordable early childhood education and care in this State. I recognise that that is the bill's goal, but I question how effective it will be in addressing the issue without significant amendments.

The bill aims to establish the fund in the Special Deposits Account, which means it will be legally separate from the State's Consolidated Fund. The bill also establishes a standing appropriation for 10 years and sets some funds that can be paid out during those 10 years. It creates a significant and ongoing budget commitment, which is meant to address a serious issue in our community. Fundamentally, the bill is aimed at giving incentives to providers to extend childcare services at lower prices. In turn, that is meant to increase participation in the workforce, particularly for women.

I cannot speak on the bill without recognising the significant recent reforms introduced to the Federal Parliament just last month by the newly elected Labor Government to increase the affordability of early childhood learning and to remove the financial disincentive in childcare fees for a primary caring parent to work full time. Since she raised it in her contribution, the member for North Shore will be pleased to know that the Federal Government has committed to that.

I recognise the work of the Hon. Amanda Rishworth, who was shadow Minister, in developing and taking the policy to the election, and the Minister for Education, the Hon. Jason Clare, for seeing it through. This Federal policy will see an investment of \$4.5 billion over four years from next year, benefiting 1.26 million families and generating the equivalent of 37,000 extra full-time workers across the country, which is a significant commitment. In that context, the goal of the bill is admirable, but it has flaws. In particular, I note concerns about the governance of the fund and a failure to adequately address the acute skills shortage and workforce issues within the childcare sector. There is a lot of money in this bill, but there are next to no real details about how the money will be allocated, what it will be spent on or even what it will accomplish.

The United Workers Union has raised serious concerns about whether the bill will even achieve its primary goal of making early childhood education and care more affordable. The money could end up just propping up for-profit companies, pouring public funds into private businesses, businesses which may well pocket the extra funding without boosting staff pay and conditions to fix the workforce crisis or appreciably lowering prices. These concerns have been echoed by Unions NSW, which has also raised the lack of employee representation on the board. There should be an increased focus on ensuring there is appropriate industry representation on the board, both by employers and employees.

I come now to an issue that I have a particular interest in—namely, the failure of this bill to address what is an enormous problem confronting the early childhood education and care sector: the skills shortage and workforce issues that have plagued the sector for some time. As I mentioned earlier, I have spent a lot of time with early childhood education and care workers over the course of my career, first as an organiser for what is now the United Workers Union and then as shadow Minister for Early Childhood Education. I have heard over and over again from early childhood educators that they love their job. They love the kids. They love the work.

They love the reward of being part of a child's development. But I have heard over and over again that the challenges of the job too often outweigh the joys. I have heard that highly qualified educators, who put their all into the job, say with great regret that they just cannot keep it up. The pay is too little. The pressures are too great. They cannot get a mortgage. They cannot get a home to live in that they can afford. They cannot live in the town that they work in because there is just not adequate recognition.

As well as the needed amendment to ensure good, open and transparent governance of the fund, governance which the public can see, this bill should absolutely be amended to address the serious matter of a skills shortage. There needs to be a workforce plan developed and updated regularly, looking at skills, wages, standards and quality of training for early childhood educators and education and care sector workers. The quality standards in the early childhood sector should be considered by the board as a matter of course to ensure that good money is not being spent on providers that are not delivering outcomes to the standards that staff, families and the broader community are entitled to expect.

This bill has good intentions, but it is flawed. It should be amended to deal with the rightful concerns that have been raised. I say it has good intentions, because all across the State there are childcare deserts—locations where there is barely one place available for every three children who need it and their families, who want to participate more fully in the workforce. Across this State there are parents forced to make difficult decisions about whether they can afford to work an extra day if it means having to fork out more for child care. All across this State the early childhood education and care sector is in desperate need of reform. I urge the Government to work with the Opposition and consider our amendments in the spirit in which they are provided so that we can get this reform right.

Ms JENNY LEONG (Newtown) (20:07): I speak on the Childcare and Economic Opportunity Fund Bill 2022 and I also support the comments made by my Greens colleague, the member for Ballina, who is our education spokesperson. The intent of this legislation is to make child care more affordable and accessible. The Greens support those aims. However, we do not believe that the provision of affordable child care should be rationalised by arguing that it should be done so more women can get into the workforce to boost the economy. Women's participation in society as equals is absolutely critical, but to identify the need to fund early childhood education as a way to increase women's contribution to the economy fundamentally misses the point of why we are here and what we are trying to do. It is not to serve a capitalist agenda.

Early childhood education is beneficial to children and to their future education and wellbeing. We also believe that parents, including women, deserve the opportunity to be able to work if they want to, but we also recognise that other people are not in a position to work, and not just for financial reasons. It is well known that two-income families are struggling to afford privatised child care as it is, even with the current subsidies, and in many areas in New South Wales there are simply no childcare options for many parents. The member for North Sydney said that while her electorate has access to a number of childcare places compared to other areas in our State that do not have childcare options, the cost of that child care is exorbitant.

The Greens want all families in New South Wales to be able to access free, high quality, early childhood education and child care, including out of school hours care, but it appears that will not be the case in New South Wales for some time. In the meantime, we support affordable and accessible government, community and not-for-profit childcare centres in all areas where it is needed. But The Greens do not believe that billions of public dollars should be transferred to private, for-profit childcare operators in New South Wales. That is a fundamental flaw with this bill. The Greens hold serious concerns, and we will seek to amend the bill in the upper House. Indeed, we cannot support the bill in its current form without that amendment.

I urge both the Treasurer and the Minister for Education and Early Learning to think about whether the purpose of this bill is to prop up for-profit childcare centres or to use public funds to support community and not-for-profit centres. Just like health, housing and education, the Coalition is planning to prop up for-profit businesses with public funds rather than look at models that are community based and structured to build and strengthen community. The Greens want to see funding for early childhood education used to support and develop not-for-profit child care, particularly in areas where there is a chronic shortage such as regional communities and in western Sydney. Access to high-quality early childhood education has been shown to have a huge impact on children's lives. In addition to the development of early social skills, children in early childhood education are more likely to have learning obstacles and disadvantages picked up at an early age and are thus more likely to receive the early intervention they need to prepare them adequately for school. As the mother of a kindy child who spent a number of years at an incredible early childhood centre and long daycare centre in the electorate of Newtown, I can say that you see the benefit to children of that early childhood education when you are able to access a centre that has skilled workers, who, sadly, are underpaid, overworked and under-resourced. They are incredible at their jobs. They need to be remunerated and respected for the work that they do.

The focus for the bill needs to be redirected. It should not be aimed at providing funding in places where it would be likely to increase participation of women in the workforce—that is, where women are not currently working and are working fewer hours than they want to—because that does not necessarily overlap with where children would benefit from early childhood education or where families would benefit from more convenient access or reduced fees. The measures in the bill are wrong. Early childhood education is a valuable and crucial part of what this State Government should be delivering, not the provision of a service so that women can engage further in the workforce to simply boost this Government's economy. It is really important that we recognise that distinction. Affordable childcare options should benefit all parents, not just those women who want to re-enter the workforce.

The \$5 billion Childcare and Economic Opportunity Fund, announced in the budget by the New South Wales Treasurer, will see a slow release of funds annually—unlike the relatively rapid rollout proposed in Victoria. It will provide \$775 million in its first three years, with \$650 million adjusted for CPI per year after that, but it is a doubling of the available funding almost every year. This sort of funding must be directed to not-for-profits; to local councils, which are well placed to manage child care; or to community-based and not-for-profit organisations, which will be accountable and transparent and have KPIs solely focused on benefitting children, their parents and our community and not the bottom line. Putting billions of dollars of public money into private, for-profit childcare centres that are prioritising money going to their shareholders that can then be used to boost their business interests is not about early childhood education. It is not about women's participation in the workforce. It is just another New South Wales Government agenda to hand over public money to its private business mates.

In Victoria, \$10 billion is being made available in the next 10 years to fund early childhood education, which includes the establishment of 50 government-owned and affordable childcare centres. That is the direction in which New South Wales should be going. We need to build up our public and community services and engagement. Privatisation has failed us at every level in New South Wales. It has failed to grow the numbers of individuals and families who are able to survive in this cost-of-living crisis. We know that the amount of unpaid child care in New South Wales is also staggering and on the rise because people cannot afford child care. In the Newtown electorate alone over 2,500 people are undertaking unpaid child care, and the statistics show it is being done by parents, grandparents and friends aged primarily from 35 to 85 years old.

The current cost-of-living blowout, combined with stagnant wage growth, has meant that more and more parents are finding they simply cannot afford any formal child care and they are scrambling to find carers so that they can keep working. We need to recognise that since the pandemic more and more parents—particularly working women—are choosing or opting to work from home while they are simultaneously undertaking childcare responsibilities because they know they cannot make ends meet and that is the only option that is available to them.

At the front line, our childcare workers are at breaking point. Last month, we saw a national strike—and The Greens support the right of workers to strike—of some 1,000 centres, calling for improved wages and conditions. Those essential workers must be supported and paid properly for the crucial work they do. We need to explicitly support and protect those workers so they do not continue to leave the profession and face undue stress. We must fund the training of more childcare workers and pay them properly to build the workforce that we need to progressively build new publicly owned and run early childcare centres. That will ensure that we have professional, well-skilled and well-paid early childhood educators. [*Extension of time*]

The proposal in the bill to have a government-appointed board that will administer this funding does not specify that the board must include members who are early childhood education specialists or childcare workers. The idea that a board governing this fund would not include experts from early childhood education or childcare workers is truly astounding.

Ms Anna Watson: Like icare.

Ms JENNY LEONG: Indeed. It also appears that the Treasurer has the final say on who is on the board, after receiving recommendations from the Minister for Education and Early Learning. That is no surprise. While the male Liberal-Nationals Government members may put on their teal ties and wander about pretending to care about putting women in positions of power, once again purporting that we have a radical policy to empower women in the workplace, ultimately it is the bloke with the money who will decide who is on the board, not the Minister for Education and Early Learning. My Greens colleagues in the upper House will move a number of amendments to strengthen the bill. To support the bill, we will need those amendments to be passed.

The first and most significant of those amendments is to ensure that the bill supports public sector centres—no public money is to be used to prop up for-profit private centres. Instead, that money needs to be for public and non-profit community centres only. We will also move amendments to ensure that an explicit provision is included

to support workers in centres, to help train more of them so that we look after them. We need to respect them for doing the most important work in this society, which is educating our young people and the next generation. We will move an amendment to trim down the bureaucracy to ensure that the board is made up of representatives for the workers and early childhood experts, and not just people hand-picked by the Treasurer who have connections with his business mates so they can keep doing deals to reward their chosen businesses so they can keep getting elected.

The Greens will also move to amend the bill's purpose, which is only aimed at women not currently in work, to incentivise them into the workforce. Plenty of households are struggling to pay childcare fees despite having two incomes. We need to recognise that the bill does nothing to support them. We need to recognise also that the primary focus of the bill is on women's participation in the workforce when its primary focus should be on improving early childhood education in this State. We will move an amendment that explicitly recognises that early childhood education and care is critical to children. Finally, The Greens will move an amendment that will match the provisions of the Victorian bill, which recognises universally free child care for all four-year-olds.

The bill could have been an opportunity for a radical shift in how we perceive child care in this State. I think those people on the advisory board, which was used as a basis for putting the bill forward, wanted to see radical reform. Sadly, the bill has been through the sausage-making machine of the Liberal-Nationals Government and, once again, has a privatisation agenda. Child care should be considered as a fundamental public service, as it is in so many European countries. In Finland, 70 per cent of preschool children attend a full daycare service supported by the Government. In Norway, every child who is one year or over is entitled to a full childcare place in one of the many heavily subsidised public daycare centres. In Ireland, early childhood care and education schemes provides free care and education for all preschool children. Admittedly it is only three hours a day, but it is much better than New South Wales.

We desperately need to see a radical shift on the long overdue reform of universally free child care, but this bill will not deliver that. Instead, it will funnel billions of dollars of public money into for-profit private providers. That is why The Greens cannot support the bill in its current form. I urge the Treasurer and the Minister for Education and Early Learning to consider The Greens amendments. It is clear that there is a desperate need to support early childhood education in this State. There is also a desperate need to support parents, who are desperately crying out for more assistance with child care and early childhood education. It is critical that early childhood educators and workers are supported. The bill in its current form does not do that, but that does not stop us from moving amendments that would allow it to do that. The Greens urge the Government and the crossbench to consider our amendments so it can be returned to this Chamber amended so that it can be passed and early childhood education can be given the priority it needs in this State.

Mr GURMESH SINGH (Coffs Harbour) (20:22): Yesterday morning I had the pleasure of joining my local radio presenter on ABC Local in Coffs Harbour. A question I was asked was this: If I could take over any more household duties, what would they be? I answered by saying that I would do the daycare drop-off and pick-up if my travel schedule would allow. Child care is fundamentally one of the most important things that we do in our society, both as parents and as childcare providers that provide that service. That is why I contribute to debate on the Childcare and Economic Opportunity Fund Bill 2022.

The New South Wales Government is investing up to \$5 billion to establish the Childcare and Economic Opportunity Fund. This fund makes child care more accessible and affordable and removes barriers to increased workforce participation. To ensure that the fund delivers this outcome, we are introducing a bill to ensure the best value for public money and transparent reporting processes. The bill will also deliver a flexible and responsive fund that meets the needs of the early childhood sector. The bill establishes a Childcare and Economic Opportunity Board. It would be a statutory board that is responsible for administering the fund. The board will provide advice to the Government on the strategic direction of the fund, informed by expert independent reports commissioned by the Minister.

These independent market monitoring reports will provide advice on childcare supply shortages or where there are high barriers to parents participating in work because of unaffordable or inaccessible child care. The reports will provide the primary evidence base in the development of the fund's strategic direction and key strategic documents. From 2026-27 onwards the reports will also include an estimate of the annual amount required to be invested into the fund to support the delivery of the fund's objectives, up to a cap of \$650 million per year indexed to the consumer price index. The board will develop three-yearly strategic investment plans based on the independent market monitoring reports, which will set out key investment priorities, the types of programs for which financial assistance will be provided, and how the priorities relate to the types of programs.

The board must also develop program guidelines to be approved by the Minister. Proposals eligible for funding may include initiatives designed to support a reduction in fees paid by parents for new and existing places; increase the size and quality of the workforce, including support for staffing costs; support sector organisations

that help families access a service or investment in infrastructure to build new services; and extend or renovate existing services in identified areas of need, amongst other initiatives. The board must ensure that any payments out of the fund are in line with the strategic investment plans and program guidelines.

As set out in part 4, clause 19, \$100 million will be invested in the fund from 1 July 2023. The first stage of investment will be informed by sector consultation to ensure that immediate sector issues are prioritised. This will include a thorough consultation with the sector when developing program guidelines for the fund. The fund is intended to be flexible to allow the board and government to react to changes in the sector. This will ensure the funding is allocated where it is most needed to address supply challenges, improve affordability and accessibility of child care and drive collaborative outcomes for New South Wales. The rolling three-yearly strategic investment plans, along with the independent market monitoring reports, allow the fund to be responsive and flexible to the early childhood education and care sector's current and future needs.

The bill sets up reporting and evaluation mechanisms that allow for the prioritisation of strategic investments out of the fund to achieve the goal of reducing barriers to affordable and accessible quality child care. The independent market monitoring report will be prepared every two years, or other period prescribed by regulation, and is intended to reflect the changing needs of families and the sector. The independent market monitoring report will consider information from people who own, control or operate childcare services, use childcare services, work in the sector or have extensive knowledge. This will better reflect the sector needs and inform the board and the Minister around key priority areas, allowing the fund to be responsive to the needs of families and barriers in the sector.

To enable continual improvements, the board will also report on the performance of the fund and the state of the sector on an annual basis. The annual report may include assessment of the early childhood education and care market in New South Wales and key measures covering availability, affordability, choice, quality, and participation; how funds have been committed and allocated from the fund; and evaluation and results from previous disbursements from the fund.

Both the Treasurer and the Minister involved in this bill have young children in child care and understand the need for a thriving childcare sector. The \$5 billion Childcare and Economic Opportunity Fund was announced as part of probably the best budget ever announced in this Chamber, the 2023 New South Wales budget, in a bid to boost access to and affordability of child care in New South Wales. This fund is a huge step in the long journey to reform our early childhood education and care sector to make it work better for our families, children and educators. I commend the Ministers for bringing the bill to the Parliament, and I commend the bill to the House.

Mr MATT KEAN (Hornsby—Treasurer, and Minister for Energy) (20:29): In reply: I thank the members representing the electorates of Macquarie Fields, Londonderry, Sydney, Ballina, Charlestown and Newtown, and all other members for their contributions to debate on the Childcare and Economic Opportunity Fund Bill 2022, which seeks to establish the Childcare and Economic Opportunity Fund. I acknowledge the member for Macquarie Fields for the constructive role he has played in negotiating this historic reform. Affordable and accessible quality early childhood education and care is the biggest lever available to make sure women do not have to choose between having a family and a career. The bill cements the New South Wales Government's commitment to invest up to \$5 billion over the next 10 years to deliver affordable and accessible early childhood education and care through the Childcare and Economic Opportunity Fund.

I will respond to some of the comments from my colleagues in the debate on the bill. I thank the member for Macquarie Fields for his contribution to the debate and welcome the Opposition's support for the bill. I acknowledge that the member has identified that he will move an amendment to the bill. The Government will consider any of the amendments that are proposed during the consideration in detail phase of the bill. I note his concerns around which parts of the early childcare sector would be able to access the fund, particularly in regards to private providers. This was also echoed by the members for the electorates of Ballina, Charlestown and Newtown.

I say from the outset that the fund is intended to help existing and new services—including not-for-profit and for-profit providers—to grow in size and quality. This reflects the realities of the diversity of the early childhood sector, which is delivered through a mix of community, for-profit and public providers. For-profit providers account for more than half of all providers across our State. Of those providers, around 75 per cent own just one service. These are small businesses that play a pivotal role in the early childhood sector. Not-for-profit organisations are an essential component of the sector and will be able to access investments from the fund. The Government will work closely with the early childhood sector to develop effective and impactful proposals for investment. This fund is not supporting the fat cats. It is about supporting small businesses, and the New South Wales Liberal-Nationals Government is a pro-small-business government.

I also note concerns raised by the members for the electorates of Londonderry, Charlestown and Newtown regarding educator and skill shortages and the need for the fund to consider workforce issues in its operations. The New South Wales Government is committed to supporting the early childhood education care workforce. The early childhood workforce is the foundation to providing quality early childhood education. There are two existing strategies to support the early childhood workforce in New South Wales, recognising that the challenges faced by the sector are not unique to our State: the Department of Education's Early Childhood Workforce Strategy 2018-2022 and the National Children's Education and Care Workforce Strategy. This fund is about reducing barriers families face to obtaining accessible, affordable, quality child care, which include workforce supply and quality.

We are committed to supporting the workforce to upskill and remain in the sector. Whilst this fund will include provisions to support the workforce, we are taking immediate action with the \$281.6 million workforce package announced in this year's budget. From this money, we have already announced a record 430 scholarship recipients to help new and existing staff to obtain their early childhood teaching degree. The majority of the early childhood workforce is not employed by the New South Wales Government, with pay and conditions for those workers set by the Commonwealth. Those who are employed by the Department of Education and are working on a department site are covered by the same pay as teachers employed in New South Wales public schools, depending on their qualifications. As mentioned, the New South Wales Government is already making a landmark investment of \$281.6 million over the next four years to help build the New South Wales early childhood education workforce across the sector. May I add that, of the 430 successful scholarships that were announced, 87 per cent of recipients are currently working in the early childhood sector.

To the points made by the member for Ballina, the fund is one stream of work within the Early Years Commitment. Whilst the bill is quarantining the funds in a Special Deposit Account, it is important to not lose sight of the \$15.9 billion investment into the sector. The Government has made a \$5.8 billion commitment over 10 years to introduce a universal pre-kindergarten year in the year before school for all children in New South Wales, five days a week, for free. This delivery of universal pre-kindergarten will include a combination of delivery models including more public provision. Every child accessing preschool five days a week in the year before school is an ambitious model but one that we will meet.

The member for Ballina also commented on the need to provide free preschool. I inform her that the New South Wales Government is delivering cost-of-living relief to families right now. The New South Wales Government has spent over \$320 million since 2020 to provide fee relief for preschool. We are continuing and expanding fee relief for New South Wales families, as announced in this year's budget, with our Affordable Preschool program. That \$1.4 billion package will provide up to \$4,000 a year for three-, four- and five-year-old children in community and mobile preschools, plus the equivalent of five days a fortnight of affordable preschool for all children in Department of Education preschools; or up to \$2,000 a year for four- and five-year-old children in eligible preschool programs in long daycare settings, on top of the Child Care Subsidy.

I note the member for Ballina's concerns about the establishment of the fund in a Special Deposits Account and the fund's administrative processes. Given the significant investment the Government has committed to, with the aim to boost the supply of child care over the long term, it is appropriate that a strong governance framework is established to support the transparency, accountability and performance of the fund. Having those funds committed into a Special Deposits Account safeguards them for investment into the childcare sector, as established in statute; provides certainty to the sector; and enhances the transparency and accountability of those investments. A number of members have raised the issue of the board and who will sit on it and how it will operate. I assure all members that the bill was drafted with transparency, accountability and positive outcomes for the sector and children in mind.

The board will be comprised of five members: the first will be the Secretary to the Department of Education or their delegate, the second will be the Secretary of Treasury or their delegate, the third will be employed by the Department of Education and two final members will be independent of the Government. Those two members will have experience or expertise in the early childhood education and care industry or function—for example, commissioning all relevant duties of the board. The fund is one stream of work within a \$15.9 billion investment in the sector. The two members on the board from the Department of the Education will ensure the good work delivered by the fund is congruent with the other initiatives in the Early Years Commitment. The two non-government members will ensure we have industry and functional expertise and representation at the highest levels to ensure the fund can achieve the outcomes as set out in the objects of the bill.

Once again I thank all members for their contributions to debate. I welcome the support from the Opposition. The bill is a huge step in delivering on the Government's transformative reform to increase women's economic opportunity and provide lasting benefits for many children, parents and families across New South Wales. I acknowledge the outstanding work of Sam Mostyn and the team that made the recommendation to the

Government as part of the Women's Economic Opportunities Review. It is transformative for children and it will give women the opportunity to no longer choose between having a career or a family. That is what good governments are about and that is what this Government is committing to today.

I acknowledge my outstanding team that has helped to deliver the policy. The transformative work was led by the exceptional Ava Hancock. I acknowledge her outstanding work and leadership on this policy area, which will transform the lives of thousands of women and children for generations to come. This would not have happened without Ava. I acknowledge in the gallery Jacqui Ewen, Chloe Hicks and Emma Rodgers. That dedicated team of policy people have delivered transformative reform to our State that will set our country up for a brighter and more prosperous future. I commend the bill to the House.

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

Motion agreed to.

Consideration in detail requested by Mr Anoulack Chanthivong.

Consideration in Detail

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: By leave: I will deal with the bill in groups of clauses and schedules. The question is that clauses 1 to 27, and schedules 1 and 2 be agreed to.

Mr ANOULACK CHANTHIVONG (Macquarie Fields) (20:39): I move Opposition amendment No. 5 on sheet c2022-157E:

No. 5 Appointed members

Page 5, proposed section 10. Insert after line 31—

- (2A) One of the appointed members must be appointed on the recommendation of Unions NSW.
- (2B) One of the appointed members must be appointed on the recommendation of Business NSW or the Australian Industry Group.

The amendment allows for employee and industry group representatives to be appointed to the board. Labor thinks this is a good proposal that will ensure the board is reflective of all skill requirements. It will help the board to distribute the funds in a better way by ensuring good representation from all parts of the sector.

Mr MATT KEAN (Hornsby—Treasurer, and Minister for Energy) (20:40): The Government does not support Opposition amendment No. 5 moved by the member for Macquarie Fields. Whilst we note its intention and the important role of unionised members in the early childcare sector, we do not think it is necessary to have a specific union delegate on the board. We do think that having an appropriately qualified and experienced person is appropriate. That may be a union member, and we are not precluding that, but we are not specifically carving that out for a union member. On this occasion the Government will not be supporting the amendment.

Ms JENNY LEONG (Newtown) (20:41): The Greens support the idea of ensuring that early childhood experts and representatives are on the board. That is absolutely critical. The Labor Opposition believes the best way to do that is through Unions NSW. That is one option, but I reiterate that when making decisions on the board we must ensure that board members have the interests of the community at heart, not the interests of the Government's agenda at heart. It is absolutely critical that people with expertise in early childhood education are on that board. We recognise that this is one approach, but I foreshadow that The Greens will move amendments to ensure there are early childhood education experts on the board in the future.

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

Amendment negated.

Mr ANOULACK CHANTHIVONG (Macquarie Fields) (20:42): By leave: I move Opposition amendments Nos 1 to 7 on sheet c2022-157G in globo:

No. 1 Workforce plan

Page 3, proposed section 5 (1), lines 3–8. Omit all words on those lines. Insert instead—

- (1) The Minister must commission a person (the *commissioned person*) to undertake a review into the childcare sector market, including by reviewing—
 - (a) areas where the commissioned person considers—
 - (i) there are child care supply shortages, or
 - (ii) there are higher barriers to parents or carers participating in work because of the affordability or accessibility, or both, of child care, and

- (b) the state of the childcare sector, including the following—
 - (i) workforce,
 - (ii) pay and conditions,
 - (iii) quality standards in the childcare sector.

No. 2 Workforce plan

Page 3, proposed section 5 (2) (a), line 10. Insert ", including the matters set out in subsection (1) (a) and (b)" after "of the review".

No. 3 Tabling in Parliament

Page 3, proposed section 5 (3), lines 12 and 13. Omit all words on those lines. Insert instead—

- (3) The review and report must be—
 - (a) undertaken and prepared every two years or other period prescribed by the regulations, and
 - (b) tabled in each House of Parliament with the annual report tabled under section 21B.

No. 4 Appointed members

Page 5, proposed section 10 (2), line 30. Omit "At least 1". Insert instead "One".

No. 5 Annual report

Page 7, proposed section 15, lines 17–27. Omit all words on those lines.

No. 6 Performance audit, annual report and review of Fund

Page 9, proposed part 4. Insert after line 14—

21A Performance audit

- (1) The Auditor-General must conduct performance audits of the Fund and financial assistance provided from the Fund.
- (2) A performance audit must also address whether payments from the Fund have been made in accordance with this Act.
- (3) A report on the performance audit must be given to the Minister as soon as practicable after the completion of the audit.
- (4) A performance audit must be completed at least once every three years with the first performance audit being completed no later than three years after the approval of the first strategic investment plan by the Minister and the Treasurer.

21B Annual report

- (1) The Minister must produce an annual report for each financial year, reporting on the activities of the Fund during the year.
- (2) The annual report is to include the audit report of the Fund by the Auditor General under the *Government Sector Finance Act 2018*.
- (3) The audit report of the Auditor General must include a statement as to whether the payments from the fund have been made in accordance with this Act.
- (4) The annual report must be tabled in each House of Parliament within six months after the end of the financial year.

21C Review of Fund

- (1) The Minister is to review this part to determine whether the policy objectives of the part remain valid and whether the terms of the part remain appropriate for securing those objectives.
- (2) The review is to be undertaken as soon as possible after the period of three years after the approval of the first strategic investment plan by the Minister and the Treasurer.
- (3) A report on the outcome of the review must be tabled in each House of Parliament within six months after the end of the period of three years.

No. 7 Underspends

Page 12, proposed schedule 1, section 4. Insert after line 32—

- (3) An amount may be carried forward under this section and paid out in a future financial year only with the approval of the Treasurer.

Ms JENNY LEONG (Newtown) (20:43): The Greens saw the amendments five minutes ago and, while we do not have any concerns about them, it is important for the NSW Labor Opposition to recognise that more than two parties are represented in the Chamber. There is now a crossbench. The numbers are such that it would

be incumbent on NSW Labor to consider the crossbench when moving amendments in the Chamber given it may rely on the crossbench to form government in future. There are Independents, shooters and Greens. If Labor seeks to move amendments in the Chamber, it would be useful if its members could detail what those amendments are rather than simply putting on record that the Opposition and the Government have agreed to them.

With no member having put that detail on record, my understanding is that the amendments relate to transparency, auditing and undertaking a workforce report, all of which are welcome. But I think it is important to recognise that, if we are talking about improving the transparency of this fund, we also must ensure transparency in this Chamber. Members should not just do deals behind the scenes and then come into this place without articulating for the record the amendment that everyone in this House is agreeing to.

Mr MATT KEAN (Hornsby—Treasurer, and Minister for Energy) (20:44): I thank the member for Macquarie Fields for the constructive way in which he engaged in the negotiations. The proposals that he and the Labor Party put forward have enhanced the bill and delivered a better outcome. Obviously, I recognise the important role the member for Newtown has played and her interest in this. Of course, we welcome The Greens working with us to ensure that we deliver a top quality early childhood care package, and that is exactly what we feel the bill does. The Government will support the Opposition amendments moved by the member for Macquarie Fields.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is that Opposition amendments Nos 1 to 7 on sheet c2022-157G be agreed to.

Amendments agreed to.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is that clauses 1 to 27, and schedules 1 and 2 as amended be agreed to.

Clauses 1 to 27, and schedules 1 and 2 as amended agreed to.

Third Reading

Mr MATT KEAN: I move:

That this bill be now read a third time.

Motion agreed to.

Community Recognition Statements

PETERBOROUGH SCHOOL, WARILLA

Ms ANNA WATSON (Shellharbour) (20:46): I especially thank the staff and students of Peterborough School, located in William Street, Warilla. Peterborough School teaches students with a moderate or severe intellectual disability and also caters to the needs of students with autism, physical disabilities and mental health disorders. The service that the school provides to families across the Shellharbour electorate is much appreciated. I offer my sincere thanks, on behalf of the local community, for the incredible service of the teachers, counsellors and administrators of this fabulous school.

LLANDILO RURAL FIRE SERVICE

Ms PRUE CAR (Londonderry) (20:47): I acknowledge the fantastic men and women of Llandilo Rural Fire Brigade. Whether it be bushfires, grassfires or car fires, Llandilo RFS is always on call to serve our community, working alongside the other RFS brigades in the Cumberland zone. I was pleased to visit the Llandilo brigade some time ago for its annual general meeting to present a new flag. It is great to see the flag flying proudly outside the RFS shed on Seventh Avenue. I particularly acknowledge a veteran member of the brigade, Penrith councillor Kevin Crameri, who is undergoing significant health challenges at the moment. We send him our best wishes. I also acknowledge brigade captain, Joshua Gow, who is a really impressive young man. We can really feel the community spirit when we visit Llandilo Rural Fire Service. I know that with Josh's leadership and passion, the brigade has a bright future ahead. Llandilo RFS is an integral part of the local community. I am proud of their dedication to serving others.

LIFE EDUCATION

Mr TIM JAMES (Willoughby) (20:48): I recognise Life Education. Since 1979 Life Education has done an amazing job helping kids make sure they make safe and healthy choices in so many areas of life to set them up for the future. Its famous mascot, Healthy Harold, the much-loved giraffe, is still a central figure in its current education program. Motivated by the vision to see every child thrive, Life Education's preventative health program reaches more than 700,000 Australian schoolchildren every year. As a former decade-long director and now proud ambassador of Life Education, I was pleased to recently attend a mobile classroom session with Harold and the

Life Ed team at Willoughby Public School. Designed for years 5 and 6, Life Ed's module "Relate Respect Connect" helps kids to understand, communicate and make better choices in relation to people and relationships. I thank everyone involved in Life Education and the visit to Willoughby Public School, including Life Education New South Wales CEO Jonathon Peatfield. I particularly thank year 6 teacher Ms Dixon and her class for having me along.

FITZGERALDS CREEK, BLUE MOUNTAINS

Ms TRISH DOYLE (Blue Mountains) (20:49): The Blue Mountains electorate is home to some of the most beautiful natural landscapes in the world. The geological history is ancient, rich and significant. I count my blessings every day that I am lucky enough to live there. Sadly, one pocket of the Blue Mountains is in trouble. The Fitzgeralds Creek catchment area is being trashed by trail bikes and four-wheel drive activity. It is heartbreaking to think of what will happen to this land, and the Indigenous cultural sites within, if nothing is done to protect it. Recently I went walking in the area with a group of concerned Blue Mountains residents. We connected over our love of the local bushland and talked about ways that we could raise awareness around preserving this beautiful place for generations to come. I thank those who joined me on that walk and those who could not but who are a part of these important conversations: Les Cormack, Bruce and Bradley Cameron, RFS Superintendent Nick Medianik, Linda Seiffert, Geoff Bennett, Megan Powell, Angela Langdon from Blue Mountains Conservation Society, Karleen Waldron, Steve Barrett, Kelvin Knox and our mayor, Mark Greenhill. Let's keep this conversation going.

AUSTRALIAN REPTILE PARK

Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal) (20:50): I highlight the success of the Australian Reptile Park, a leading tourist attraction on the Central Coast. The Australian Reptile Park provides a hands-on, engaging experience for all ages, built on the premise of education. Informative presentations, captivating exhibitions and showcasing our Australian wildlife is just the tip of the iceberg. The park's participation and commitment in snake and spider venom milking programs has contributed to saving over 300 lives per year for the past 50 years. The venom collected by staff generates all land snake and funnel-web spider antivenene in Australia. It is a highlight of the Central Coast, particularly for families, with iconic animals such as Hugo the Galapagos turtle captivating generations. Throughout the duration of the New South Wales Government's Dine & Discover Program, the Australian Reptile Park saw over 128,000 vouchers redeemed both onsite and online. I could not be more proud of the community for supporting the Central Coast's reptile park, and may the park staff continue all their great work.

WESTFIELD LOCAL HERO JILLIAN HOGAN

Ms YASMIN CATLEY (Swansea) (20:52): I congratulate Jillian Hogan on being named the 2022 Westfield Local Hero for Tuggerah. For the past 33 years, Jillian has worked tirelessly to support the people of San Remo and surrounding communities through her role as manager of the Epicentre. Leading a team of more than 43 volunteers, Jillian has helped support some of the most vulnerable in our community by providing a broad range of programs for young people, children and families, addressing issues such as mental health, poverty, family violence, homelessness, unemployment, social isolation and community recovery. Over the past couple of years, Jillian did not stop with her efforts. Throughout the bushfires, COVID and floods, she went above and beyond to ensure that families had enough food and resources. The Epicentre will now receive a grant of \$20,000 that it will give back to the local community. I acknowledge and congratulate Jillian.

DUBBO ROOLETTES

Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS (Dubbo—Minister for Agriculture, and Minister for Western New South Wales) (20:53): I congratulate the Dubbo Roolettes and, in particular, the captain, Janalee Conroy, on their 15-7 win over the Bathurst Bulldogs in the 2022 Ferguson Cup rugby union grand final. In doing so, they ended the Bulldogs' five-year reign as the queens of Central West rugby union—the longest premiership winning streak of any side in the region. It capped off a year in which the Roolettes went absolutely undefeated. For Janalee, it was also the best birthday anyone could ask for. On the same day that Janalee turned 21, she scored the opening try, hoisted the premiership trophy and was named Best on Ground—a pretty spectacular birthday, that's for sure. I congratulate Janalee, the entire Roolettes team, the coaching and support staff and the entire Dubbo Roos family on a spectacular season.

ROTARY CLUB OF BLACKTOWN CITY

Mr STEPHEN BALI (Blacktown) (20:53): The Rotary Club of Blacktown City has donated two defibrillators to the Blacktown police to be used in their operational cars. New Blacktown Police Local Area Commander, Superintendent David Waddell, APM, accepted the defibrillators and thanked Rotary for its hardworking fundraising activities as well as its long-term commitment to Rotary Police Officer of the Year

Awards organised by Rotarian David Bamford. Other Rotarians in attendance included secretary, Paul Reid; former police officer and local legend, Gary Raymond; Tess Sayas; Myra Castellan-Hegarty; Ivan Kelly; and Pip and Denis Lovely. Also in attendance were Nicholas Baker from St John Ambulance, Scott Westlake from Corrective Services and police officer Paul Wynn. Chief Inspector Robert Fitzgerald spoke on the importance of defibrillators for police officers responding to emergency situations. Defibrillators provide the additional security and support to officers to know that they have done everything possible to resuscitate people. I thank the Rotary Club of Blacktown City. [*Time expired.*]

FOOTBALLER MANUEL-MARQUES SIDAROUS

Mrs TANYA DAVIES (Mulgoa) (20:54): Earlier this year I recognised Manuel-Marques Sidarous, a talented local footballer who has now competed with the Australian under-10 team at the 2022 Juventus Academy World Cup. With great pleasure I can now report to the House that Manuel-Marques successfully won the Bronze Division final, with Australia's under-10 side beating Canada with a score of 3-2. I congratulate Manuel-Marques and the team on this victory in their division. Now that he is back in Australia, Manuel-Marques will have returned to his busy schedule, training daily and enjoying the sport he loves most. Well done to Manuel-Marques and the rest of his team.

NEWCASTLE KNIGHTS NRLW

Mr TIM CRAKANTHROP (Newcastle) (20:55): The chant of "Newcastle, Newcastle" is one of the sweetest sounds you will ever hear, and it is even sweeter when it goes with a premiership trophy. After dropping only one game all season, there was never any doubt that the NRLW Knights had what it would take to go all the way, and they did, with a resounding 32-12 grand final victory over the Parramatta Eels. The Knights scored like a tube of Pringles—once they popped, they could not stop—posting six tries and two goals in an exciting game of quick hands, line breaks and pure grit. This achievement is everything to the kids who have never seen their team lift a trophy, the loyal fans who have backed the Knights through thick and thin, and the young girls who have a team full of role models to look up to. Congratulations. Newcastle is proud of you.

CAN ASSIST CANCER ASSISTANCE NETWORK PRESIDENT VICKY MEYER

Mrs HELEN DALTON (Murray) (20:56): I recognise and congratulate Vicky Meyer of Deniliquin for her extraordinary work over the past six years as President of Can Assist Cancer Assistance Network. Vicky has been on the board since 2014 and has held the role of president since 2016. At the helm of the grassroots, community-based charity, dedicated solely to supporting country New South Wales people and their families affected by cancer, Vicky has worked hard to tackle the burdens faced by country people, including the tyranny of distance. Can Assist continues to help regional New South Wales families by providing much-needed assistance for accommodation and travel for treatment. Vicky has also assisted with social housing outreach, serving Homes Out West, and has held various leadership positions within the community. On behalf of the people of the electorate of Murray, I congratulate Vicky and thank her for her dedication and work with Can Assist and the broader community.

BALI BOMBINGS TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla—Attorney General) (20:57): This week is the twentieth anniversary of the Bali bombings. The bombings killed 202 people, including 88 Australians, and injured hundreds more. The attacks represent the single largest loss of Australian life due to an act of terror. At Peryman Place, Cronulla, a memorial commemorates the 202 victims who lost their lives, including seven young women from southern Sydney: Renae Anderson, 31; her sister Simone Hanley, 28; Charmaine Whitton, 29; Jodi Wallace, 29; Jodie O'Shea, 29; Michelle "Shelly" Dunlop, 30; and Francoise Dahan, 30. On the memorial is a poem entitled *Our Girls*, written by the women's families. Its poignant words remind us of both tragedy and hope. It concludes:

How do we right this terrible wrong?
For all of you we must stay strong.
We will try to move our lives forward as our goal.
You will always remain deep in our hearts and soul.

On this sad anniversary, I extend my thoughts and prayers to the victims' families, survivors and emergency responders.

NSW POLICE FORCE

Ms LIESL TESCH (Gosford) (20:58): Thank you to all of our police. Every day, especially on Police Remembrance Day, we should remind ourselves of the important and high-risk work undertaken by each member of the NSW Police Force. Thank you to everybody involved in the beautiful remembrance service at St James Anglican Church in September, especially to Reverend Aleks Pinter and the congregation for hosting the service. It was lovely to pause from our busy days and remember those who have passed performing their

duties, this year and in times gone by. It was beautiful to share and reflect on prayers for the families, friends and colleagues of police officers, to provide comfort and thanks for all that they do for their communities. As a female MP I acknowledge a special moment in the service where Commissioner Karen Webb's address was delivered by Acting Superintendent Lisa Jones. Whilst change is slow, it is happening, and it is important to acknowledge the vital work of all female police force members and civilian contributors. It is always wonderful to join our police and their families across the coast to celebrate the NSW Police Force.

AUSTRALIAN MAN CAVE SUPPORT GROUP SPRING BALL

Mr GUY ZANGARI (Fairfield) (20:59): The Australian Man Cave [TAMC] Support Group Spring Ball 2022 was held at Novella on the Park on Friday 7 October 2022 to coincide with Mental Health Awareness Month. The ball was held to provide vital funds to TAMC in its work around suicide awareness, prevention and support. The master of ceremonies for the evening was Mr Graham Estrieche, with entertainment from tenor Mr Gaetano Bonfante and comedian Mr Kenny Graham. During the night attendees could support the cause through the live and silent auctions, as well as the lucky wine draw thanks to the platinum sponsor Warburn Estate. I congratulate the founding fathers of TAMC, Pastor Lou Greco and Pastor Agostino Gattelari, on their work in suicide prevention and awareness. I acknowledge and thank the organising committee, board members and volunteers for their work in organising the successful spring ball, particularly Kelly Samuels, Mauro Rotundo, Sue Veen, Charles Tees, Lou Greco, Agostino Gattelari, Graham Estrieche, Ben Demsitz, Luigi Greco IV and Lily-Kate Greco.

UPPER HUNTER ELECTORATE TRAINEE AWARD RECIPIENTS

Mr DAVID LAYZELL (Upper Hunter) (21:00): I congratulate the Upper Hunter electorate's three recipients honoured at the 2022 NSW Training Awards. Tahli Gleeson from Merriwa Central School was named the School Based Apprentice/Trainee of the Year. Tahli, with the support of her school careers advisor, found her perfect role at the Hunter Local Land Services office working as a trainee in the Agricultural Extension team. Mellanie Sutton of Belford was recognised as the Trainee of the Year. Mellanie undertook a traineeship as an environmental health officer with Muswellbrook Shire Council, completing her Certificate IV in Local Government specialising in health and environment. I congratulate Morgan Engineering in Singleton on being recognised as Small Employer of the Year. Morgan Engineering has grown since 1975 from a small engineering shop to one of the most extensive in the Hunter Valley. After identifying the need for a TAFE qualification or training for an apprenticeship program in line boring, Morgan developed an education and training program.

TRIBUTE TO JESSICA SPARKS

Mr PAUL SCULLY (Wollongong) (21:01): I celebrate the life and incredible contribution of Jessica Sparks. Jess had cystic fibrosis but it did not define her. At 17 she received a double lung transplant, and with her new lungs came a new lease on life. To list some of her achievements, she competed in the Australian and World Transplant Games; set up her own non-profit organisation, Sparking Life, to raise organ donation awareness; was named the Wollongong Young Citizen of the Year and Illawarra Businesswoman of the Future; received a Winston Churchill Fellowship to investigate information and education barriers to organ donation; received the Australian Press Council Award for Journalism to work on a special UN study on protecting news sources in the digital age; was named the 2016 Hope Medallist, the University of Wollongong's most prestigious award; and helped launch a new system for transporting organs across the State. Jessica's lungs failed again, and she underwent a second double lung transplant. She was a fierce advocate for organ donation. If members have not yet registered to donate organs, please do so, because it helps create second chances. Taken far too young, Jess will be missed terribly by her family and friends, but for those of us lucky enough to know her she left a lasting impact.

GIDGET FOUNDATION TWENTY-FIRST ANNIVERSARY

Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore) (21:03): I congratulate Gidget Foundation on its twenty-first anniversary. In those 21 years it has touched 47,000 lives through individual specialist sessions to support vulnerable families and individuals and change the conversation around perinatal mental health. I acknowledge in particular CEO Arabella Gibson, the Gidget family and the entire team for their commitment and passion. In 2018 it reached 7,000 people. Now, only four years later, 47,000 conversations and support sessions have been held. The Gidget Foundation is committed to raising awareness of perinatal depression and anxiety amongst women and their families and providing a range of support services and specialist care for expectant and new parents. Gidget House in North Sydney is the home of the Gidget Foundation, even though it has spread its services across New South Wales and Australia. Yesterday I was proud to join with them on Mental Health Day. We launched the new Gidget Regenerative Garden Space to support more and more people as they embark on this mental wellbeing journey.

WILKINS PUBLIC SCHOOL

Ms JO HAYLEN (Summer Hill) (21:04): I congratulate the Wilkins Public School community in Marrickville on recently celebrating the school's fortieth anniversary in style at the Wilkins Fortieth Birthday Fair. On a sunny Saturday the school grounds were transformed into a pop-up carnival and amusement park. Students, families and locals enjoyed a huge variety of delicious local food, including street food offerings and the best cake stall I have ever seen. There was lots of local live music for everyone to enjoy. I thank the educators at Wilkins for their tireless efforts over the past four decades, and I also thank Kelda Richards, the Wilkins P&C president, along with the other dedicated P&C organisers for putting on this fantastic community event. I thank all the hardworking volunteers who made this wonderful day possible and who brought everyone together in our community, celebrating such a great local public school. I congratulate Wilkins Public School on serving our community for 40 years.

PENRITH ELECTORATE INDIAN COMMUNITY

Mr STUART AYRES (Penrith) (21:05): Penrith is home to a vast array of culturally diverse communities, and there are many reasons to celebrate their uniqueness, traditions and heritage. I recently welcomed the opportunity to attend two events held by local Indian groups in Penrith, the Kairali Thunders and the Penrith Malayali Kootayama, known locally as the PMK. The PMK is made up of over 300 families originally from the Indian State of Kerala who organise the annual Onam Festival. The celebration is one of the most ancient Hindu festivals and was held at the Kingswood High School new multipurpose hall. It included a wonderful display of Indian stage performances and a traditional vegetarian lunch. The event was an outstanding success, with over 650 people attending. I also got to attend the launch of the Kairali Thunders' new season kit. This is a local Indian cricket team who definitely live up to their motto "Where Pride Meets Passion". It was great to see so many passionate Indian cricketers in Penrith.

CORRIMAL COUGARS JUNIOR RUGBY LEAGUE FOOTBALL CLUB

Mr RYAN PARK (Keira) (21:06): I congratulate the Corrimal Cougars Junior Rugby League Football Club on being the 2022 club champions. They had wins in the 10 girls' league tag, the 11.1s, the 12.1s—I will get to them—and the 15.1s. They were all premiers. I thank the committee, coaches and the volunteers. It is a terrific achievement for this little club, which punches well above its weight. I have to declare an interest. I have two mad Cougars in my family, Preston Park and Oliver Park. Both will always be Cougars. Preston won in the 12.1s—fantastic. His coach did a tremendous job. The little under-8s are a bundle of joy every half an hour on a Saturday. I congratulate the Corrimal Cougars junior footy club.

EMERALD BEACH SKATEBOARDER GEORGIA WINN

Mr GURMESH SINGH (Coffs Harbour) (21:07): Emerald Beach skateboarding sensation Georgia Winn is the toast of the Coffs Coast, with a dazzling performance at national competition. She returned from Mackay with a gold in the female under-9s division of one of Australia's largest and most prestigious skateboarding competitions, the Daly Bay Rumble on the Reef. It is a massive event for skateboarders across the country and Georgia certainly made it her own, stomping three complete runs on her path to success. The talented youngster made use of all sections of the bowl, displaying variety and consistency above and below the coping. Georgia also finished at the top of the female rankings at Coffs Harbour's recent Bowlanana at the Koby Mitchell Classic and won the under-12s female bowl competition at the Ride the Wave Festival in Port Macquarie back in June. Georgia is certainly proving to be one to watch in the skateboarding world. In the meantime, she is training for what summer has in store. I congratulate Georgia and wish her every success in what promises to be an exciting sporting career.

SIGN HEAR

Ms ELENi PETINOS (Miranda) (21:08): I acknowledge the wonderful team at Sign Hear in Gynea, who won Specialised Business of the Year at the Sutherland Shire Local Business Awards. Upon recognising a lack of awareness and support around accessibility and inclusiveness in the workplace for deaf and hard of hearing participants, Sharon Xabregas established Sign Hear in 2019. Sharon drew on over 16 years of disability employment services and experience teaching Auslan to create this unique small business to provide mentoring, Auslan tutoring, employment services support, training programs and deaf awareness training to break down barriers for the deaf and hard of hearing community. I take this opportunity to recognise the incredible team at Sign Hear for the remarkable work they do supporting our community. I acknowledge Kristen Bolton, Beth Evans, Eleanor Hanlen, Kimberly Larsen, Karina Quero, Caitlin Shipp and Meghan Burn. I also recognise the vision and passion of founder Sharon Xabregas and the incredible support provided by her husband, Andrew Xabregas, to make her vision a reality. I congratulate the Sign Hear team on their success at the Sutherland Shire Local Business Awards and extend my best wishes for the future.

BRISBANE WATER LEGACY

Ms LIESL TESCH (Gosford) (21:09): I congratulate and thank everyone involved in Brisbane Water Legacy. It was fabulous to join in the seventy-first president's luncheon to welcome incoming president legatee Patrick Gallagher and say farewell to the outgoing president legatee, John George, OBE. It was a gorgeous lunch, beautifully catered for and waited upon by the fabulous staff from Brisbane Water Legacy. The audience was captivated by the presentation address from Mark Donaldson, VC. Mark shared a very crisp description of his days on the battlefield, with a surprise attack and his heroic response resulting in him being awarded the Victoria Cross. The beautiful sense of camaraderie in the room shared by returned service men and women and the Legacy widows alike is captured in the respect and gratitude for the Legacy organisation, with its generous contribution to our community. The development plans for the site look absolutely superb, and I have no doubt that Patrick Gallagher will oversee Brisbane Water Legacy and the future of the site with commitment and care. Once again, I thank everyone involved for the fabulous work they do supporting our community.

COOTAMUNDRA ELECTORATE CANOLA TRAIL

Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra—Minister for Emergency Services and Resilience, and Minister for Flood Recovery) (21:10): I commend the fantastic efforts of the local tourism sectors of the Coolamon, Junee and Temora shires on another successful Canola Trail season. With spring in full swing across the Cootamundra electorate, there has never been a better time to visit our region, with blossoms and canola in full bloom everywhere for the eye to behold. Every year the local tourism boards within the shires of Coolamon, Junee and Temora work hard together to promote their fantastic Canola Trail initiative held between August through to late October each year. The trail spans from Junee, west to Coolamon and then north up to Temora, and is full of scenic spots for people to stop and enjoy everything the local area has on offer. From cheese to chocolate, golden fields and incredible museums, there is always plenty to see and do, with hidden gems to uncover along the way. Once again, I commend all involved and suggest that everyone take the opportunity to visit the regions and follow the Canola Trail and witness firsthand the golden splendour and bask in its glow.

BOB HAWKE BEER AND LEISURE CENTRE

Ms JO HAYLEN (Summer Hill) (21:11): Our classic Marrickville brewery, the Bob Hawke Beer and Leisure Centre, has been nominated in the upcoming Time Out Food and Drink Awards 2022. To be held on Friday 14 October, the awards recognise venues of many different categories across Sydney. This year the brewery is nominated in the category Best Casual Drinking Venue—or, as it is lovingly deemed, the "not a cocktail bar or wine bar award". The brewery was a passion project for our former Prime Minister Bob Hawke, who co-founded the brewing company. Now the venue is a must-visit spot in the inner west, transporting patrons back to the 1980s with its authentic Australian pub vibes. Hawke's Brewing Co. is about to have its fifth birthday, and what better way to celebrate this milestone than winning an award. Good luck to Hawke's Brewing Co. this Friday at the Time Out Food and Drink Awards.

HARRINGTON EVENING VIEW CLUB

Mrs LESLIE WILLIAMS (Port Macquarie) (21:12): I acknowledge the thirty-first birthday of the Harrington Evening VIEW Club. All the glitz and glamour was on display as the ladies celebrated in style their thirty-plus-one birthday since the club was formed in August 1991. Originally the date was set in 2021 to coincide with the VIEW club's thirtieth anniversary but regretfully, like so many other significant milestones, it was cancelled due to COVID restrictions. Putting on the Ritz was the theme for the evening's celebrations, with the VIEW club members frocking up to celebrate a bygone era of class, glamour and elegance followed by dance performances from the talented Harrington Tap Group. Dance routines by Liza Minnelli, Ethel Merman, Shirley Bassey, Bette Midler and Marilyn Monroe performers captivated the audience and had us all applauding for more. Celebrating her ninety-ninth birthday on the night was VIEW club's Olive Westren, who was given the honour of cutting the cake to commemorate over three decades of fundraising and fellowship. I congratulate acting president Janeen Clifton and her 90-plus members on a thoroughly enjoyable evening, and I applaud the VIEW members' continued commitment to the Smith Family, which now supports six children through the Learning for Life Program.

CENTRAL COAST VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD RECIPIENTS

Ms LIESL TESCH (Gosford) (21:13): I acknowledge our fabulous guests from the Central Coast who are in the gallery while I speak tonight about the NSW Volunteer of the Year Awards. I offer my congratulations and thanks to everyone who was nominated and involved on the coast. First, I congratulate fabulous Jade from Cerebral Palsy Alliance, who won the youth award for her contribution to our community. I also congratulate Juan Iocco from Naughty Noodle Fun Haus, who has brought the Coastal Twist and Naughty Noodle alive by creating a safe space for the coast's diverse community, especially the LGBTIQ+ community. I acknowledge the

team of the year, the incredible volunteers at Central Coast Local Health District. They have contributed over 7,000 hours so far this year playing a vital role, especially during COVID, caring for people and supporting staff within our hospital system. I give a huge congratulations to the overall winner this year, Al Wright, for his incredible contribution to Meals on Wheels. The member for Wyong knows Al Wright. He has been a volunteer for over eight years. As a man of many words, he was almost speechless as he was awarded the big prize. It was a wonderful evening. Thank you ever so much to everyone involved.

RURAL FIRE SERVICE CADET CHAMPIONSHIPS

Mr JUSTIN CLANCY (Albury) (21:14): I congratulate all who were involved last Sunday in Holbrook for the RFS Southern Border District Cadet Championships. Several teams were involved. I acknowledge the young crew from Lavington, who took out the championship. This is first time in several years that the championship has been run, with COVID unfortunately impacting the past few years. Importantly, this year the championship was named after Sam McPaul, the young man who lost his life during the 2019-20 Green Valley bushfires. I acknowledge his wife, Megan, who graciously allowed the trophy to be named after Sam. Her Excellency the Governor Margaret Beazley was in attendance, as was her partner, Mr Dennis Wilson. It was a fantastic day. I particularly congratulate and thank David Turner, who is an absolute stalwart of the RFS, for his great work in seeing this event held this year.

MOSMAN COUNCIL DEPUTY MAYOR ROY BENDALL

Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore) (21:15): I congratulate Mosman Councillor Roy Bendall, who was recently elected unopposed as the deputy mayor of Mosman Council. Roy was first elected to Mosman Council in 2012 and took on this role with a range of experience, having previously held the position of deputy mayor from 2012 to 2015 and from 2016 to 2018. Roy is a third-generation Mosman resident, coming from a lineage of people who give back to our community. He is a local through and through. His passion is to make Mosman a suburb that people will be proud of, and he has worked tirelessly over the years to ensure the best outcomes for all Mosman residents. I congratulate Roy on his elevation to deputy mayor, and I look forward to continuing to work with him to deliver the best outcomes for our shared community. I also congratulate Mosman Councillor Simon Menzies for his contribution to the role over the past year. Together our councillors work with me in the best interests of our community.

OAK FLATS MEN'S GROUP

Ms ANNA WATSON (Shellharbour) (21:16): I take the opportunity to acknowledge the Oak Flats men's group. They are an amazing bunch of men who come together to build beautiful toys for children, repair furniture and just get together to share stories, have a yarn, have tea, coffee and cake and talk about whatever is on their minds. These men always welcome me with open arms, and they are very gracious. They always talk about what they can do for charities and how they can help not only charities but also those within our communities who are in need, particularly children. These men truly are inspirational. I am sure their wives are pleased that they have somewhere else to go, but they enjoy each other's company. It is absolutely delightful to watch.

Bills

WORKERS' COMPENSATION (DUST DISEASES) AMENDMENT BILL 2022

Returned

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

Private Members' Statements

BAULKHAM HILLS ELECTORATE EVENTS

Mr DAVID ELLIOTT (Baulkham Hills—Minister for Transport, Minister for Veterans, and Minister for Western Sydney) (21:18): I update the House on a number of exciting events that have happened in my electorate of Baulkham Hills over the past couple of weeks since the Parliament last gathered. Last night I was a grateful guest of the North West Disability Services annual general meeting at its Conie Avenue office in Baulkham Hills. It was great to see the team back together again after the lengthy COVID recess. I particularly pay tribute to the new board and the new chairwoman, Lisa Bevin. Lisa will lead a group that has been paramount in making The Hills district the world's best practice and go-to place when it comes to special needs, not only through education but also through the opportunities that have been developed by North West Disability Services.

Yesterday morning the Minister for Planning and I joined councillors Reena Jethi and Frank De Masi at Bella Vista Farm, where we unveiled a brand-new playground. The wonderful historic farm at Bella Vista has been the home of so many exciting community gatherings that have seen families come together at the Norwest

Business Park. It is a very historical place where Elizabeth Macarthur was known to experiment with wool and sheep. The grant to fund the playground was made available by the New South Wales Government. Over the course of this summer some very excited families and children will be gathering to ensure that The Hills remains known for its tagline as "Nappy Valley", the place where families come together. Only last Tuesday in Parliament I hosted a number of Castle Hill RSL Anzac ambassadors. I share a thankyou that I received from Georgia Titterton. She said:

I am one of the Anzac Ambassadors from Castle Hill RSL (representing Castle Hill High School) and I would like to thank you for today and for the great opportunity for us to have you show us around Parliament House and to ask you questions. Your schedule is busy as it is, so thank you for taking your time to interact with us and provide us an environment to further our knowledge and interest in our government system.

It is those thankyou notes from young people that make this job worthwhile. I congratulate Lillian White, Tanis O'May, Krishi Raghupathi, Georgia Titterton, Holly Lawton and Ava Frost. I thank Cheryl Hill, the vice-president of Castle Hill and District RSL Sub-branch, who I recently gave an award to, for hosting the lunch in the Strangers' Restaurant for those young scholars. It is also wonderful to see in our post-COVID world the return of some great local community institutions. It might not be a museum, a cathedral or a major public gathering, but the Sydney Hills Gardening Competition awards were handed down on 21 September. I briefly attended and said hello to the Rotary Club of The Hills-Kellyville and met some of the entrants at the Harvey Lowe Pavilion at Castle Hill Showground. Seeing the return of these competitions, awards and community gatherings in full force is such an exciting thing, given the delays and disappointments over the course of COVID.

I conclude by paying my respects and thanks to His Excellency Bishop Tarabay of the Maronite community and the Monsignor Shora Maree. Last Friday I joined a number of MPs and community leaders to celebrate the inauguration of the Christ the Redeemer parish's development, which will occur at Round Corner on a five-acre property. The Maronite Church will begin its mission to The Hills community and will no doubt be a wonderful opportunity for the Maronite community to come together. They will develop and open a sanctuary house and a community shed. I wish the parish and the church community under Monsignor Maree, Father Youssef and Bishop Tarabay, who has been a wonderful advocate for his community, all the best as they develop this new facility.

MEMBER FOR LONDONDERRY

Ms PRUE CAR (Londonderry) (21:23): Like roughly 4,500 Australians every year, I have now experienced the diagnosis of kidney cancer—that is not something I ever thought I would say in this Parliament. It is something that has changed my perspective as a local member of Parliament. I use my private member's statement tonight not so much to talk about myself but to thank my community from the very bottom of my heart for their overwhelming support. If I had a thousand private member's statements, I would still never be able to thank everyone who has been incredibly supportive and those who have given me the privilege of representing them in this place. I will never forget the support they have shown me.

In the first instance, on behalf of the many people who have battled a serious illness or who have loved ones who have battled a serious illness, I say thank God for medical professionals. They are just incredible. I particularly thank my GP, Dr Sajid Siddiqi, who I am convinced, together with my urologist, Dr Isaac Thangasamy, saved my life. I also thank Kay Hyman, from the Nepean Blue Mountains Local Health district; my doctor, who found the tumour on the CT scan; and the surgeon who then took the tumour out of my body, which had almost doubled in size in those intervening two or three weeks. Like many people across our State, I owe them my life. I could not be more thankful for their incredible expertise. I also thank the nurses who cared for me in hospital and who helped me with all the preoperative things people have to go through when facing a cancer diagnosis. We cannot support them enough. Until someone has actually had to deal with that kind of diagnosis, they do not realise how much healthcare workers give of themselves to ensure that people come out the other end of their surgeries.

I could not stand in this place without saying thank you to my family. My beautiful little boy at nine years old had to deal with his mother having a cancer diagnosis. He is a pretty resilient little thing, but I know it was tough for him. He is amazing. I am biased, but he is just amazing. My wonderful fiancée, Brad, who was not my fiancée to start with in this whole thing, but now is, is probably the reason I got through. He is definitely the reason I got through. He dropped everything and kept everything going for me. I will love him forever for that. I know that many people know the experience that I have been through with loved ones, who literally nurse you through to health.

I thank my boss, Chris Minns, and my parliamentary colleagues, particularly the member for Canterbury, Sophie Cotsis, who spent a lot of time on the phone with my family, helping us through a very difficult period. I will be forever grateful to my staff for their work to keep me going and to keep my electorate serviced at a difficult time. They were amazing. I cannot explain to my community, the people of Londonderry, how grateful

I always will be for their support. They gave me the time to be able to get better and then come back to serve them, which is the honour of my professional life. I cannot express to this Chamber and to the people I represent how thankful I am to them all: the individuals, the groups, the schools, the teachers, the principals, the RFS brigades, the churches, my friends at the Ahmadiyya Mosque in Marsden Park, the local newspapers, the councils, the local businesses, and the person who called up and offered their kidney.

Why do I raise this? It is not so much to use this time to talk about myself, but to say that our decisions really are life and death. I saw nurses begging each other to work double shifts and had people telling me their stories of severe under-resourcing—things I wish I had not seen within the health system. It is a very overstretched system, but I am inspired to get to work on it because I certainly saw another side of the decisions that we make and how they impact on people every day. I am so grateful to the community of Londonderry for its support and I cannot wait to get back to work for them.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Alex Greenwich): We welcome back the member for Londonderry. I am glad that she is returning well. I also congratulate her on her engagement.

REGIONAL BANK CLOSURES

Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra—Minister for Emergency Services and Resilience, and Minister for Flood Recovery) (21:28): The Cootamundra electorate has been impacted yet again with another bank branch closure. I have noted the trend recently of increasing closures and hold grave concerns about the loss of face-to-face banking services for rural and regional customers. The Junee branch of the Commonwealth Bank of Australia has announced it will cease face-to-face banking services. This is our only bank in Junee and will leave local customers in the lurch. With almost 459 branches of the big four banks—CBA, Westpac, ANZ and NAB—shut down in the last few years and around 3,800 ATMs taken out of circulation, I feel that profits are being put before people.

As a result of branch closures in rural and regional Australia, the previous Federal Government set up a task force last year to examine the impacts of regional bank closures and how those closures affect the livelihood of country towns. I commend my Federal colleague Perin Davey for leading the way for the National Party in the establishment of this task force. Ms Davey, who resides in a small Riverina town, understands the impacts on small town communities. The task force received more than 400 written submissions, completed public consultation and visited regional towns in New South Wales where banks have closed their doors. The final report made seven recommendations, which provide a way forward to help improve banking services in regional Australia.

The recommendations include to review and strengthen the Australian Banking Association's branch closure protocol; to implement branch closure impact assessments; to promote and support Bank@Post services; to maintain access to cash; to improve support for regional consumers experiencing vulnerability; to continue to support and improve digital connectivity and literacy in regional areas; and to review the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority's points of presence data collection. The final report released by the Commonwealth Government's Regional Banking Taskforce recommended that banks engage more closely with local councils when considering regional branch closures. With that in mind, I note there was no consultation with the local Junee Shire Council on the decision to close the Commonwealth Bank of Australia branch.

Whilst I support the recommendation of promoting at Bank@Post services, this also comes with limitations. The post offices, through no fault of their own, are not equipped with the various products that a financial institution has, such as financial advisors, services like mortgage brokers and a business concierge. In many regional areas, post offices are in older original buildings with historical value. That is the case with Junee's post office. Due to its historical status, the building cannot be altered, meaning that there is limited wheelchair or mobility scooter access. Understandably, there is dissatisfaction amongst longstanding customers who are now forced to travel large distances to access face-to-face banking services. For instance, customers in Junee will now have to travel to Cootamundra, Temora or Wagga Wagga.

Both Cootamundra and Temora are just a couple of areas within my electorate that have already seen bank closures. Business owners would need to take 80 minutes out of their day to travel to and from the bank, not forgetting the time they will have to wait in line to be served. That is time out of their already busy schedules, when they are doing their best to keep costs down when times are already tough—not to mention the safety and security concerns with scammers and cybercrime, which we have just witnessed recently with the Optus data breach. What about our agribusinesses that rely on the local branch manager, who understands their business and how it is forever changing with the seasons? Banks are essential for their operation, especially when it comes to loans and overdrafts to get them through to their next harvest.

Many people, especially the elderly and vulnerable, rely mostly on face-to-face bank transactions because they cannot cope with machines or electronic banking facilities. There are also concerns for those who either do not have access or struggle to use a phone or internet banking, particularly in remote areas where there is little or no internet service, not to mention the complications and confusion around how to navigate phone banking or internet banking systems. How will community groups that play a fundamental role in my electorate, such as local sporting clubs or the Country Women's Association, where every dollar counts, obtain cash and change for floats? Branch closures may affect their fundraising abilities. Local bank branches are an important part of regional communities, with elderly residents, community groups and businesses all relying on their local bank branch for their banking needs.

BAPS SWAMINARAYAN RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Dr GEOFF LEE (Parramatta—Minister for Corrections) (21:33): It gives me great pleasure to bring to the House's attention the BAPS Swaminarayan Research Institute. I was delighted to attend and witness the historic launch of the BAPS Swaminarayan Research Institute in Australia, along with representatives from leading spiritual organisations, government and academics at the BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir at Rose Hill. BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir has been a key part of the exponential growth that Parramatta has experienced in the past few decades, with a rich 20 plus-year history in the community. The socio-spiritual organisation that is powered by its volunteers has served as a hub for community service and personal growth through lessons in language, spirituality and faith.

On 24 July 2022, in the spirit of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam", meaning "the entire world is one family", the BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir welcomed more than 88 representatives from 41 leading community organisations for the launch of the BAPS Swaminarayan Research Institute. The institute was inaugurated by visiting BAPS sadhu Mahamahopadhyaya Pujya Bhadreshdas Swami. Swamiji is the first author in 1,200 years to write a traditional Sanskrit commentary on all three foundational and leading scriptures of the Hindu faith: the Upanishads, the Brahma Sutras and the Shrimad Bhagavad Gita. The BAPS Swaminarayan Research Institute was launched in Australia with the blessings of BAPS current spiritual leader, His Holiness Mahant Swami Maharaj, and is a part of the centennial celebrations of BAPS fifth spiritual successor, His Holiness Pramukh Swami Maharaj.

Earlier this year, BAPS Sydney spectacularly marked the opening of the festivities of His Holiness Pramukh Swami Maharaj's centennial celebration by hosting a procession and an assembly in front of the iconic Sydney Opera House. His Holiness Pramukh Swami Maharaj's life work and ethos, "In the joy of others lies our own," powers BAPS activities in Sydney, Australia and worldwide. BAPS Sydney has and continues to serve communities, families and individuals by caring for their spiritual, cultural, social, physical, emotional and educational needs; inspiring all towards a pure and peaceful way of life filled with character, love, tolerance and harmony, free from addictions and vices, rooted in the values of coexistence and service; sustaining the universal values of Hindu culture; and fostering faith and devotion to God through their spirituality. The newly launched BAPS Swaminarayan Research Institute will further help these efforts by helping people of all ages reconnect with their culture and learn and solidify the Hinduism values such as karma and dharma.

The BAPS Swaminarayan Research Institute will commit to the teaching of Sanskrit, classical Vedic literature and Hindu beliefs, values, affiliated languages and practices. It will nurture interfaith dialogue, public engagement and academic discourses that generate opportunities for the highest level of value-based education, innovative research and creative expression. The courses through the BAPS Swaminarayan Research Institute will be delivered virtually by esteemed and learned BAPS sadhus and scholars worldwide through already established state-of-the-art research institute facilities established in Akshardham temples in Delhi, Gandhinagar and Sarangpur in India. As the member for Parramatta, I am proud that my community was able to host the historic launch of the BAPS Swaminarayan Research Institute. I have no doubt that it will contribute to the vibrancy of not only the local community but also the multicultural community of this great country. I congratulate all those involved on this fantastic achievement and wish them all the best as they enter a new era.

HEALTH POLICY

Mr TIM CRAKANTHROP (Newcastle) (21:38): After 12 years of this Government, our health system is under more stress than ever before. One in 10 patients in this State are leaving hospital emergency departments without completing treatment—the worst result on record. Of those who stay, one in 10 spend over 21 hours in the waiting room—the worst result on record. Almost half of patients who presented requiring immediate help are not starting treatment on time—the worst result on record. More than half of ambulance callouts are taking longer than 16 minutes—the worst result on record.

What does the Hunter look like? It looks like the experience of one of my constituents, who spent over eight hours waiting at Maitland Hospital before giving up. A man appalled by his wife's experience at Waratah's Calvary Mater writes:

She arrived at around 9 pm, and they took her bloods just prior to midnight. She was in the ED with severe stomach cramps and had not eaten for more than 24 hours. She was told by GP Access to go to Emergency.

She then spent the next four hours waiting with no communication from any staff regarding the excessive waiting time. At around 4am (having waited for seven hours) she was told the wait would still be significantly longer and was encouraged to go home and see her GP.

He continues:

This, I think, regardless of the pressures of COVID is a terrible lack of resource/funding/and staffing of our hospital system. My wife observed multiple people leave the hospital without being treated. And not one staff member was available to communicate with or check on the welfare of the patients waiting for much needed care assistance.

That man is correct when he says that hospitals are under-resourced regardless of COVID, because in the five years before the pandemic 430 beds were cut from New South Wales hospitals. Of course, that is all if you even get to hospital in a timely fashion. Vicky, who had a fall at home, said:

This resulted in multiple fractures to my left upper arm and a bad knock on my temple. I waited four and half hours for an ambulance to come to my home. The ambulance took me to the John Hunter Hospital where I waited until the following Tuesday for surgery to rebuild my arm. For six days I was on the surgery list, nil by mouth, only to be told each day my surgery had been bumped.

It will be a very long time before I mentally recover from the many dreadful hours of excruciating pain. My pain management would have been so much better if an ambulance could have come quickly.

The system is failing. For 10 days I witnessed exhausted medical professionals doing their level best, but there is not enough of them to do their job effectively and safely.

Vicky is right. People are continuing to join the health system as workers, but they do not stay. Why would they? Run off their feet every shift, doing the work of more than one person, missing their breaks, overtime the norm—doesn't that sound like fun day in, day out? I am not just hearing from constituents who have needed to visit the hospital. In the Hunter New England Local Health District, the clinicians are telling me they are tearing their hair out, being completely ignored by management because the bottom line is more important than a better standard of patient care. Staff shortages are not being addressed. There is a poor investment in appropriate IT services. Resources are being allocated based on revenue streaming rather than clinical need.

What exactly is it going to take for this Government to make a change? How bad does the data need to get? How many more nurses need to leave the system? The Opposition has sat down with the sector and agreed on a safe staffing levels system to replace the ineffective "nursing hours per patient day" model, a removal of the unfair and restrictive wages cap, and boosting the numbers of nurses and paramedics. Our frontline healthcare workers are doing amazing work under extremely trying circumstances, but the New South Wales Government needs to come to the table, match that commitment and provide sorely needed resources.

CENTRAL COAST ELECTORATE INFRASTRUCTURE

Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal) (21:43): I have spoken in the House a number of times this year about the record investment for the Central Coast. As the Parliamentary Secretary, it is my responsibility to make sure that the Government meets and delivers its commitments to the people of our region and, again, it gives me a great opportunity to highlight some of that investment from one end of our region to the other. I will continue highlighting that record investment to all the electorates across the Central Coast.

I have already spoken about a range of projects across Wyong, such as the tap upgrades, the road infrastructure through the Stronger Country Communities Fund and the more than \$200 million upgrade to the recently opened Wyong Hospital. In addition to that, there are also the previous rounds of Stronger Country Communities funding, which have enabled projects across the electorate of Wyong to flourish. The funded projects included \$995,700 for a shared footpath and cycleway at Bungary Road, Norah Head, and \$639,149 for a new artificial playing surface at Wyong for the Central Coast Hockey Club, which is shared by hockey clubs right across our region. Some \$542,269 was allocated for a shared footpath and cycleway at Tuggerah along the foreshore, while \$259,000 went to a new clubhouse at Tacoma's Don Small Oval.

One of the most exciting projects in the electorate of Wyong is the construction of the Porters Creek Public School, a brand-new school in Warnervale, with a \$38 million investment by this Government. The school was opened on time and on budget for day one, term one of this year. I congratulate the principal and all the staff on the wonderful job they are doing at this brand-new school on the Central Coast. Other funding for schools included in the 2021 regional renewal program provided significant upgrades at Wyong High School, with more than half a million dollars allocated. Gorokan High School also received half a million dollars. An additional six primary schools in the Wyong electorate saw funding through the program of over \$200,000. Additionally, in the 2020

round 10 schools in the Wyong electorate shared in a total of \$9.93 million of funding across the Central Coast for maintenance work such as painting, carpentry and accessibility upgrades—all of which sadly had not been delivered by those opposite.

Through the 2019 Quality Learning Environments funding, the Government was able to provide the Mission Australia early childhood centre in Mardi with \$9,000 for soft fall and shade. That might not sound like a lot but it means a huge amount to this community organisation. The New South Wales Government's \$157.9 million LED Lighting Upgrade Program benefited 19 schools across the Central Coast, including six in the Wyong electorate. I know the member for Wyong, a former school principal, realises how important these upgrades are. The Wyong Hospital redevelopment, at a cost of \$200 million, is a massive benefit to the Central Coast community. Last Friday I joined the Premier and the Minister for Regional Health, Bronnie Taylor, to see the excellent work being done by Health Infrastructure NSW. More importantly, we saw the outstanding work being done by the team at Central Coast Local Health District under its new CEO, Scott McLachlan, who is of course leading the team through difficult times. However, we are seeing them transition into more normal practices and doing a great job.

It was fantastic to hear feedback from the staff about the information flow and how they triage patients out of the emergency department and onto the ward. This sees patients transition out of the hospital within 48 hours and into home care, which they are actually much happier with. I congratulate the team at Central Coast Local Health District on those new initiatives, which they were delighted to be able to show the Premier and Minister for Regional Health on their visit. In addition, the Government's Social Sector Support Fund was able to provide Yerin Eleanor Duncan Aboriginal Health Services—a fantastic facility—with a \$200,000 funding boost to ensure that it can continue its important work. The facility also received another \$1.4 million to run a Together Home program that is focused on the Aboriginal community and delivered by the Aboriginal community. This has been an incredibly successful program. I congratulate the team at Yerin Eleanor Duncan on the great work they do every single day on the Central Coast. A further \$90,000 has been provided to Coast Connect Operations, based in Wyong, to improve cancer outcomes for Aboriginal people on the Central Coast.

Some \$4 million was allocated in the 2021-22 budget to continue planning for the Wyong Town Centre. We have moved past that now, with a more than \$400 million investment between the State and Federal governments to deliver the vital upgrade of the Pacific Highway through Wyong. It is a game changer for the Wyong town centre and the Central Coast region. I look forward to continuing to update the Parliament on these developments and the record investment on the Central Coast.

RANDWICK GIRLS' AND RANDWICK BOYS HIGH SCHOOLS

Dr MARJORIE O'NEILL (Coogee) (21:48): Tonight I talk about the state of public education in my electorate, particularly Randwick Girls' and Randwick Boys high schools. Before I do so, I thank the wonderful teaching staff at both Randwick Girls' and Randwick Boys high schools and acknowledge the remarkable work of the principals at those schools. In 2018, after a huge amount of community pressure, the New South Wales Liberal-Nationals Government announced major upgrades to Randwick Girls' and Randwick Boys high schools. Four years on, though, nothing at all has happened. Four years on, scaffolding continues to hold up walls, broken blue flame heaters leak gas into rooms, and libraries and school halls are not disability accessible. Four years on, it is another broken promise and empty commitments from this Government.

Sadly, over the past few years the only money that these schools have been able to access to get any fixes done has come from fundraising by the P&C, Community Building Partnership grants from me and Stronger Communities Programme grants from my Federal counterpart, the member for Kingsford Smith, Matt Thistlethwaite. I also acknowledge that Matt and the Feds have now promised major upgrades at the schools because they know how much they are needed. It is incredibly clear that this State Government has absolutely no intention of providing major upgrades to these schools. We know this because in August this year the New South Wales Department of Education released the document that I hold in my hand entitled *Upgrade to Randwick Boys High School and Randwick Girls High School: Information pack*. It shows that there are no major upgrades planned at all, and the upgrades have clearly been downgraded to minor upgrades. The department has not committed to any funding figures in its own document. It says there is a staged rollout but has not publicly finalised what this looks like. To add insult to injury, only minor works are outlined.

Our community is asking real questions about what has happened to the major works promised by this Government. They seem to have just disappeared and, once again, this Government is backflipping. What has happened to the major upgrades in the 2021 business case, which contained extensive scopes of work requiring \$60 million in funding? The scopes of work in the business case included improved access and egress to comply with the disability Act, upgraded service equipment to improve fire resistance and fire safety measures, a new substation for each school, air-conditioning, STEM learning spaces for each school and provisions for new senior leading units in both schools. Neither our community nor the school community was consulted on the exclusion

of these upgrades in the new document. Real concerns are being raised about how this new process is being undertaken. The *Upgrade to Randwick Boys High School and Randwick Girls High School: Information pack* states:

The Asset Management Unit will prioritise works that may be able to be delivered by Day 1 Term 1 2023.

To me, that criterion set by School Infrastructure seems a bit bizarre—day one of term one? It seems like something might be happening in March! The New South Wales Liberal-Nationals Government might need something shiny and new to open—a couple of ribbons to cut, a couple of shiny new handrails—to make it appear as though it is doing something. It is a bit bizarre that works must be done by that point in time.

These schools are wonderful schools, but we literally have scaffolding holding up walls. In a decent society like ours in Sydney and in New South Wales every single child has a right to access world-class education in a safe environment. That is not what is happening. I call on this Government to come clean with the people of the eastern suburbs about what it has planned. But I make it clear that only a Labor government will fast-track major upgrades to these schools. It is a Labor government that will deliver fair funding for our public education system.

MANLY ELECTORATE INFRASTRUCTURE

Mr JAMES GRIFFIN (Manly—Minister for Environment and Heritage) (21:53): I am pleased to update the House on a number of investments and projects that are underway in the electorate of Manly, including the \$3.89 million upgrade of our beloved North Head national park, which is coming on incredibly well. I am pleased to say that the second and final stage of the upgrades will be open in time for summer. The upgrade will see the car parking and landscape works completed following significant weather-related delays. There are now more than 2,500 square metres of new turf recreation space for visitors—from not only across New South Wales but also the world—to sit and enjoy some of the best views across Sydney Harbour.

In addition, the National Parks and Wildlife Service is constructing the new Yiningma and Burragula lookout platforms at North Head. The Yiningma lookout will provide a vantage point that looks back at the cliff face and presents breathtaking views to the horizon, which is perfect for whale watching. The Burragula lookout will allow for panoramic views of Sydney Harbour, creating the ideal spot to watch the sunset or events like the Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race. Connection to country has been central to the design from the outset to ensure the lookouts acknowledge and connect with the history, stories and place that is called Car-rang-gel. The project is being delivered as part of the largest visitor infrastructure program in national parks history.

Members in this place know that I am a passionate advocate for the continued evolution of the Manly local economy. Significant funding has been provided by the New South Wales Government to help rebuild our local music, culture and events offering. Typically, local businesses have been highly dependent on seven weeks of trade over Christmas and January. That was not sustainable, nor is obsessing over how many visitors get off the Freshwater ferries each weekend. For over a decade we have had millions of visitors each year, but they typically spend less than visitors in other parts of Sydney. That is why it has been important to build a healthy year-round events calendar and not just rely on our beaches in summer.

The 10-day family-friendly festival Play Manly demonstrated exactly what I mean. Recently released data shows that not only did more people visit Manly during the 10-day festival, but visitors spent more than \$19.5 million over the duration of the event. Visitor spending from people living outside the local area during the 10-day event was significantly greater than the baseline period by some 24.1 per cent, bringing in \$6.4 million compared to \$5.1 million. It was a great outcome and there was terrific feedback from across the community as to how good Play Manly was.

In other news, the SES in Manly has had an incredibly difficult workout over the past little while, like a lot of SES units across the State. I was pleased to join hardworking Minister for Emergency Services and Resilience, Steph Cooke, to hand over the keys to a new SES truck for the Manly unit. It was a great morning and I said hello and thank you to the volunteer members of the SES, of which there is a terrific number in Manly. I handed over the keys to the \$425,000 vehicle, which will help our SES to get out not only across the northern beaches but right up and down the coast and wherever they are called upon to support people across the State. I commend the people behind Play Manly and the terrific team at Experience Manly for the effort and energy they put into what was a fantastic 10 days of programming, including the night at the barracks. It demonstrated the sustainable events calendar that we are building for Manly, which is delivering much-needed tourism dollars into the economy.

CENTRAL COAST HOUSING

Ms LIESL TESCH (Gosford) (21:57): I speak on the housing crisis on the beautiful Central Coast. The average rental on the coast is now \$620 per week and many are struggling to find affordable properties. We now have over 2,000 homeless people and many people are couch surfing with friends or family. Many people who

are in desperate situations have contacted my office about the severe dire straits they are in. They are struggling to rent or buy a property or get into public housing. I was informed of one local dad who has been forced to retrofit his workspace in West Gosford with beds and other living facilities to house his four children. He was a small business owner who had fallen on hard times due to COVID-19. Faced with eviction and scores of other competitors at open homes, he fell into homelessness with his kids. When he applied for housing, he was told that he would need an eviction notice from the warehouse before housing would grant his application. That is just one of the many cases in my electorate into which we have had to intervene because of our broken housing system.

Grassroots community organisations have been working hand over fist in my community to try to fix those problems. I commend the work of Women's Community Shelters and I welcome its arrival on the coast. We were devastated to hear that the Presbyterian aged-care facility in my community was being sold because it has 32 affordable housing spaces. Given the housing crisis on the coast, it was a delight to work with the new owners to ensure that those 32 affordable housing spaces stayed. Alongside Pacific Link, our community housing provider, Women's Community Shelters has also opened 16 spaces for women escaping domestic violence [DV] in our community. This "meanwhile" housing model has been absolutely essential to low-income housing owners on the coast and to women escaping DV in the absence of the New South Wales Government investing in sufficient bricks-and-mortar solutions.

The Liberal Government's lack of effort and action and the resultant lack of affordable housing is also impacting businesses across the coast. I thank Paula Martin, the business chamber and everyone involved in our Central Coast housing summit, which identified numerous problems and possible solutions. As businesses try to attract more workers of varying pay grades, more than 70 per cent of attendees at the forum saw housing affordability as restricting the Central Coast's ability to grow its economy. For example, health workers who want to work on the coast cannot find affordable housing. Borg, which is a fantastic local manufacturing firm, has some 50 per cent of employees who are renters. It is now struggling to attract people from outside the region and it is not alone. Clearly we need solutions from the Liberal Government and we needed them yesterday. Premier Perrottet has released another excellent proposal—not—by chucking a big new tax on home owners right across this State. Five years ago fresh-faced Treasurer Dominic Perrottet used a puff piece in *The Sydney Morning Herald* to decry stamp duty. He stated:

I don't think it's fair that my generation is going to foot the bill for modern-day governments that don't live within their means.

Flash forward five years and the Government has blown out the New South Wales budget to over \$180 billion in debt, and Premier Perrottet is now unveiling a forever tax on homes in the name of "generational equity". But Premier Perrottet's big new tax does the exact opposite of what he claims it stands for. Picture a young person aged 25 who has been saving up. They have worked extra shifts and saved as much as they can to finally have enough to scrape together a deposit.

Ms Felicity Wilson: Point of order—

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

Ms Felicity Wilson: I have raised this point of order a few times during private members' statements. Under previous Speakers' rulings there is a requirement for private members' statements to be relevant to the member's electorate. The member for Gosford should return to discussions around her electorate rather than smearing attacks on the Government.

Ms LIESL TESCH: The member for North Shore has not been listening to my contribution.

Ms Felicity Wilson: I have been listening. If there is going to be a debate, I am happy to talk about the misrepresentations.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr David Layzell): I am satisfied that the member for Gosford has been relevant to her electorate.

Ms LIESL TESCH: Imagine a young person aged 25 who lives on the Central Coast has been working extra shifts, scrimping and saving as best they can until finally they have enough money to scrape together a deposit. The mortgage is for 40 years. On day one they will receive a letter in the mail from Dominic Perrottet and Matt Kean asking for hundreds of dollars extra for the house they just bought. A year later, the same letter will come in the mail asking for more. Two years later, another bill will come and after three years an even more expensive bill will arrive. A decade later the bill will be larger still.

That will go on until the home owner has paid more than the stamp duty they may have paid when they first bought the property. Each year administrative costs will also be charged. Those bills keep coming even when one is forced to retire and live on the Age Pension. The tax starts when you pop the cork on the champagne and move into your new home and continues every year onwards—forever. That is the housing solution for New South

Wales. Mr Perrottet and Mr Kean want to tax our homes forever. That does not solve our housing crisis on the Central Coast. It does not solve generational inequity. We need more than a forever tax to fix the housing crisis on the Central Coast.

Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore) (22:03): I want to educate the member for Gosford. She has carried out a fallacy of misrepresentation at the Government's agenda to try to introduce housing affordability and choice for younger members of the New South Wales community. The amount of misrepresentation and lack of facts that have been spewed forth in the past five minutes is incredibly disappointing. I ask members opposite what their plan is to ensure that the people of my generation and younger can get on the housing ladder. This Government represents choice for young people in New South Wales. Members opposite expect people to save for many years and spend \$30,000 to \$60,000 in stamp duty. That will keep people out of housing forever.

Mr Stephen Bali: Sixty thousand! We're not talking about Mosman. We're talking about Blacktown.

Ms FELICITY WILSON: It actually is households up to \$1.5 million, member for Blacktown.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr David Layzell): Order!

Ms Anna Watson: Point of order: Do we have to listen to this bile? Every time this member gets to her feet she has a go at the party. This is unacceptable.

Ms FELICITY WILSON: I think we should ensure that we actually have policies to address the needs of people across New South Wales.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr David Layzell): Order!

Ms Anna Watson: This is an opportunity for this member to stand in this place and do what she does every single time during private members' statements.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr David Layzell): Order! I have heard enough. The member for Shellharbour will resume her seat.

Ms Anna Watson: We will shut you down every single time, Felicity.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr David Layzell): Order!

Ms FELICITY WILSON: Mr Temporary Speaker, could I ask you to inform the member opposite that I was replying in my capacity as a Parliamentary Secretary, which is within the standing orders.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr David Layzell): Correct.

Ms Anna Watson: Yes, to respond to the speech—not have a go at us.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr David Layzell): The member for Shellharbour is out of order. The member for Shellharbour will please resume her seat.

Ms FELICITY WILSON: Perhaps she could exercise some decorum, read the standing orders, understand the rules of this place and treat me with the respect that I am treating her with right now.

NORTH SHORE LOCAL BUSINESS AWARDS

Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore) (22:05): Small local businesses have been battling it out over these past few years, faced with a once-in-a-lifetime pandemic and the devastating floods across New South Wales, but our businesses have come through the other side and so many of them are rebounding back better than ever. We all know that our small businesses, being the backbone of our communities, are providing employment, essential goods and services, and creating connections for our local communities. There are over 800,000 small businesses in New South Wales, and they make up 98 per cent of all businesses and employ 1.8 million people, which is 45 per cent of those who live and work in New South Wales. On the Government side of the Chamber we believe in a strong and vibrant small business sector. In my own community of North Shore we have a community of villages. We have our major CBD in North Sydney. We have the villages of Mosman, Cremorne, Neutral Bay, Kirribilli, and Waverton and they all have their own character. Those villages are vibrant hubs of commerce because of the contribution and investment that small businesses make to the local community.

We are so fortunate in our local community. Recently we were able to recognise this contribution through the 2022 Local Business Awards for North Shore and several great local businesses were recognised. The awards pay tribute to and reward the best businesses in our local community. They aim to develop and strengthen the bonds between business and the community, thereby improving local business standards and outcomes. I congratulate the following North Shore businesses which won in this year's Local Business Awards. Firstly, Midas Mosman won the Automotive Services category. Anybody knows that on the fraught issue of deciding

where to take your car for a service or repairs, when you want to make sure that you have got a reputable business and that you can trust and rely on the people who are doing the job, you go to Midas Mosman. They are constantly recommended across our community.

I congratulate Sanctuary Skin Care in Neutral Bay, just a few doors down from my electorate office, which won the Beauty Services category. I should probably spend a little bit of my time there. I can only imagine how challenged the personal care services were during COVID. I congratulate Best Bagel Co. in Cremorne, which won the Cafe category; the Kids Cottage in Middle Harbour, which won the Early Childhood Centre category; and Dress for a Night in North Sydney, which won the Fashion category. This is a really amazing business that started. We have had a couple of these businesses start in our local area in recent years. They are reducing the use of fast fashion for major events, ensuring that we can have more sustainable and affordable dresses for different events and nights. We know that they really struggled as well during COVID because there were so few events. It is really exciting to see that they won the fashion category.

I congratulate Floriade in Mosman, which won the Florist category. We are spoilt for choice with florists in our area but Floriade is a beautiful florist in Mosman. I congratulate Salon Yazbek in Neutral Bay, which won the Hairdresser category. I want to acknowledge that they are heavily involved in a range of different community initiatives as well, including looking at hair donations for people who need those. I congratulate SquareOne Physio in Mosman, which won the Health Improvement Services category, and Burnt Dining in Neutral Bay, which won the New Business category. I keep saying to them that I have to try out some of their delicious dishes. I keep seeing photos on social media, so I have to get in and check them out. I congratulate Plie, Groove'n'Shuffle in North Sydney, which won the Performing Arts category; and Jamesons Strata Management in Mosman, which won the Professional Services category, and which not only manages my strata building but also reaches out to me regularly to engage with different strata committees that are facing issues in our area and helps get the best outcomes for them.

I congratulate Ormeggio at The Spit in Mosman, which won the Restaurant category. I am not sure which members have been to The Spit. I cannot eat shellfish but I try to eat some of the other things on the menu. It is a wonderful restaurant. I congratulate Elora Joliffe, Body First Pilates in Neutral Bay, which won the Youth Award category. This is quite a new business. They opened during COVID and were really innovative in the model they offered to locals to make sure they could engage. I congratulate all the local winners. I also thank the sponsors for their support: Nova Employment, the Rotary Club of North Sydney, White Key Marketing, Business Networking Reimagined, and North Shore Living. I particularly thank the local chambers of commerce at Mosman, Neutral Bay and North Sydney for their work in enabling local businesses to network and support one another.

I particularly acknowledge the fantastic work of the Mosman Chamber of Commerce, and President Tamara Keniry, who host a range of different events but who were also instrumental in the Mosman First campaign to ensure that Mosman residents would shop local, which has been a great success. Every business has the opportunity to be part of these awards. They provide various options and marketing tools to assist businesses become winners or finalists. We believe in a vibrant and strong small business sector. I know our Government will support and communities across New South Wales will continue to support our local and small businesses, not only helping them to survive but helping them to thrive.

BLACKTOWN ELECTORATE

Mr STEPHEN BALI (Blacktown) (22:10): I feel as though Blacktown is under siege. I wish to highlight the failures of this tired and out-of-touch Government, its 12 long years in office, a revolving door of four Premiers and its impact on my electorate within Blacktown city. This Government has had a devastating impact on my local Blacktown city community regarding health, education, housing and social services. Unfortunately, the Government refuses to provide the social and physical infrastructure to support one of the fastest growing regions in Australia. Many of the schools are celebrating their sixtieth anniversaries—reflecting the first population boom we had.

In the past 12 years we have seen zero, nada, zip, nothing in funding allocated for upgrading educational infrastructure in the Blacktown electorate whilst other electorates across northern Sydney have benefited from hundreds of millions of dollars—new classrooms, science labs, performing arts halls, gymnasiums, administration blocks and new kitchens in northern Sydney versus nothing in Blacktown. Why are children at public and high schools not accessing the educational upgrades in Blacktown and across western Sydney compared to those in northern Sydney? The Liberal Government has created a two-class model—those in the leafy northern suburbs receiving the funding to upgrade schools to provide a wonderful learning environment whilst western Sydney students go without. A tale of two cities!

Heck, what chance have we got in Blacktown given that Liberal electorates like Wollondilly and Riverstone, which may boast a few new schools, from day one had demountables shipped in because there were

not enough classrooms to sustain the population there? It seems improving the visitor experience at Taronga Zoo, which costs about \$113 million, is obviously a lot more important than giving students in Blacktown a better learning environment. Enrolments at Blacktown TAFE campus have fallen from 7,394 in 2012 to about 3,326 in 2019, a reduction of about 55 per cent. In a time when we need more apprentices and more traineeships to support our economy and job shortages, we are seeing enrolments fall and allegedly TAFE requesting Blacktown council to rezone the northern campus from education to shop-top housing—B4 zoning. Why is this Liberal State Government so against the people of Blacktown city gaining a valuable education in quality facilities?

From education to health, the new Blacktown hospital, which was built at a cost of approximately \$700 million, is seen as a flagship for the Liberal Government in our area. We have a shiny new hospital and more comfortable waiting rooms, but it does not match the needs of the area. We want to get treated, not wait hours to be seen. The catchment area of Blacktown Mount Druitt Hospital is approximately 500,000 people. Since this Government has come to power, apart from four Premiers, the population of Blacktown city has grown by approximately 120,000 residents. Blacktown city's growth alone—just the growth over the past 12 years—is the equivalent of the current entire populations of Bathurst Regional Council, Orange City Council and the Dubbo Regional Council. Blacktown Mount Druitt Hospital beds and services have not grown in these past 12 years to the equivalent of the health systems of those three councils.

I have been informed that so far this year approximately 20 nurses have resigned from the emergency department [ED]. The staff is under massive pressure to deliver quality services. If you are triaged as an emergency patient in ED, you are three times more likely to be seen within the acceptable time period at the Hornsby hospital than you are in Blacktown. That is wrong. It is further evidence that this Government does not care about Blacktown or western Sydney. Today Mount Druitt hospital celebrated its fortieth anniversary since its opening by Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. It is a shame that there was no budget to hold a community celebration on the weekend rather than on a working day. The people across the seven electorates in Blacktown city—three of which are Liberal—cannot afford four more destructive years of a Liberal Government. The people, in particular the electorates of Riverstone and Winston Hills, can change the government at the State election in March next year. A Minns Labor State Government will provide fairness and equitable funding based on need for Blacktown city to support the massive population growth, rather than the roting we cop at the moment by the Liberals.

PATRICIAN BROTHERS COLLEGE TEACHER ROBERTA GOEHNER

Mr GUY ZANGARI (Fairfield) (22:15): It is with great pleasure that I acknowledge the work and dedication of an exceptional teacher in the Fairfield electorate who for the past 52 years has served the community with loyalty and distinction. I speak of Mrs Roberta Goehner. For the past 52 years she has given loyal service as a teacher-librarian at Patrician Brothers' College, Fairfield. On 24 August 2022 it was a pleasure to join with former colleagues and friends to celebrate Roberta's retirement, her achievements and her many years of service to the Patrician community. In that time, Roberta has inspired students to be creative writers, to develop a love for reading and to dream of achieving their best in their studies.

In 1970 Roberta was employed by former principal Brother Aengus Kavanaugh to head up the development of the school library. Roberta was the first female employed at the college—a badge that she wears with honour. Over her five decades of dedicated service, Roberta was responsible for the implementation of emerging technologies and their integration into the ever-changing curriculum, as well as library monitoring as part of the college's leadership program. Roberta also oversaw the redevelopment of the college library in the 1970s, 1980s, 1990s and its final redevelopment in the year 2000. Roberta also influenced students in the areas of social justice and the environment. She was instrumental in initiatives such as the aluminium can collection campaign and the introduction of the Greening Committee. That committee gave students the opportunity to make changes to the school environment and realise their own impacts on the global environment. Roberta was also instrumental in introducing well-known authors to students to inspire them to get involved in literature and writing.

On a personal note, I had the honour to call Roberta a dear colleague and friend during my time teaching at the college. My wife, Melissa, also has had the wonderful opportunity to work alongside Roberta over the years. Roberta is a beautiful person. Colleagues, students past and present will attest to this. She has a wonderful way of inspiring people to go further and to achieve their best in whatever field they choose. Roberta's nature is infectious. She is a pleasure to be around and is certainly the life of the party in any situation. She has achieved so much as a professional and as a mother because of her love of people and her willingness to help all people, no matter who they are and where they come from.

Roberta's love of community is evident, and it was evident during the waves of migration that Fairfield experienced. Migrants and refugees that arrived on the doorstep of the college would soon come to know Mrs Goehner. Roberta saw it as her duty to make newly arrived students most welcome. All people who know

Roberta understand her commitment to assisting those doing it tough—whether academically or socially and emotionally. That is why she has inspired a generation of male students to pick up books and experience literature at its best. On a personal note, I am in awe of Roberta's contributions to the Fairfield electorate for the past 52 years. The community is richer for her service and dedication not only to education but also to social justice initiatives. On behalf of all the people of the Fairfield electorate, in particular those in the Patrician community, I pass on our sincere congratulations to Robbie, as she is known by her many friends, on her many years of achievements in education, especially at Patrician Brothers' College, Fairfield. I wish Roberta a happy retirement.

ROBERTSON PUBLIC SCHOOL 150TH ANNIVERSARY

Mrs WENDY TUCKERMAN (Goulburn—Minister for Local Government) (22:18): On Friday 23 September 2022 I was delighted to join the community at Robertson Public School to celebrate the school's 150th anniversary. Robertson Public School currently has an enrolment of 140 students. It is a semi-rural school located in the Southern Highlands area, 15 kilometres from the nearest regional centre of Moss Vale. Robertson Public School as a learning community is proud of its history, values, facilities and the high standards achieved by students. The village of Robertson sits above Macquarie Pass and the Illawarra escarpment. Known locally as the "green heart of the Highlands", it is a beautiful village with enormous character, surrounded by national parks and waterfalls and home to 1,863 people. In June of 1869 John Hanrahan wrote:

It is in contemplation for some time amongst the inhabitants of this locality to make application for a Public School in the Village of Robertson—at present it is only a reserve for a village and no person lives in it—but it is the centre of a large population, a great number of whom are children fit for school.

In August 1869 a local committee was formed and formal application made for a public school. This committee also undertook the momentous task of raising one-third of the cost of establishing the school. This was insisted on by the Council of Education as a token of good faith that the local residents would send their children to the school. The land on which Robertson was planned to be settled was extremely thickly wooded and the land clearing was onerous. It was not until 1872 that the school was built and on 11 March Joseph Bell, the schoolmaster, opened the school's doors for the 10 "day" pupils and five "night" pupils. In 2022 Robertson Public School celebrated the occasion with several events, including an open day, community fair and anniversary dinner. These events were all made possible by the fantastic P&C organising and supporting the school for the benefit of the community.

On Friday 23 September 2022, parents and friends of the school were welcomed with a lovely assembly and performances by students, and speeches were given by principal Gordon Parrish, the school captains and special guests. It was wonderful to hear the new school bell ring and see the cutting of the cake as well as the students showing off their classrooms and performing their old-time dances before a family picnic at lunchtime. On Saturday 24 September 2022, the school held a community fair with markets on school grounds, complete with rides, entertainment and food, art and craft workshops, vintage cars and farm animals on display. In the evening an anniversary dinner was held at the Robertson Bowling Club where past and present students, teachers and families of Robertson Public School were invited to celebrate and remember the school's rich history.

By all accounts the celebrations were a tremendous success. I thank all of the parents and friends of the school, as well as the current students, teachers and administrative staff who volunteered their time for the events. It was a remarkable program and not an easy feat. I congratulate everyone involved in the extensive planning and coordination of the celebrations. Their efforts resulted in a wonderful event for the benefit of Robertson Public School and the entire village of Robertson. Congratulations and well done! We look forward to the next 150 years.

MUDGEES WOMBATS COLTS

Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS (Dubbo—Minister for Agriculture, and Minister for Western New South Wales) (22:23): I recognise and congratulate the young men from the Colts team of the Mudgee Rugby Club, along with the coaches and support staff, for their heroic and selfless acts on 20 August. Before sunrise on that cold winter day, the team bus departed Mudgee on its way to Cowra for the major semifinal against the Dubbo Kangaroos. They were travelling south of Wellington when the driver, Dave English, spotted something a little bit unusual out of the corner of his eye. It turned out to be Gillian Ryan, whom I first met through Wellington Pony Club many years ago but who is also an accomplished and well-known local artist, with amazing work that many of us have seen exhibited many times.

On this particular morning, she lay shivering and alone in a paddock off the side of the road, weakly waving a handkerchief in a desperate attempt to attract the attention of any passing vehicles. Gillian had unfortunately come off her all-terrain vehicle [ATV] the previous afternoon, just 150 metres from her daughter Tammy Nugent's house. With a broken shoulder and unable to move, she had endured freezing overnight conditions, basically fighting to remain conscious. The busload of young men and their coaches and supporters sprang into action immediately. They rushed into the paddock to help in any way they could. It seems like someone was looking

down on Gillian that day, which coincidentally happened to be her seventy-fourth birthday. For starters, if driver Dave English had not been sitting so high up in the bus, he may never have seen her laying in the long grass and waving her handkerchief. Dave told the *Mudgee Guardian* that Gillian had tried flashing the lights on the ATV but no passing cars had seen them.

Less than two weeks before—another coincidence, maybe—on 7 August, the Mudgee Rugby Club had hosted a first aid course run for free by club sponsor NSW First Aid trainer and assessor Karl Fletcher. A number of the Colts players had attended that first aid course, so they knew what to do on that cold winter morning, although they probably were not expecting they would need to use those newly learned skills quite so soon. Some ran to alert Gillian's daughter Tammy while another called an ambulance. Others lifted Gillian up onto the back of her ATV and made her as comfortable as they could. They warmed her up with blankets and the jackets off their own backs.

Tammy told the *Mudgee Guardian* that "they saved her life". "We're very grateful," she said. "She'd hung on and stayed awake all night, so she didn't fall asleep." Gillian told Tammy that she "had to stay awake so she wouldn't die". NSW Ambulance paramedics arrived and transported Gillian to Dubbo Hospital. Recovery and rehabilitation on her shoulder is expected to take a number of months. I wish her all the best in that recovery. Team manager and club vice-president Roslyn Lee, who was on the bus, said the boys never once worried that they might be late for their game. Eventually the team continued on to Cowra where it narrowly lost to the Dubbo Kangaroos 9-7. The following week the Wombats bounced back, defeating the Orange Emus to earn a rematch and book a spot in the Colts grand final against the Dubbo Roos at Bathurst. In the end, the Roos were too good, claiming another narrow victory 14-12.

But the real winners are Gillian Ryan—and I hope she is feeling better—and the entire Mudgee community, which should be so proud of these young men representing their town. To say the club is proud of the players and support staff would be a massive understatement according to Wombats president Jeffrey Hands, and I think we all feel the same way. On behalf of the entire Dubbo electorate, I thank Dave English, who was driving the bus and first noticed Gillian; team coach Neil Lee; team manager and club vice-president Roslyn Lee; Cody Towell; Campbell Lee; Brodie Sargent; Noah Tourle; Michael Webb; Will Daniell; Jack Webb; Sam Brown; Tom Durrant; Nakia Berridge; Owen Blake; Campbell Holgate; Liam Gardiner; Chase Bannister; Tully Myers; Dylan Craig; Jordyn Richards; and Bill English. I thank every single one of the people on that bus for that extraordinary morning, going above and beyond what was expected of anyone on that bus. A lot of people can say they have won a grand final, which they did not on this occasion, but not a lot of people can say they have saved a life, and there is no doubt in my mind that is certainly what they were all part of that day. I say well done and thank you.

NSW POLICE FORCE

Mr PAUL SCULLY (Wollongong) (22:27): Over recent weeks more than 150 new probationary constables joined the ranks of the NSW Police Force and are being deployed to stations across the State. That includes three new probationary constables at Lake Illawarra Police District and five at the Wollongong Police District, both of which, in part, cover the Wollongong electorate. I wish the new probationary constables well in their future careers. They join the force at a challenging and changing time for policing. The nature of policing continues to change. The challenges of the past two years of policing lockdowns and pandemic orders have been considerable. The new officers also join at a time when the New South Wales Government is unable to meet its 2019 election commitment to recruit 1,500 additional officers.

What the Government described as the biggest recruitment commitment in decades is turning into the biggest election commitment debacle in decades. Members of the Government may not like to hear it, but the facts are that as at the end of July this year we had fewer police officers on the streets in New South Wales than we had at the end of November last year. It is the first time in years that police numbers in New South Wales have actually fallen. These are not my numbers or words; they are official numbers provided through the budget estimates process a couple of weeks ago. In November 2021 there were 17,759 sworn police officers. At the end of July this year there were 17,525 officers. That is 234 fewer officers than before. It is difficult to find another period in New South Wales history where police numbers have fallen. Falling police numbers puts pressure on all remaining police officers.

I will unpack the Government's lack of success in meeting its own election promise. In March 2019 there were 16,978 police officers. The New South Wales Liberals and The Nationals went to the 2019 election promising an extra 1,500 officers over the term of this Parliament. With only a matter of months to go, will this election commitment be met? No, it will not. As I noted earlier, in July this year there were 17,525 sworn officers. That means the increase in the force since March 2019 is 547 officers. That is a little over one-third of what was promised, for those doing the maths at home. The Minister told us in budget estimates hearings a few weeks ago that the Government was on track to recruit the remaining 550 officers he claimed were needed to meet the election commitment. But even if all of those 550 were recruited and trained, at best that would add 1,097 police to the

March 2019 number. That gets it close to three-quarters of its election promise, but it still will not meet it. At best, that would mean the New South Wales Liberals and The Nationals would fall more than 400 new officers short of their election commitment.

How likely is that to occur? It will be a struggle for the Government given that budget estimates hearings revealed there are 221 people in the training process and 55 in the eligibility pool. There is now genuine doubt as to whether the Government will be able to meet its commitment made a few weeks ago that it is recruiting 550 police. There is no doubt that the Government will be unable to meet one of its signature election commitments from the 2019 election. It is yet another example of how, when it comes to policing, the rhetoric of the Liberals and The Nationals does not match the reality. It gets worse, though. Confronted with his failure to deliver on the Government's election commitment recently, the Minister sought to redefine the measure. But no matter how many figures the Minister may point to that in the future he might one day possibly recruit enough new police officers to meet the Government's commitment of 1,500 extra police officers, the fact remains that it has not happened. There is no glossing over that.

Policing is a difficult job, and the men and women of our Police Force are being let down by a government that is trying to stick its head in the sand when it comes to meeting its own recruitment commitments. They are being let down when they face increasingly unaffordable homes to rent or buy in the communities they police. They are being let down when, faced with higher housing costs, they are forced to move to the outer suburbs and face ever-increasing tolls in order to get to and from work. They were let down when last year 384 scholarships to attend the police academy were applied for but only 174 were awarded. That is a little under half. That means that people who might be looking for a change of career are faced with the choice of continuing to pay the mortgage and perhaps supporting a family without terribly much other financial support to undertake their training.

With nearly 1,300 officers having left the NSW Police Force this year and nearly 3,200 sergeants, senior constables and probationary constables having left the force since 2019, the time for the Government to address the decline in recruitment numbers and the decline in overall police numbers is long overdue. Policing is a rewarding career. Keeping our streets and communities safe is a noble profession. But it is time the Government accepted that it has failed to deliver its election commitment and that it needs to examine new ways to support and encourage more people to join the NSW Police Force.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Mrs HELEN DALTON (Murray) (22:32): Violence, especially against women, does not do demographics. It is in every electorate, including Murray. It does statistics, brutal statistics. Every week one woman is killed by domestic violence in Australia, and it is not getting any better. In the New South Wales Parliament there are 45 women members between the two Houses. Around seven of those women will fall victim to some sort of domestic violence at some point in their life. That is another brutal statistic and why I stand in this place today angry and, at the same time, overwhelmed with sadness, even a sense of defeat, knowing these numbers are likely to get worse before they get better. Even in the Parliament of this great State, we still have men walking its halls who think nothing of suggesting that a woman should have been clocked to keep her in line. It seems to me that violence against women has been tolerated for so long, the world has become numb to it. Australia has become numb to it.

There is absolutely no place for that type of behaviour—not here in Parliament or in any workplace. How can this Government even dare to pretend that Parliament can set the rest of the State a good example when in fact it is considered a textbook toxic work environment? Walking into the House while discussing the physical abuse of women is beyond belief, but the real disgrace is that the members concerned are still here and that members of their own party did not have the decency to stand up and say, "Enough." The silence is deafening, and the condoning of that behaviour through that pathetic silence is infuriating.

One in six women have experienced violence at the hands of an intimate partner, and one in six girls have experienced some sort of abuse by the time they are 15. We are talking about the future of our daughters and our granddaughters. Perhaps one of the blokes on the Government benches could tell us what they might do if one of their peers decided to clock their daughter "because she needed it". If we do not call that out and pull up the misogynists before they infect everyone around them, we are as much a part of the problem as they are.

For all the rhetoric and the pandering of this House, nothing has changed. Premier Perrottet said the New South Wales Government would throw its full support behind the Broderick review and commit to making New South Wales Parliament a safe workplace. The Premier said, "As Australia's oldest Parliament, we must lead by example." To be fair, toxic behaviour in Parliament is not only experienced by women, although they are still by far the major victims. The Broderick report found that 40 per cent of women and 26 per cent of men had experienced bullying and harassment in this Parliament—right here in this workplace. I know things can get

heated, and debate can be passionate and fiery. But threatening to clock a female, or anyone, is simply appalling behaviour, and it has to stop.

NORTHERN RIVERS FLOOD RECOVERY

Ms TAMARA SMITH (Ballina) (22:36): I speak about community-led recovery after natural disasters, particularly in the Northern Rivers. Eight months on from the February flood events, we have heard quite a lot about the need for community-led recovery. We heard the recommendations from the O'Kane-Fuller inquiry, we heard from the community themselves and last week I heard directly from senior officers in the Queensland Reconstruction Authority that it is fundamental to its world-class model. However, we are not seeing community-led recovery in the Northern Rivers, and it is manifesting as a kind of patronising contempt of the lived experience of people in our communities. It is being bypassed, and it is absolutely fundamental to the success of recovery. It was our community and volunteers who rescued people during the floods, and across the nation and even around the world were acknowledged for their bravery, altruism and fortitude. But those same people are being ignored in the recovery process.

The fundamental need for transparency and community consultation has been visibly missing, and it has led to so much extra stress and trauma for already traumatised people. It threatens to break the covenant between communities and governments in our democracy. What a contrast to the Queensland recovery from floods this year. The recovery response in Queensland through its Reconstruction Authority, with flood events starting the day before ours, saw 18,000 assessments of people's homes undertaken within six weeks of the floods; registrations for buybacks, retrofitting and house raising opening within three months of the floods; and 500 homes in the process of being purchased by the Queensland Government and most of the other 4,500 expressions of interest having had their needs met within six months. That is an extraordinary feat.

Eight months on from the floods in the Northern Rivers, we have no buybacks, retrofitting, wet proofing, or house raising on the table. That is completely unacceptable. Nothing should hold up recovery for people first. We get that the Queenslanders did not get there quickly and that after the 2010-11 series of floods that hit Queensland—with the tragic loss of 33 people's lives, 200,000 people affected and the damage bill at around \$2.38 billion—the need for a world-class reconstruction authority to manage weather risks and adaptation to climate change was no longer avoidable.

In the lead-up to this State election, we must guarantee that the proposed New South Wales reconstruction authority will be adequately resourced and modelled on the systems approach of the Queensland Reconstruction Authority [QRA], lest we continue to waste public money and further traumatise vulnerable people. There must be a whole-of-government approach. I equally speak to the Opposition. As we watch in horror at more and more people across the State being affected by floods, fires and extreme weather events, we cannot keep propping up bureaucratic entities and processes that are not delivering for our communities. That is in no way a criticism of individual bureaucrats. I have been amazed and impressed by the calibre of people working in the public service across Resilience NSW and the Northern Rivers Reconstruction Corporation.

The will, decency and knowledge are there but we must start at ground zero, which is asking people in every community and town in disaster-affected areas what resilience means to them and what they want to see in the future. The fundamental principle of the QRA is community consultation. It is not about government telling community what they need for the future. You cannot bypass people because you think you know better or because the ends justify the means. If transparency is bypassed, along with the proper democratic processes and the painstaking process of consensus building, there will be problems down the track.

Queensland has over a decade of resilience experience. It has evolved from thinking about recovery to a systems approach, with proactive, planned and resilient recovery. It has strong relationships with local governments, and it has sorted out the huge issues with Commonwealth funding. It has data and information that informs planning and decision-making, and it has continuous improvement through collaborative leadership at local government level right through. I thank the member for Lismore for facilitating the visit. I attended with the member for Clarence, the member for Tweed and others. I thank all of the offices and staff of the QRA. I will now be holding town hall meetings to engage with my community in a way that has not happened under this Government. It has been missed, and it is extremely disappointing.

LEARNING LINKS

Mr MARK COURE (Oatley—Minister for Multiculturalism, and Minister for Seniors) (22:41): I thank and congratulate Learning Links, which is a fantastic education support service within my electorate and which celebrated its fiftieth anniversary this year. Established in 1972 by parents concerned about a lack of education and support services for their children, Learning Links has gradually grown into the large-scale organisation it is today. It now operates five centres throughout Sydney, one of which is in Peakhurst Heights. It

provides therapy, education and support services, and a childcare centre to almost 5,000 children and over 3,000 families.

Learning Links runs a number of services that are of great benefit to the local community, including a not-for-profit preschool, assessment and intervention programs for children with disabilities, support services and an Out of School Hours Care program. Those services are an invaluable asset to the local community and they truly demonstrate Learning Links' core principles of empowerment, collaboration, excellence and integrity. This year, Learning Links collaborated with over 2,500 professionals to support 138 schools and communities across New South Wales. Recently the Government has committed to supporting local families and community Out of School Hours Care programs, like the one operating at Learning Links, through a \$155 million program for before- and after-school care vouchers. That has ensured that cost-of-living pressures are eased for thousands of families within the St George area.

It was also great to pay a visit to Learning Links at Peakhurst Heights earlier this year for the launch of its Reconciliation Action Plan. A beautiful artwork was on display, which was painted by Aunty Donna, an Aboriginal Elder who does fantastic outreach work in support of reconciliation efforts throughout New South Wales. Learning Links has recently released its latest impact report and, I must say, it is an interesting read. I was particularly interested in the real-life testimonies of children who have had their lives impacted in some way by Learning Links.

One such testimony was that of a nine-year-old boy, Peter, who struggled with classroom participation as well as literacy and numeracy skills. After Peter was enrolled in an extra support service at Learning Links, his literacy, numeracy and comprehension skills have all improved and his confidence within the classroom has grown. This is one of several success stories that Learning Links shared in its latest impact report.

As I mentioned, Learning Links is celebrating a very important milestone this year: 50 wonderful years of operation. This is a great achievement for any community organisation and especially one which has contributed so much and made such a difference within the local area. Learning Links has continued to grow and cater for the needs of the local community during its time, whilst being supported purely by dedicated contributors, community partners and volunteers. From humble beginnings, Learning Links has grown into a mature organisation that not only supports the local community but has extended its reach all across Australia through its digital channels, now offering telehealth and online therapy services.

I recognise the fantastic efforts of the chief executive officer of Learning Links, Birgitte Maibom. Birgitte works incredibly hard with her team to ensure that children receive the best possible outcomes in their education and wellbeing. I thank the chair, Gregory Wallace, who will celebrate seven years of service at Learning Links this year. Furthermore, I thank the rest of the board, the leadership team and all of the staff who contribute to making Learning Links the institution it is today. Their work does not go unnoticed. Over the years, I have had a number of emails and calls to my office praising the fantastic work that Learning Links does for our local community.

The ability of Learning Links to go above and beyond, as well as its continued dedication and commitment, is something that it should be proud of. Through its hard work the team continues to uphold its reputation and be held in high regard within the community. Organisations like Learning Links are essential for community growth and development. They ensure future generations are confident in their abilities and develop a lifelong love of learning. I am extremely proud to have an organisation of such high calibre operating within my electorate, and I again thank Birgitte and the team for all they have done. Once again, I congratulate Learning Links on 50 years of operation. I look forward to the seventy-fifth and 100th anniversaries, which I am sure are to come.

SHELLHARBOUR ELECTORATE SPORTING CLUBS

Ms ANNA WATSON (Shellharbour) (22:46:5): I congratulate the Warilla-Lake South Gorillas, who are the Group Seven Rugby League Premiers for 2022. The Gorillas won the grand final on 24 September by 16 points to 14 over the Gerringong Lions. Jake Brisbane was a worthy winner of the Player of the Match award. I was delighted that Warilla won the game because it meant that Gareth Ward lost. I would have loved to have seen the look on his face when that happened by two points. It made my week.

The Gorillas co-captains, Jamie Burns and Blair Grant, were presented with the premiership trophy by UFC champion and former Gorillas player Alexander Volkanovski. I congratulate the coach, Troy Grant, and all of the hardworking club volunteers, including President Gary Robson and Club Person of the Year Sharron Clark. I will have more to say about Sharron in another private member's statement. She is an incredible woman who has given over 30 years of volunteer service to the club. Volunteers such as Gary and Sharron are absolutely fantastic contributors to the success of community sport in the Shellharbour electorate, and I am blessed to represent such amazing people. I also thank Ashton Sims, football operations manager for Group Seven, for hosting a magnificent

competition. Better luck next year to the other Shellharbour electorate teams, the Sharks and Stingrays. They are also fantastic clubs.

Community sport provides enormous health benefits to the people of New South Wales, including through the strong social connections it provides off the field. The love for community sport in the Shellharbour electorate exists despite the relatively poor and outdated facilities and fields across the area. I visited one such sporting facility only last week. It was built in 1967 and not a cent has been spent on it since. It looks like something out of the 1950s. It is a disgrace. Local government is not always in a financial position to adequately fund the construction of facilities at community sport grounds, and therefore it is up to the New South Wales Government to provide adequate grant funding for the construction of amenities, buildings and new fields.

We have a fast-growing population that has not been matched by a fast-growing infrastructure rollout. The people of Shellharbour feel let down by the New South Wales Government and its constant waste, rorts and pork-barrelling, especially when it comes to sports rorts. We have now suffered through almost 12 years of the Liberal-Nationals Government not caring about community sport infrastructure in the Shellharbour electorate. I believe that, regardless of what your postcode is, every man, woman and child is entitled to a sporting facility that matches the one in the electorate next door. That is just not happening.

Community sport clubs based in the Shellharbour electorate desperately need a fair go when it comes to providing modern facilities, not only for local players but also for visiting teams from across the Illawarra and New South Wales. In particular, there are no changing rooms for women who are participating in football, rugby, soccer and cricket, which makes it very difficult for them to play. Representatives from a wide range of community sporting clubs, including, as I said, soccer, cricket, tennis and rugby league, have recently told me that they are embarrassed when they host players from other areas due to the state of changing rooms and toilet facilities. I have viewed many of those facilities and walked away shaking my head.

It is not only amenities buildings that need fixing. Fields with adequate drainage to withstand heavy rains are also a key issue across the electorate. Just last weekend, the Rugby League Masters Over 35s Carnival at Flinders Field had to be cancelled due to the condition of the ground, which was more suitable for ducks than community sport. The event would have seen 180 players from around New South Wales come to Flinders, generating an extra \$110,000 for the local economy.

Community sporting organisations across the Shellharbour electorate should not have to wait for desperately needed infrastructure funding just because they live in an electorate not deemed worthy by this Liberal-Nationals Government. With winter sports now finished for the year, I will be out and about visiting summer sporting facilities and fields over the coming weeks and months, listening to the community and working hard to ensure that all community organisations get a fair go when it comes to New South Wales government spending.

NEWPORT SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB

Mr ROB STOKES (Pittwater—Minister for Infrastructure, Minister for Cities, and Minister for Active Transport) (22:51): Pittwater is a saltwater society. Our culture, community, economy, outlook and way of life is shaped by the ocean that gives Pittwater its shape and its identity. Perhaps the most significant and recognisable public institution at the heart of each of the string of suburbs that nestle into the coastal plain and valleys below the Ingleside escarpment or the spine of hills along the peninsula separating the Pittwater estuary from the ocean is the local surf lifesaving club.

The oldest and largest of all of Pittwater's surf clubs is at Newport. Since 1909, generations of Newportians have learned to surf and to save lives near the building that has stood, iconically, in the middle of Newport Beach since the early 1930s. Of all Pittwater's surf clubs, it is the easiest to see, the easiest to reach and the most accessible to the surf for people with a disability. It enjoys unimpeded views across the beach, providing the perfect observation point for the highly trained volunteers who protect the beachgoing public. It is the obvious—and, frankly, only—logical location to site a surf club in Newport, enabling everyone to access this incredible community facility.

Newport's challenge is that it is so accessible—to the elite athletes of the Kinghorn Academy, to the brave and slightly more mature Newport Knackers, to the nipper program for kids with disabilities, to the committed volunteer lifesavers; to everyone in our community—that the club has completely outgrown its building. For that reason, I was delighted to secure \$100,000 in New South Wales Government funding in 2017 to assist the club in designing modest and practical extensions to the building to ensure its utility for decades to come. Since then, the club has worked with the Northern Beaches Council to understand community expectations in relation to the project. In total, the project attracted about 100 submissions throughout the pre-development application and development application processes, with the vast majority in support.

Of the submissions that raised concerns, the impact on the heritage fabric of the original building was the most common objection. The club and its advisers worked assiduously to address the issues raised in submissions, and to respect and celebrate the heritage of the existing structures, responding with a proposal that is elegant, simple, efficient, accessible and beautiful. After five years of work by volunteers like Glenn Borg, Rudi Valla and Guyren Smith—to name just a few—I am absolutely astounded that the proposal has been rejected by the Sydney North Planning Panel. The panel went further, recommending that the heritage-listed building be removed, suggesting consideration of "suitable alternate locations for the project given storm inundation will continue to increase as the sea level rises". There are a few problems with this approach.

First, the major issue raised by the community was the impact on the heritage-listed building. Demolishing it does not answer their concerns. Second, there is no suitable alternate location for the surf club. Immediately landward of the heritage building is a new basketball court and children's playground, partly funded by the New South Wales Government. These are vital community assets, and it is extraordinary that a planning panel should suggest they be displaced. The answer is in the name. It is a surf club. By definition and design, it needs to be adjacent to the surf. If you move a surf club from the surf, it becomes a club without any connection to its reason for being.

There is an existential question here. If we cannot have surf clubs next to the beaches they serve, then that is an attack on having surf clubs at all. I completely support the notion that we should not permit the further subdivision of land in sensitive coastal locations. I agree that we should not support intensification of land use on sensitive coastal land in private ownership. But when we are talking about a community-owned surf club, whose very reason for being requires it to be adjacent to the surf, ideology must cede to common sense.

Surf club design must recognise and respond to the ambulatory nature of the foreshore, and new seawalls must be avoided wherever possible because they create problems elsewhere along the beach. At Newport, there is already a buried and poorly designed ad hoc seawall. This proposal would bury a properly designed seawall directly beneath the sand landward of the existing wall. Without the project, if a severe storm occurred, the existing building would collapse and the existing rock seawall would be exposed, leaving debris across the beach and causing the very risks that the panel used as a justification to refuse the application. This is a preposterous situation. I commend the council for seeking a redetermination of the proposal, and I will urge the Minister for Planning to take whatever action is necessary to ensure that Newport can finally complete its surf club for the benefit of everyone in New South Wales.

LOURDES RETIREMENT VILLAGE

Mr JONATHAN O'DEA (Davidson) (22:56): Lourdes Retirement Village is a quiet, friendly community for seniors, located on over five hectares at the edge of Garigal National Park. It is situated on Stanhope Road in my electorate of Davidson and provides a range of accommodation options, including independent living units, studios and one-bedroom serviced apartments. An aged-care nursing facility is also located within the village grounds. Residents of Lourdes enjoy a range of onsite facilities, including a coffee shop, community centre, hairdresser, village shop, heated indoor pool and croquet green. They also enjoy easy access to gentle bushwalks along Gordon Creek all the way to Middle Harbour. While the chapel building would remain under current redevelopment plans, it is unclear which of the other individual facilities would be available on the site in the future.

Residents and neighbours of Lourdes have been concerned about the redevelopment of the Lourdes site since 2010-11 and more recently from proposals in 2018-19 and 2021 by Stockland, which is the recent owner-operator of the village. That ongoing concern has been expressed in numerous communications to me, including in a petition I received in the past week with over 40 local signatories. Stockland has slowly emptied the village by not selling vacated units as people have been moved out or died following periods of great stress. This has contributed to the destruction of a sense of community for the remaining residents. The maintenance of some buildings and services has also been eroded since an earlier Stockland development attempt was comprehensively rejected, including by Ku-ring-gai Council and the NSW Rural Fire Service.

Earlier this year, Stockland announced the sale of all of its retirement dwelling holdings in New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland and the ACT to Swedish private equity company EQT Infrastructure, otherwise known as Levande. This sale included the Lourdes site, with its current development plans. The current Gateway Planning Proposal, known as PP-2022-658, was submitted by Stockland in 2018 and taken over by Levande for the redevelopment of the site. It includes rezoning the site from R2 to R3, or from low-density residential to medium-density residential, and amending the maximum height of R3 building controls from 9.5 metres to 22 metres to allow for two-storey to six- or seven-storey residential flat buildings. That more than doubles the floor space ratio controls from 0.3 to 1 to 0.75 to 1 and provides 389 car parking spaces.

The intended bulk and height of the proposed development would dominate the site and negatively impact both the streetscape and the character of the area. There would be an unfortunate loss of green space and mature trees across the site. Residents from the one- and two-storey dwellings in the surrounding streets would also be adversely affected, including by an increase in traffic flow. The impact of the interface on adjacent low-density dwellings, Stanhope Road and bushland was clearly recognised, along with numerous other reasons, in Ku-ring-gai Council's resolution not to support the previous planning proposal in 2018. That refusal led to the current new rezoning application by Stockland.

Friends of Ku-ring-gai Environment [FOKE], a local community group that aims to protect the local heritage and environment, believes the planning proposal lacks strategic merit and is inconsistent with the Greater Sydney Region Plan, the North District Plan, the Ku-ring-gai Local Environmental Plan 2015 and the Ku-ring-gai Housing Strategy. FOKE believes the planning proposal aims to maximise development and financial gain for the owners of the site rather than fulfil strategic planning goals or care for elderly and vulnerable people, and that it certainly does not prioritise the potential risk to lives or homes in the event of a major bushfire in the adjoining bushland. Essentially, I agree.

Residents and neighbours are outraged by the current Gateway proposal and have consistently argued that the site is not appropriate for this type of development. They highlight that the steep-sloped bushland surrounding most of Lourdes is a fire hazard. Certainly it appears that the asset protection zones are not being respected. Recent bushfires in New South Wales sent a strong safety message that some people apparently are not hearing over the sound of money or the loud voice of developer self-interest. If evacuation orders were put in place, the fact that Stanhope Road is a cul-de-sac would make it difficult to evacuate the aged, disabled and unwell at the best of times. However, potentially doubling the number of residents on the site would make evacuation much more difficult. I understand that the last 400 metres of Stanhope Road—the only road to and from the village—is itself in the fire hazard zone.

I understand the RFS' own *Planning for Bush Fire Protection 2019* document requires a fuller fire risk assessment to be conducted at both the strategic planning and development application [DA] stages, especially regarding asset protection zone [APZ] provision compliance, as does section 9.1 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979. There appears to have been an inappropriate partial deferral of appropriate fire risk assessment by RFS to the DA or other latter stages, with RFS not as yet taking a position on the rezoning application or potential development. RFS has indicated that it does not object to the rezoning exhibition process, subject to future assessment when a more detailed engineering design is available. But worse than that, the proponents, through a report commissioned from Blackash Bushfire Consulting, have misrepresented RFS' current position as "support" for and "endorsement" of the rezoning. In these circumstances, I can understand why further studies are required.

It appears that Stockland has also lodged a DA with Ku-ring-gai Council to seek the premature demolition of a serviced apartment building following neglect of building maintenance. That is based on termite damage, without reference to whether that damage actually compromises the building's structural capacity. It appears the planning proposal would result in the population of the site rising from about 275 to 546 people. However, this would result in little increase in the number of beds for the aged. In fact, all the current serviced apartments, including those where residents have received a level of nursing care in the past, would disappear and the overall facility for the aged would be significantly downgraded under the proposed plans.

In addition to the new multi-level buildings housing seniors, it is proposed that 63 townhouses and 16 single family homes would be added along the site's bush line, with performance-based measures to supposedly address bushfire risks. In an earlier 2018 assessment RFS clearly indicated the inappropriateness of using new development to shield existing developments from bushfire hazard. However, where a planning proposal is for special fire protection purposes—for example, seniors housing—the APZ provisions must be complied with and a performance-based solution is not permitted. This approach is dictated by ministerial direction 4.4, clause (6) (b). Disturbingly, rezoning this land would create a precedent for others who might potentially use the excuse of increasing senior housing to develop sites outside the urban planning master plans. This would be detrimental, as these plans have been developed by planning experts to improve urban amenities and encourage livable cities.

I strongly support the residents and neighbours of Lourdes in resisting this proposed rezoning and redevelopment. It is inappropriate. It has upset a lot of aged residents who are unclear about their futures and would set an unhealthy precedent for developers looking for development sites in quiet residential areas, let alone ones with substantial bushfire risks. I am seriously concerned that the proper planning and assessment process is at risk of being subverted for this site. Approval is not in the public interest, and I urge the new owners to rethink their plans. In any event, I believe the Minister for Planning should stop the planning proposal at Gateway and Ku-ring-gai Council should refuse the related DA to demolish. I thank the House for its indulgence.

ORGAN DONATION

Mr JUSTIN CLANCY (Albury) (23:04): In the words of a recipient of organ donation:

I am a forever grateful and very humbled recipient of a liver transplant which saved my life on New Year's Eve 2021 ... If it weren't for the kindness of my Donor to register to give the gift of life, [and] their loved ones honouring their promise to donate life and the work of the fantastic transplant team, I would be dead. I awoke ... with a new liver and a brand new outlook on life.

Organ donation changes lives. There is no more literal truth than that organ donors are giving of themselves to others in need. In 2021 consent rates were 56 per cent nationally and 51 per cent in New South Wales. This represented a decline from 2020 consent rates, which were 58 per cent nationally and 56 per cent in New South Wales. COVID has slowed some aspects of donation. But, on a positive note, there was growth in the number of new registrations on the Australian Organ Donor Register in 2021, with around 350,000 people opting-in—representing an increase of 87 per cent from 2020.

A lengthy period of growth can be traced back to the introduction in 2009 of a national program to encourage donation. Since then, more than 15,500 people have received lifesaving organ transplants. The NSW Organ and Tissue Donation Service tells us that there are currently 1,750 Australians on organ transplant waiting lists. Donation is not always from a deceased person. "Living donations" form a major segment of donation, and in New South Wales the most common solid organs donated by living donors are kidneys and partial livers. The NSW Tissue Bank also accepts femoral head—bone—donations made by living donors. Cord blood and bone marrow also have living donation programs.

The framework for New South Wales is set out in the *Increasing Organ Donation in NSW: Government Plan 2012*. An implementation advisory committee chaired by the Chief Health Officer oversees this strategy. Three initiatives stand out for our attention. First, we need to encourage organ and tissue donation. The Australian Government's Organ and Tissue Authority *Strategic Plan 2021-22 to 2024-25* has been released and focuses on objectives to increase organ donation and transplantation. Campaigns do work.

Second, we can provide recognition of the donor's gift by noting details on the donor's death certificate, as has been the case since 2021 in the Australian Capital Territory. This incentive and recognition policy is now with the New South Wales Attorney General's office, in consultation with the NSW Registry of Births Deaths & Marriages. I take this opportunity to acknowledge the member for Willoughby, who has campaigned with me for that. I thank Minister Dominello, Minister Hazzard and the Attorney General for their attention.

Third, government can introduce cheek swabs as a non-invasive method of matching potential donors to the Australian Bone Marrow Donor Registry. In 2020-21, all Australian governments combined to fund the Australian Bone Marrow Donor Registry to set up the process to reach people beyond those who are currently donors within the Australian Red Cross Lifeblood collection service. This is under review at a national level. I encourage the review being completed so that we can move forward on this important task. One donor can save or greatly improve the lives of 10 or more people. According to the Organ and Tissue Authority:

In 2021 in Australia approximately 1,250 people died in a way where organ donation could be considered.

As a parent of a son who has received a bone marrow transplant, while I know that organ donation is a different matter, I can speak to the importance of someone volunteering to give such a gift. I urge people to tell their family they want to save lives and to register their decision with the Australian Organ Donor Register. People should discuss it with their family because their family needs to understand their wishes as well as their role if asked. For more information people can go to donatelife.gov.au.

I acknowledge the wonderful work being done by the Australian Organ and Tissue Authority, Transplant Australia, DonateLife, Donor Families Australia, the Attorney General, the Minister for Health, the Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government, and advocates such as Robert Manning, who help drive this important conversation. Finally, I encourage those who are at Parliament House on Wednesday 19 October to attend the Parliamentary Morning Tea for Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplant Awareness to show your support.

*Bills***CRIMES (SENTENCING PROCEDURE) AMENDMENT BILL 2022****SCRAP METAL INDUSTRY AMENDMENT (REVIEW) BILL 2022****CRIMES LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (ASSAULTS ON FRONTLINE EMERGENCY AND HEALTH WORKERS) BILL 2022****Returned**

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr David Layzell): I report receipt of messages from the Legislative Council returning the bills without amendment.

*Community Recognition Notices***HELFGOTT**

Mrs MELINDA PAVEY (Oxley)—Gillian Helfgott, tireless champion of local creativity, passed away last month aged 90 after a short illness. Her family wrote in a statement; "Gillian was an incandescent force in diverse areas of life." As the wife of David Helfgott – the internationally recognised concert pianist who found major fame following the Oscar-winning story of his life, *Shine* – Gillian travelled the world sharing her husband's gift, while maintaining her devotion to a suite of charities and social causes. Born in 1932, Gillian lived a life that was, in her own words, never boring. A New York Times bestselling author and a renown astrologer, many in the community will best remember her as an impassioned supporter of the art. But her benefaction did not stop at this. She loved Camp Creative, raised money for people with mental health, donated to youth groups and supported organisations involved in drug rehabilitation programs. Since Gillian's passing, tributes have poured in from across the world. While many celebrate the tremendous love and commitment to her husband, Gillian's legacy will live on in a myriad of different ways. My sincere condolences to Gillian's family – she really was a shining light to us all.

CASS VIETNAMESE ACTIVITY GROUP'S 4TH ANNIVERSARY AND MOON FESTIVAL CELEBRATIONS

Ms TANIA MIHAILUK (Bankstown)—I had the pleasure of attending the CASS Vietnamese Activity Group's 4th Anniversary and Moon Festival celebrations on Wednesday 15 September at Yagoona Senior Citizens' Centre. Since 1981, CASS has been providing a comprehensive range of social and community services including services in home age, residential aged care, disability support, childcare services, vocation, and training. CASS currently serve over 5,000 families every week and lead a team of over 500 staff members and more than 300 active volunteers. In 2018, the CASS Vietnamese group was established with only 10 members. The group has grown from strength to strength with 90 registered members, and over 50 members attending the weekly meetings. I would like to congratulate Henry Pam OAM, Ivan Wong, Vivian Dinh, CASS Vietnamese Group Leader Quang Minh Nguyen and the members of CASS Vietnamese Group on this terrific milestone. I also hope all those celebrating had a Happy Mid-Autumn Festival!

BANKSTOWN SPORTS NETBALL CLUB

Ms TANIA MIHAILUK (Bankstown)—I take this opportunity to congratulate the Bankstown Sports Netball Club [BSNC] on a successful season with the following teams; Grade 10C, Grade 12A, Grade 13A, Inters, Grade 15/16A, Grade 15/16B and Division 2 winning their respective competitions and becoming the Season Premiers. Bankstown Sports Netball Club was established in 1961 as one of the four founding clubs of Bankstown City Netball Association. The Club celebrated its 60th year last year, which is a terrific milestone and massive achievement for the Club. Bankstown Sports Netball Club grows from strength to strength each season, encouraging more girls to participate in netball. I wish to acknowledge Bankstown Sports Netball Club President Ashleigh Renton, Secretary Michelle Boulais, and Treasurer Allison Wright for their terrific work in promoting netball in our local community. Congratulations to all players, teams and coaches on a successful season!

MAX EMPLOYMENT EXPO

Ms TANIA MIHAILUK (Bankstown)—I was delighted to attend the Max Employment Expo at Mount Lewis Bowling Club on Wednesday 15 September. I thank Isabel Nohra, Ongoing Support and Employer Engagement Officer at Max Employment for her immense efforts in organising such a terrific expo. Max Employment are a registered training organisation that provide vocational, educational, and certified training services to individuals across the country. I had the pleasure of meeting and talking to some of the terrific organisations including Southern Cross Pacific, CTA Construction, SkillCo, and Primo, that are eager to provide training and employment opportunities for people in need. Over 150 Max employment candidates took part in the Expo at Mount Lewis Bowling Club on the day. I would like to congratulate Isabel and the terrific team at Max Employment for linking our most marginalised community members with business and employment opportunities.

A CAREER OF STORYTELLING AND INSPIRING CHILDREN

Mrs NICHOLE OVERALL (Monaro)—Having made a career of storytelling and inspiring children to use their imaginations, Children's Librarian Lynette Sebbens has retired after 35 years. Lynette arrived in Queanbeyan in 1985 after having completed post-graduate qualifications in librarianship and children's literature and working in Sydney's public libraries. During those 35 years, her passion for early literacy and reading development in children inspired her to initiate and present a variety of programs and events. Lynette's enduring motivation was to ensure that any experience of a public library or storytelling session was a positive, inclusive, and entertaining one for every child and adult participant. Children's Book Week was always a very special time,

and Lynette aimed to involve every school in the community. It was a great opportunity to highlight the importance of public libraries and Australian literature by featuring colourful artwork and displays created by local children and presenting interactive sessions. Highlights of Lynette's career include countless Storytime sessions, initiating a Book Buzz Club for school children to review new books, Librarian Network to share resources, Grandparent's Day, Seniors Week Storytime, multicultural events, author talks and National Simultaneous Storytime. I congratulate Lynette on her inspiring career.

DIAMOND DAYS AHEAD FOR YOUNG SOFTBALL STAR

Mrs NICHOLE OVERALL (Monaro)—Congratulations to Koby Conroy-Boceski, from Queanbeyan, who has recently been selected in the All Australian U17s School Boys Softball Team. Koby started playing tee-ball at the age of six for the Jerrabomberra Bombers, before trying his hand at modball and then onto softball with the Queanbeyan Bears Softball Club. Under the watchful gaze of local coaches, Fran Sweeney and Sonia Price, Koby learned the skills needed to become a leading catcher and very capable in other field positions. Koby was first selected to play NSW School Boys Softball at 12 years of age and has been representing the ACT in the State Softball League since the age of 13. In August, the Queanbeyan High School student played with Sydney East in the NSW Combined High Schools Sports Association Boys Softball Championships. He was awarded the most valuable player for his team, plus the Peter Ziegel Award and was selected in the Combined NSW High Schools team. Of the 86 players who were selected to compete at the NSW CHSSA Softball Championships, Koby Conroy-Boceski stood out to carnival managers and regional coaches as the best catcher in the tournament.

THE KIRK FAMILY FOUNDATION

Mrs NICHOLE OVERALL (Monaro)—There is a small Queanbeyan charity with a great track record of providing support to our local young people. The Kirk Family Foundation was established in 2008 by Don and Barbara Kirk and their children. Since then, it has provided more than \$500,000 to support local disadvantaged young people, particularly in the areas of health, education, employment and sport. In partnership with Karabar High School, the Foundation has recently assisted twenty-five Year 10 students who hoped for a future working in the trades. By aiding with learning and expanded opportunities, these students obtained their White Card, Asbestos Awareness and basic First Aid training. This makes it possible to access most work sites. Where necessary, the Foundation helped with work boots, appropriate work clothing and safety gear. And this is just the beginning. Through this partnership students in Years 9, 11 and 12 will benefit also. Planning is underway for industry opportunities in construction, hospitality and health as well as information sessions with local employers and training providers, plus visits and familiarisation with educational campuses. Congratulations Kirk Family Foundation – your practical, down-to-earth support has helped change the lives of these young people.

HENRY TUN — OUTSTANDING YOUTH AWARD

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla—Attorney General)—I congratulate Henry Tun on winning the Outstanding Youth Award at the 2022 Sutherland Shire Local Business Awards. This award recognises Henry for his drive and commitment in both work and volunteering. Henry is an auditor at Maher Group in Caringbah and has established himself as a dedicated and enthusiastic employee. He also commits hours of volunteer work to support international students and migrant communities. I commend Henry for his hard-work and contribution to the Sutherland Shire community.

DANIELA BOERMA — BUSINESS PERSON OF THE YEAR AWARD

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla—Attorney General)—I congratulate Daniela Boerma of Bliss Day Spa on winning Business Person of the Year at the 2022 Sutherland Shire Local Business Awards. Located in Caringbah, Bliss Day Spa offers traditional beauty treatments as well as advanced treatments for skin rejuvenation and tightening using the latest technology. Bliss Day Spa has previously won two Local Business Awards in the beauty services category. Daniela has owned Bliss Day Spa for eight years and puts her success down to the dedication and expertise of her team. Daniela's focus on staff education and salon upgrades ensure that the highest level of service is given to clients. Bliss Day Spa is a local success story providing quality service and I congratulate Daniela on her success at the Sutherland Shire Business Awards.

CRONULLA ROTARY - FIJI FUNDRAISER

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla—Attorney General)—I congratulate Cronulla Rotary Club on the success of this year's Fiji high tea fundraiser held in July. This year the event raised \$5394 for the 'Yavusania Village' project in Nadi, Fiji. For the past three years, Cronulla Rotary has raised funds alongside the Rotary Grant to help build a standalone medical treatment room which is supported by the Fijian Government. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, many local villagers have been unable to work and keep the clinic in surplus. Funds from this year's high tea will continue to support keeping the clinic open and ensuring a healthy future for local families by providing much needed medical supplies. The success of the Fiji High Tea could not have occurred without the

efforts of the Cronulla Rotary organising committee: Carol Denison, Irene Parker, Maria Moran, Ellen Klees and Cheryl Whyte. Many thanks also to guest speakers Rob Edwards; Ratu [Chief] Aisea Kaitu Vakalalabure of Natewa Bay Fiji; President Sikeli of Yavusania Medical Clinic Committee; and Dr Sai, Chief Medical Officer of Nadi Hospital.

BEAUTIFUL SOUTH HURSTVILLE MURAL

Mr CHRIS MINNS (Kogarah)—The intersection of King Georges Road and Grosvenor Street in South Hurstville is undergoing a vibrant facelift with a new public art mural. Created by artist Cragg in collaboration with Woniora Road School students, the King Georges Road mural is inspired by locally found flora and fauna and includes a kookaburra, a wren and two tawny frogmouths on branches. The background pattern is a typographic abstraction of nearby sections of the Georges River and the surrounding landscape. Each colour has been carefully selected; the red hue represents the rich clay in the river valleys, the orange symbolises the sandstone outcrops and the green and blue tones embody the sparkling river and remnant forest areas. The mural wall is made of concrete blockwork and is approximately two metres at its highest point and 15 metres long. The mural project is part of Georges River Council's Public Art Policy and Create Georges River Cultural Strategy. Woniora Road School provides education for high school age students who have disengaged from their education due to mental health issues. Congratulations to all involved in a project that provides a platform for artists as well as something that greatly beautifies our area.

CARLTON CHEF COMPETES IN WORLD FOOD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Mr CHRIS MINNS (Kogarah)—Congratulations to Carlton cooking talent Binod Dhungana who, after winning the chicken category in the Sydney competition, is among the finalists who will compete in the World Food Championships in Melbourne from 8–10 July. The prestigious event will be attended by some of Australia's best culinary talents including Miguel Maestre and Adriano Zumbo. Mr Dhungana, who works as a chef at the Intersection Tavern, Ramsgate, refined his skills during the second lockdown in Sydney when he had no job due to the hotel where he worked closing and was thinking about writing a cookbook to promote his Nepalese heritage. Passionate about cooking and also about Nepal, another reason for participating in the competition is to showcase Nepalese cuisine on an international platform. Cooking Nepalese fusion food in the seafood and barbecue categories using traditional Nepalese ingredients, Mr Dhungana has the opportunity to be one of six winners to win a place to compete in the world titles in Dallas, Texas. We all wish Mr Dhungana well and look forward to hearing about his culinary endeavours.

CLIVE JAMES LIBRARY QUILTING GROUP (KOGARAH)

Mr CHRIS MINNS (Kogarah)—I thank the talented members of the Clive James Library Quilting Group in for their enormous generosity – they have donated the hand-made quilts that they've been passionately and painstakingly working on throughout the year, to the St George Mental Health Service. All volunteers, the quilters take up to 20 hours and sometimes even longer to create each quilt. They create approximately 60 quilts a year. Based in Kogarah, the quilting group was formed in 2010 and members meet to share their knowledge and skills as well as keep each other company. As the group donates many of its works the group always welcome donations of thread and quilt fabrics. Donations can be left at the front desk at Clive James Library. It's groups like this that make such a difference to communities. Thank you again to the members for supporting another local and very worthy group.

CHURCH CELEBRATION IS FOR WHOLE COMMUNITY

Mr JUSTIN CLANCY (Albury)—I congratulate the Burrumbuttock community, who celebrated 150 years of their heritage and history at the Holy Cross Lutheran Church on Sunday 9 October 2022. The Burrumbuttock congregation was first established in 1872, followed by the opening of the Holy Cross Lutheran church in 1888. To celebrate this milestone occasion the Burrumbuttock community celebrated its history with a horse drawn carriage leading a procession to the church followed by a beautiful service. The carriage ride was in remembrance of the journey which German Lutherans took from the South Australia to settle in the Albury region. The Burrumbuttock Parish consists of five different preaching places with congregations at Bethlehem Jindera, Holy Cross Burrumbuttock, St John's Chapel Jindera, St Peter's Gerogery and Trinity Bethel. Congratulations go to Pastor Christian Fandrich who is ably assisted by congregation members Craig, Severin, Allan Skerry, Sarah Joy Fandrich, Enoch Fandrich and Abigail Fandrich. May this anniversary be both a celebration of the past and a blessing for the future.

SHOW STALWART RECOGNISED

Mr JUSTIN CLANCY (Albury)—I congratulate Mr John Knobel who was awarded the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW 2022 Medal, for his contribution to the Culcairn Agricultural Show over the past 30 years. The show is a fun day for all the family and provides the community with activities such as sheep shearing,

wood cutting and piglet races, arts and crafts and many other activities to enjoy. Others deserving of recognition include farmer Neville Feuerherdt who was awarded a lifetime membership, and Colin Cunningham who was also acknowledged. Both have been tirelessly volunteering their time for the show for many years. Neville's responsibilities lie in the poultry section and Colin's in the equestrian events. I also congratulate Mr Stephen Trickett - Secretary and treasurer of this event - and Ruth Scheetz - who won the Margaret O'Keefe Memorial Award for her beautiful efforts making a hand-made quilt that was two years in the making. Well done to all of you and thank you for your efforts in making this event a success and for your ongoing support of your community.

GREATER HUME CHILDREN SERVICES EDUCATOR WINS REGIONAL AWARD - NANDA JAMBLE

Mr JUSTIN CLANCY (Albury)—I congratulate Albury Family Day Care educator Mahananda 'Nanda' Jamble, who was presented with the prestigious award of 2022 Regional Educator of the Year for Albury Wodonga & Murray, Greater Hume Children Services. The award was delivered as a scholarship from Family Day Care Australia, and was in recognition of Nanda's commitment to the role of Support Co-ordinator, her innovative approaches, leadership, and efforts as an educator. I would also like to thank staff members Charmaine Blackett, Janese McGowan and Kim Hawkins from Greater Hume Children Services who also attended. Congratulations and thank you for your commitment to local families and the education of our children.

PASHTUN CULTURE DAY

Mr PAUL LYNCH (Liverpool)—I recognise Pashtun Culture Day which was celebrated on 23 September. This year, a celebration was held at the Liverpool Catholic Club on that day with several hundred people in attendance. I understand that this was the first official event of this nature in Australia. The organisers aim to promote peace through education, culture, sports and tourism. The event presented Pashtun music, history and culture and featured Pashto singers and musicians. Pashtun presence in Australia dates from 1828 with camel drivers playing an important role in colonial history. There was an emphasis on the night to peace and harmony in a multicultural Australia. I acknowledge the role of the Chairperson of the Pashtun Community Organisation and the main organiser of the event, Kamellah Khan Miankhel. Also present at the event was the Consul-General of Pakistan, Muhammad Ashraf.

WESTCARE 45TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr STUART AYRES (Penrith)—I congratulate Andrew Paech and his team at Westcare who celebrate their 45th anniversary this year. Since 1977 WestCare have been assisting people in a compassionate and sensitive manner during times of suffering, misfortune and helplessness. To this day they remain committed to making a real difference across our community. Fantastic milestone WestCare!

COWRA-GRENFELL MEALS ON WHEELS

Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra—Minister for Emergency Services and Resilience, and Minister for Flood Recovery)—I congratulate Cowra-Grenfell Meals on Wheels as they celebrate 60 years of service this week. Established in 1962 when a small group began cooking at Oddfellows Hall, the service would later move to the hospital and amalgamate with Cowra in 1994. Today there are 100 active volunteers on the books, boosted by other organisations including Rotary, Lions, CWA and church groups. Offering a hot meal and frozen food service seven days a week, they have also grown to offer community luncheons, as well as Wednesday wandering and Thursday travelling lunch groups. While their focus is meals to support older residents to live independently, volunteers also work hard to ensure food security for those who need it, including programs which have people sharing a meal together. We know eating together as friends offers an important social connection, particularly for those who may be finding it a little tough. This on the ground care is so important to have locally. I congratulate and commend who have contributed to the success of Meals on Wheels over the past 60 years and wish you all the very best for the celebrations at Grenfell Bowling Club.

SUZANNE HYDE

Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra—Minister for Emergency Services and Resilience, and Minister for Flood Recovery)—Congratulations to Suzanne Hyde who has been recognised for 20 years' service as a Student Learning Support Officer at Holman Place School, Cowra. Currently in the Wombats Room, "Miss Sue" has made an enormous contribution across all areas of the school since she first commenced as a cleaner in 1991. Having a clear rapport with students, a former Principal encouraged her to train up in learning support and we are so glad she did. As Sue says, it is a big thing to have seen so many children through from Kindergarten through to Year 12, and she still enjoys seeing a number of former students, now in adulthood, around the Cowra community. There are two former students Sue recalls with fondness, which certainly speaks to the invaluable contribution SLSOs make in encouraging, guiding, and supporting students to reach their potential. In this respect, it is also very fitting Sue was recognised by Principal Rebecca Halls at around the same time as Australian

Teacher's Aide Week and School Administrative and Support Staff Week. Thank you Sue for the many ways in which you have made a difference at Holman Place School over the past 30 years.

NSW RFS MEDAL PRESENTATION

Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra—Minister for Emergency Services and Resilience, and Minister for Flood Recovery)—Members of the Coolamon, Ganmain, Marrar, Ardlethan, Matong and Cowabbie Rural Fire Service [RFS] Brigades recently met in Coolamon for the 2022 Emergency Medals presentation. NSW RFS Deputy Commissioner, Kyle Stewart, awarded the National Emergency Medal to nine volunteers whose courage during the 2019-2020 bush fire season saved the lives of many. Peter Barnard, Andrew Hawthorne, David Scarlett, Terry Garner, John Rudeforth, Stuart Seymour, David McCann, Margaret Randall and Martin Steele were the recipients of the National Emergency Medal. The recipients of the Long Service Medals for 10 years of service were; David McCann, Margaret Randall, William Randall and Paul Horan. 20 years of service; John Bond, Peter Dennis and Guy Purcell. 30 years of service; David Currie, Andrew Plane, Paul Griffith, Stephen Exton and Barry Noble. 40 years of service; Malcolm Rees, Kerry Linsell, Brian Pleming and Martin Steele. 50 years of service; John Chamberlain, Barrie Brill, Daryl Guthrie, Bruce Hutcheon, Colin Smith, Alfred Winrow, Leslie Warran, Phillip Furnell and Leslie Cooper. 60 years of service; Peter Lucas, William Kember, Neville Gillette and Rodney Hatty and 70 years of service medal was presented to Pat Quinn. Congratulations to all medal recipients.

PENNO HIGH WINTER CARNIVAL

Mr MATT KEAN (Hornsby—Treasurer, and Minister for Energy)—I recognise Pennant Hills High School P&C, who held an amazing event, their inaugural Penno High Winter Carnival, in June. A fun-filled event, it was supported by local businesses through generous sponsorship. After two difficult years, the event was welcomed back by the community. Over 8000 visitors enjoyed rides, food trucks, market stalls, and sideshow attractions, plus school bands and entertainers from across the district. Ex-students and teachers showcased their art and craft. Students plunged their Principal in the Dunking Tank, teachers sold raffle tickets and 200 parents rolled their sleeves up to help. Local RFS, SES, Ambulance and Police, plus Rotary and Civic Trust, were all involved. The carnival opened with a smoking ceremony by an Indigenous Elder and ended with magnificent fireworks. I acknowledge Carnival Director Michelle Scott, President Dayan McLeod and their team: Lizzie Murphy, Jennifer Ashton, Amanda Long, Olivia and David Allen, Leeanne Young, Sandra Yo, Jude Best, Adriana Carvelho, Jo Cumarasamy, Fran Brogan, Naomi Lewandoski, Tamara Filer, Rebecca Schilg, Justin Leon, Otte Homan, Brett Gosschalk and Jamie Davidson. They raised over \$25,000 which will be invested back into the school. Congratulations on a wonderful community event.

NORTHHOLM GRAMMAR SCHOOL LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Mr MATT KEAN (Hornsby—Treasurer, and Minister for Energy)—Today I recognise the Northholm Grammar School Leadership Development Program for Year 11 provides students. It provides an opportunity to engage in a complex task in allowing students to grow in their leadership capabilities going into the HSC. A group of students organised a fundraising initiative for Camp Quality, which supports children, aged 0-15 years, who have terminal cancer. After coordinating a series of fundraising and educational activities to raise awareness, the students concluded the initiative by leading a Masquerade Dinner attended by students, parents, staff and members of the community on Saturday 10 September. There were more than 200 people from the community who attended the evening in support of the initiative. The event was organised by Sienna Arena-Milne (Year 11) and her fellow peers. They raised a remarkable \$40,000 for Camp Quality. Congratulations to Sienna and her team for pulling together this outstanding achievement and supporting a very worthy cause. You should all be very proud.

VOLUNTEERS GREG & JENNY CLARKE, HORNSBY/BEROWRA JUNIOR AFL CLUB

Mr MATT KEAN (Hornsby—Treasurer, and Minister for Energy)—I recognise two wonderful volunteers, Greg and Jenny Clarke, who have been the Hornsby Berowra Eagles Junior AFL Club's backbone for years. They have continued with the club as dedicated volunteers even after their children finished playing years ago. Greg and Jenny first became involved in 2000, when their eldest son started Auskick. Jenny joined the committee in 2011 and was the Registrar for the next four seasons. Their son was Ground Manager from 2012 to 2014, and his parents supported him in this huge role. The Clarkes returned to the club in 2016, and Jenny has been Registrar for the past seven seasons, and assisted Greg as Ground Manager. This amazing couple were responsible for jerseys, uniforms and equipment. They helped out in the canteen, organised trivia nights and answered many questions from everyone. Every summer was spent preparing for the upcoming season. They are retiring and I know they are genuinely loved and already greatly missed by the Eagles community. For their significant efforts, Greg and Jenny were awarded Life Membership in 2016. It is my pleasure to also recognize their valuable contribution.

SHEREE MASON

Ms ANNA WATSON (Shellharbour)—I congratulate Sheree Mason who, for the third year running, will soon ride 1,000 kilometres from Ballina to Kanahooka, to raise money for the Illawarra Community Foundation as part of the Illawarra 2022 Convoy. Ms Mason has already raised over \$21,000 this year and over \$50,000 over three years, with more donations coming in every day. The Illawarra Convoy will be held on 20 November 2022 this year and I thank all of the participants, volunteers and supporters for their amazing work raising money for various charities across the Illawarra.

BLAKE WALLACE

Ms ANNA WATSON (Shellharbour)—I congratulate and thank Blake Wallace, Dapto Canaries Rugby League Head Coach, for running 72 kilometres on 30 September 2022 to raise money for Prostate Cancer research. Mr Wallace's efforts in completing 'The Long Run' raised over \$2,000 for this extremely important cause. Prostate Cancer kills over 3,000 Australian men every year and the money raised by Mr Wallace will go towards research that will assist the Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia to make prostate cancer history.

ADELAIDE STREET OVAL PROJECT NOW COMPLETE

Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal)—Recently I had the honour of joining Killarney Vale Bombers ALF Club and Central Coast Council to officially hand over the keys to the new, improved, and accessible facility at Adelaide Street Oval in Killarney Vale. Local players and supporters from across our region will benefit from this upgrade jointly funded by the NSW Government, Central Coast Council, and the Australian Football League. As you can imagine, I was absolutely thrilled to provide the Bombers the funding needed to launch this project. The sportsground's new amenities building is fit for purpose, meeting the growing needs of local sporting groups. The building includes four unisex change rooms, unisex toilets, ambulant & accessible toilets, a first aid room, and ample storage. In addition, new concrete pathways have been constructed around the perimeter of the building linking to the carpark and existing AFL Clubhouse. The project was made possible thanks to over \$900,000 through the Stronger Country Communities Fund. Quality infrastructure supports local sporting groups, encourages active and healthy lifestyles, and creates opportunities for social connections. This upgraded sports amenity will provide an accessible facility so everyone can participate in local sport.

KARIONG REGIONAL SHOOTING COMPLEX

Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal)—Allow me to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the Kariong Regional Shooting Complex. Established initially as the Gosford District Rifle Club in August 1974, the complex has since migrated to Kariong where it services a growing community, housing a total of five clubs. The Complex offers a safe environment for community participation, where age, gender, and physical ability become secondary to learning and a community atmosphere. The Gosford District Rifle Club is one of the largest long range target clubs in NSW, first captained by Jim Sweet. Sweet was a local chemist and optometrist, owning a shop in Mann Street, Gosford. He set the tone of this community-minded organisation, which continues to be a welcoming facility focussed on providing a unique sporting opportunity. Jim Sweet is a highly successful shooter, awarded both State and National Champion. He went on to author "Competitive Rifle Shooting", a book touted as the "Bible" of shooting. He was further awarded an OAM for his contribution and service to the sport. Dedication of local leaders such as Jim Sweet, partnered with the club's has ensured the longevity of the organisation. Congratulations again on 75 years.

ERIN ROGER AWARDED PRESTIGIOUS 2022 CHURCHILL FELLOWSHIP

Ms JO HAYLEN (Summer Hill)—I am pleased to congratulate Marrickville resident ecologist, Erin Roger who has been awarded a Fellowship by the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust. As a part of the Churchill Fellows Association of NSW, Erin's project aims to harness the collective power of citizen science to help address Australia's biosecurity challenges. The Churchill Fellowship offers Erin the opportunity to pursue fully funded international travel for the purpose of this project. During her overseas study, Erin will be able to learn from and adapt a vast range of international biosecurity programs and approaches. The project seeks to bring Australia to the forefront of advancements in biosecurity by refining our community-led surveillance techniques. This Fellowship represents the next big step in Erin's repertoire of scientific contributions as a leading expert in the biosecurity sector. Erin's work most recently includes a suite of citizen science projects for the Office of the Threatened Species Commissioner, which engaged the public in monitoring the environmental recovery post bushfire. Thank you to Erin Roger for all her incredible contributions to the scientific community, and to the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust for granting this opportunity.

2022 WINTER PREMIERS - SUMMER HILL LAKERS NETBALL CLUB

Ms JO HAYLEN (Summer Hill)—Congratulations to the Summer Hill Lakers Netball Club for an excellent winter season. In late August, the club charged into the grand finals of their winter competition with five different teams: the Quolls, Possums, Bullants, Wagtails, and Firetails. It was pouring with rain when the teams faced up against their friendly opponents, but the Lakers did not let these tough conditions break their spirits in the slightest. The day had come to a close with two of these teams emerging from their courts successfully! I would like to congratulate the Lakers A1 Firetails on securing the premiership for Summer Hill. And I would also like to recognise the fantastic sporting efforts of the Lakers 15/4 Quolls for not only winning the gold but remaining undefeated throughout their entire season! What an astounding group of athletes. I wish the Summer Hill Lakers Netball Club luck going into their summer competition starting soon.

THE SUMMER HILL LITTLE BIG HOUSE

Ms JO HAYLEN (Summer Hill)—I congratulate the Little BIG Foundation on opening The Summer Hill Little BIG House. The Little BIG Foundation was set up to address Australia's loneliness epidemic. Their work has been so important through the COVID-19 pandemic, multiple lockdowns and rising social disconnection. Located on Flour Mill Way, the Summer Hill Little BIG House has been the site for a range of events and activities aimed to spark connections and bring joy into the local community. Ultimately, the space was designed to inspire and empower communities by promoting the five ways to wellbeing; connect, take notice, be active, keep learning and help others. Since opening it has become a rich cultural hub in our suburb, providing a platform for local live music acts, hosting foodies markets, and running other community and healthy-lifestyle oriented events. The space also allows locals to take the lead and use the space to host programs and events that celebrate or engage with their social hobby, activity, or initiative. I thank the Little BIG Foundation for their efforts in connecting the Summer Hill community and tackling the issue of loneliness and social isolation in Australia.

CAMPBELLTOWN THEATRE GROUP

Mr GREG WARREN (Campbelltown)—There are so many talented artists in Campbelltown and wider Macarthur region. But it's not just musicians and those who use canvases that shine. The Campbelltown Theatre Group has been unearthing some of the best local talent since its first performance 65 years ago. That production was of course, *The Pirates of Penzance*. The not-for-profit group is run entirely by passionate members with any income used for maintenance and production purposes. The group boasts more than 100 members from ages 7 up to 70. Many of those members have previously worked in professional theatre while former members have used their experience at the CTG to practice their art before embarking on a professional career. For more than 40 years the group has also been based out of one of Campbelltown's oldest buildings – the heritage-listed Campbelltown Town Hall Theatre. The CGT has put on a number of productions over the years including: *Oklahoma*; *The Kind and I*; *Oliver!*; *The Sound of Music*; *Aladdin*; *My Fair Lady*; and many more. More recent productions include: *Mamma Mia*; *Chicago*; *Macbeth*; and *The Boy From Oz*. I can't wait to see what the CTG has in store in the future.

MACARTHUR BULLS FC

Mr GREG WARREN (Campbelltown)—It has only taken a couple of years for Macarthur Bulls FC to earn the reputation of A-League heavy weights. And the reputation increased 10-fold recently when the players, led by coach Dwight Yorke, took home the Australia Cup. Goals from Al Hassan Toure and Ulises Davila ensured the result would go down in the history books. It was a wonderful run for our local club that started with the round of 32 result in July, a 6-0 win over the Magpies Crusaders. That was followed by a 4-0 win against Modbury Jets and a 2-0 win against fellow A-League side, Wellington Phoenix, in August. The September 14 clash against the Oakleigh Cannons ultimately ended Macarthur's clean sheet run however the 5-2 result was enough to secure a spot in the final. The club, its players and its staff have been truly embraced by our region since they entered the nation's premier competition. The Macarthur region is the fastest growing region in the state and we were long overdue for our own A-League side. Congratulations again to the Bulls on a wonderful result. You did Campbelltown and the wider Macarthur region proud.

INDEPENDENT CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOLS STATE FINAL

Mrs LESLIE WILLIAMS (Port Macquarie)—I recognise St Peters Primary School, Port Macquarie for their sensational win against St Columbkille's Catholic Primary School in the Independent Catholic Primary Schools Challenge [ICPSC] State Final held on 25th August at Corrimal, Wollongong. A concerted and determined effort by all players saw St Peters Primary School secure the championship 16 points to 6. I congratulate the team for their superb win and acknowledge the players that made it happen: Captain Tobias Rowlatt, Spencer Stewart, Rocky Mann, Harrison Healey, Riley Garel, Ryder Colthorpe, Connor Brindle, Eli

Tink, Issac Green, Oliver Parker, Jack Lacey, Sebastian Thomas, Oliver Laundry, Kyan Vonbun, Elijah Westbrook, Sonny Cowan, Jacob Lane-Rowsthorne, Judd Charet. Man of the Match was awarded to Tobias Rowlatt for scoring 10 points to edge his team to victory. I also thank the support staff, Coach and Principal Geoff Leary, Leader of Sport Jeff Arkinstall, Mark Rowlatt and Dave Lacey for their contribution. Congratulations!

FAR KEW RALLY

Mrs LESLIE WILLIAMS (Port Macquarie)—I recognise the Hastings Chapter of the American Motorcycle Club Australia and acknowledge their annual fundraiser event known as the Far Kew Rally held on 13-14 August 2022. The AMC Hastings Chapter coordinate a motorcycle rally each year to showcase their leathers, wheels and chrome amongst enthusiasts from across Australia uniting in a ride to raise funds for a chosen charity. Over the years the AMC have donated to Riding for the Disabled, the Mid North Coast Cancer Institute and Community at 3. Undeterred by the wet weather on the Friday, over 800 members roared through the gates of the Camden Haven Showgrounds to enjoy a couple of days of good music, food, drinks and entertainment in the regional town of Kendall. Doug Williams is President of the AMC Hastings Chapter and is one of 20 members who organised the successful weekend which attracted bikers from South Australia, Victoria, Queensland and from all corners of NSW. Doug and his team of avid riders were pleased to support this year's selected charity Camden Haven Community at 3 – a worthy recipient that provides food and temporary housing to our most vulnerable. Congratulations to everyone involved.

WICKED ELF WINS GOLD

Mrs LESLIE WILLIAMS (Port Macquarie)—A highly regarded brewery in my electorate has won Gold at the 2022 Sydney Royal Beer and Cider Awards. The Wicked Elf in Port Macquarie has taken out a major accolade at Australia's toughest beer and cider competition, winning the Chair of Judges praise with a locally made Pale Ale. Wicked Elf's head brewer Ryan Nilsson-Linne impressed the judging panel from a long list of entrants, with our local brewery also claiming three bronze medals for its Fastidious Bastard IPA, Big Red IPA and Porter. The Sydney Royal Beer and Cider Awards are held annually by the Royal Agricultural Society and this year awarded a total of 267 Gold, Silver and Bronze medals from 348 entries. The Wicked Elf has been creating award-winning independent beer in Port Macquarie since 2008. Located in Port Macquarie's industrial estate, the modern looking taproom features 12 taps of the Mid North Coast finest brews while offering stylish dining facilities and live music entertainment in the beer garden on Friday and Saturday nights. I congratulate Ryan and his team for their sensational efforts at the Royal Beer and Cider Awards and wish them all the best for their future brews.

YENNORA PUBLIC SCHOOL – WORM FARM HARVEST WORKSHOP

Mr GUY ZANGARI (Fairfield)—On Tuesday 13 September 2022, students from Yennora Public School attended a Worm Farm Harvest Workshop at SCRAP Ltd to learn about worming. During the workshop, students and their carers learned about the nature of worms and how to harvest them. It was a fun day where the students participated in making their own mini worm farms to take back home. They also assisted in setting up their own Worm Café which has also been taken back to Yennora Public School. The workshop offered students the opportunity to learn more about gardening and how to use what they have learned in the classroom in a practical manner. I commend the efforts of SCRAP Ltd for offering the students this visual learning opportunity. I also acknowledge and thank the teachers and carers of the students without whom this opportunity would not have been possible.

PAM BATKIN

Mr GUY ZANGARI (Fairfield)—On Tuesday 27 September, Woodville Alliance and the local community gathered to farewell Ms Pam Batkin upon her retirement as CEO of Woodville Alliance, a position she has held since 2010. A staunch supporter of the local community, Pam has been, in her time as CEO, instrumental in expanding the services Woodville Alliance provides to meet the needs of the growing number of communities who require assistance. What I will remember most about Pam's advocacy for the local community is her strong sense of social justice and the wish we all share for a fairer society. I wish to thank Pam for her many years of service to the Fairfield community and I wish her all the very best in her future endeavours.

PYT FAIRFIELD

Mr GUY ZANGARI (Fairfield)—On Monday 29 August 2022 I visited the School of the Arts in Fairfield to chat with PYT Fairfield Creative Director Jacqueline Hornjik about all things theatre. I was fortunate to be there when a round table discussion was taking place regarding PYT's plans for future productions. As a theatre company, PYT is an asset to our community, developing our young local artists and creating culturally diverse works which have been seen at places all across Australia such as the Opera House, the Sydney Festival, the Arts House Melbourne and the Adelaide Festival Centre. PYT productions have won a HELPMANN Award and

nomination, SMAC Award and Australian Dance Award. I commend Jacqueline and the PYT team and I wish them all the very best in their upcoming productions.

CWA LISMORE DAY BRANCH AGM

Ms JANELLE SAFFIN (Lismore)—Last week the wonderful women from the mighty Country Women's Association Lismore Day Branch held their Annual General Meeting. It was great to see a big turnout for the meeting. I wish to congratulate and thank all members who were elected to positions in the branch. These women are all volunteers who give so much to our community. The office bearers for this year are President - Aliison Kelly, Treasurer - Valerie Britland, Secretary - Robyn Kelly, Vice Presidents - Marg Seydel and Bev Payne, International Officer - Helen Dargin, Environment and Ag - Kaye Martin, Cookery Officer - Jannese Parkes, Handicrafts Officer - Vicki Boyle and Cultural Officer - Aunty Thelma James. A special thanks to Janet Henderson, Far North Coast Group President for officiating the meeting. All positions were filled which shows the branch going from strength to strength. A special shout out to Audrey Mallaby who has received a long service badge for 20 years membership and has now become a branch patron. A fitting honour for two decades of service and friendship. I congratulate all the members and wish them well for the coming year.

URLIP CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF SERVICE

Ms JANELLE SAFFIN (Lismore)—I congratulate the fantastic team at the regional assessment and rehabilitation unit at Murwillumbah District Hospital, known as Urlip on celebrating 25 years of getting Murwillumbah and Tweed Valley locals moving. Urlip is in reference to the area of the Tweed Valley that can be seen from the windows of the dining room. Originally a dairy farming area where the farmers had to be "up early" to get the milk ready to go to the factory for processing. This fits in well with the mission of Urlip to get patients up and going after undergoing treatment in hospital. Since the first patient stepped over the threshold in 1997, the unit has treated approximately 5000 patients with an average discharge to home rate of 92 per cent, and 99 per cent of patients being discharged with improved function. It was extra special to see three original staff members celebrate their service to Urlip since its establishment. They are Michelle Aitken (Housekeeping), Rob Castle (Allied Health Assistant) and Deb Huxstep (NUM). I thank everyone who has contributed to the last 25 years of quality healthcare to locals in Murwillumbah and the Tweed Valley provided by Urlip.

LISMORE LIONS CLUB 75TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER

Ms JANELLE SAFFIN (Lismore)—Lions Club of Lismore had a fabulous 75th birthday on the first of October, that was attended by many special Lions Members including District Governor Ian Bruning, Lismore President Brian Johnson, Super Secretary Margaret Condon, Keith Hamilton, Tony Smith, Elaine Bullman, Leon Horan, Jack Sheridan, Don Watson and Kay Scott (who cut the cake) and Lismore Mayor Steve Krieg and Julianne Krieg (Steve gave a funny speech telling among other things why blue and gold (Lions colours) were their colours). I was invited to give the international toast and in so doing I spoke about the good humanitarian works Lions do worldwide, and locally (1.4 million members in 205 countries/geographic areas) proposing the International Toast. Don Watson made a beautiful heart as well which lit up celebrating 75 years of Lions. Keynote speaker was Dr. Dominic Guanzon who outlined his applied research still in process that in short is directed to help women with ovarian cancer. His work is supported by another part of Lions. The entire night was enjoyable from start to finish and made more so by Lions Chairman extraordinaire, Doug Fraser. Thanks to all Lions who serve our communities.

SENIORS MORNING TEA

Mr TIM JAMES (Willoughby)—Our local seniors are respected, valued and appreciated members of the Willoughby community. On Monday 29 August, I was proud and delighted to host a community forum and morning tea for local seniors. I thank the one hundred local people who joined us at North Sydney Leagues Club in Cammeray to make it a special event. In Willoughby, our senior citizens stand out as great pillars of our community, giving so generously of their time and rich life experience. From coordinating working bees, to volunteering in hospitals, staffing school canteens, running local clubs, or serving with clubs such as Rotary, Probus and Lions, our senior citizens do an enormous amount of good to make our lives better. The morning tea was not only an occasion to honour our seniors, but also a great opportunity for me to listen to their concerns about local issues and hear their feedback. I extend my thanks to the Minister for Seniors, Mark Coure MP, Service NSW representatives, and the officers from Chatswood Police Station for their great contributions to the event.

HEADSPACE CHATSWOOD

Mr TIM JAMES (Willoughby)—The mental health of our youth is a priority for all of us in our communities and on Wednesday 5 October, I was pleased to be able to attend the open day of my local Headspace in Chatswood. Headspace Chatswood is a free and confidential service where young people aged 12-25 and their families can access support for their mental health, physical and sexual health, drug and alcohol concerns and

work and study needs. Each year, Headspace helps thousands of young people, and their family and friends, access vital support through its services in over 145 communities across Australia. In addition to its centres in towns and suburbs such as Chatswood, Headspace offers support via its online and phone counselling services, its vocational services, and its presence in schools. After more than two years of COVID-related disruptions, Headspace Chatswood was able to host its first open day in three years. I thoroughly enjoyed meeting Chatswood's dedicated team of staff and commend them for the invaluable work they do in addressing the mental health of our young people.

CHATSWOOD MOON FESTIVAL

Mr TIM JAMES (Willoughby)—My electorate of Willoughby is home to a proud Chinese Australian community and I am grateful for the rich contribution they make to our cultural life. This was evident in the popular and well-received Moon Festival celebrations in Chatswood over the second week of September. I give credit to both the Chinese Community Council of Australia and the Multicultural Communities Council of NSW for organising this weekend of festivities. I would also like to thank the sponsors; King Dynasty, Medibank, Streetwork, FutureHub and Tak Kee for their support. Last but not least, I commend the Chatswood International Rotary Club, Yau Kung Mun and the Lion Dance Kids for producing the Festival's programme. The Moon Festival featured a lion dance parade, a lantern making competition, a Moon Cake demonstration and multiple dance performances. I was delighted to join the festivities and thoroughly enjoyed the vibrant, colourful exhibitions on display. Importantly, the Moon Festival celebrates family, thanksgiving and unity in our diversity. The Festival brought great joy to our community and I thank all of the talented and dedicated people who made it possible.

GLEBE SOCIETY

Mr JAMIE PARKER (Balmain)—Today I recognise the Glebe Society, a community organisation that for over 50 years has worked to protect heritage, encourage a sense of community and care for the environment. The Members of the Glebe Society are keenly involved in preserving and celebrating the history of Glebe while also shaping its future as a people-focussed, sustainable and culture-rich area. The knowledge, experience and passion of Glebe Society members is a vital resource in the local community. I acknowledge and thank the management committee, past and present including Ian Stephenson, Mark Stapleton, Janet Wahlquist, Jude Paul, Jane Gatwood, Ted McKeown, Michael Morrison and Mary-Beth Brinson, and Society Convenors and members including Allan Hogan, Asa Wahlquist, Andrew Wood, Allan Hogan, Brian Fuller, Lyn Milton, Virginia Simpson-Young, Judy Vergison, Lyn Collingwood, Max Solling, Dorothy Davis, Katharine Vernon, Tarny Burton and Sarah Fogg.

TAKE WHAT YOU NEED/GIVE WHAT YOU CAN

Mrs SHELLEY HANCOCK (South Coast)—Coralie Smith and Matilda Raiss two year 7 students at Ulladulla high School and members of the First Burrill-Ulladulla Sea Scouts have gone above and beyond organising the "Take what you need/Give what you can" pantry. The pantry, two impressive young girls have put together is incredible and they simply just want to help people, their idea started when they saw on the news the financial pressure on families and the cost of living was on the rise. The pantry is located at the First Burrill – Ulladulla Sea Scouts Hall and anyone and everyone are welcome and encouraged to either give or take during these tuff times, the food pantry was established to help people in need. With the success of the first food pantry the girls are now thinking about establishing a second food pantry at another local in the Ulladulla area. The girls have also applied to Second bite (a national food rescue organisation) to get donations of food. I would like to acknowledge and congratulate Matilda and Coralie for there outstanding efforts and hard work to do what they can to assist and help their community during tuff times.

WALLACIA PLAYGROUP

Mrs TANYA DAVIES (Mulgoa)—Today I take the opportunity to welcome back Wallacia Playgroup. After a period of shutting their doors during the COVID-19 restrictions, the Wallacia Playgroup have returned to operating again. The group meet weekly during the school term, helping children make friends and develop their social skills. It is especially pleasing to see that parents and the local community have shown their resilience in supporting the return of the Wallacia Playgroup. The health restrictions were harsh and hampered almost every community activity. I congratulate the Wallacia Playgroup and the local community on operating once more to unite children to enjoy mornings of fun while parents can also be supported.

JASMINE FOOTIT

Mrs TANYA DAVIES (Mulgoa)—Congratulations to Jasmine Footit, a Mulgoa local who was awarded the Penrith Valley Sports Foundation Senior Sports Star Award. A gymnast for the past nine years, Jasmine has collected an assortment of medals for outstanding talent and this year in May qualified for the Australian Gymnastics Championships on the Gold Coast, which was held in late May. Jasmine won the Gold medal on

Vault, Silver on Floor and Silver as part of the Level 9 NSW team. Jasmine is a leading example of the amazing and incredible sporting talent that is born out of the Mulgoa electorate. I am confident of the bright future that Jasmine has and I wish her every success in her gymnastic career.

NANGAMAY PUBLIC SCHOOL

Mrs TANYA DAVIES (Mulgoa)—Today I would like to recognise the enormous progress being made on the newest public school to be built in my electorate of Mulgoa. Nangamay Public School, located in Mulgoa Rise estate of Glenmore Park, is due to open for the start of term 1 in 2023, the slabs have been laid and much of the extensive groundwork is close to completion. I want to thank Sharon Gordon, Principal of Nangamay Public School for all her work connecting with the community and collaborating with all the relevant stakeholders to ensure that this will be one of the greatest public schools in all of Western Sydney. I look forward to the School's opening and I am very excited for all the students and parents who will be able to enjoy world class facilities and experience the best of NSW public education.

BRENDA CLOUTEN TRAVELLING ART SCHOLARSHIP

Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland)—Fifteen times, as art lovers, patrons and friends, Vicki and Bruce Woods have stepped up to provide their unique Hunter-based scholarship program started in honour of their dear friend Brenda Clouten in 2005. On Friday 19 August 2022 the Judges, artist Kate Rohde and sponsors Vicki and Bruce Woods, announced the following awards at the opening event: WINNER, HOLLY MACDONALD for This water thinks a lot about moving; RUNNER UP, LOVEDAVID for ARTCART (Prototype?Field Test Unit #001); HIGHLY COMMENDED, LISS FINNEY Shifting vapour, floating water. (One day I will be the sky). Hunter-based artists, aged 35 years and under were invited to apply and to include their plans for the scholarship to support their practice through either study, travel or studio support. The other 7 finalists were Sophie Elinor, Kulka Fahey, Aksara Harirram, Will Maguire, James Rhodes, Alessia Sakoff, Elliot Watson. The exhibition was just one of a number of stunning installations at Maitland Regional Art Gallery, and continues until Sunday 6 November 2022. Congratulations to Gerry Bobsien and all the team at MRAG for another great night of art!"

MAITLAND RSL SUB BRANCH WOMEN'S AUXILIARY BIRTHDAY LUNCHEON

Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland)—Recently I joined Federal member for Paterson, Meryl Swanson MP to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Maitland RSL Sub-branch Women's Auxiliary at Club Maitland City. In a wonderful display of solidarity and support, the Auxiliary was joined by members from across the Hunter and the Central Coast. The Australian Imperial Service of Women's Auxiliary was formed in Phillip Street, Sydney by the mothers, wives, widows, sisters, daughters, and aunts of men who served in the Australian Imperial Forces during the First World War. The Auxiliaries have since grown and strengthened and are guided on the sense of fellowship and the desire to care for our veterans, which has seen them become an integral part of the RSL, and indeed the Maitland community. I want to thank everyone involved in the Maitland RSL Sub-Branch Women's Auxiliary and congratulate you all on the celebration of the 100th anniversary, a truly inspiring testimony to the lifelong camaraderie you foster, and important support you provide.

EAST MAITLAND RSL SUB BRANCH WOMEN'S AUXILIARY 88TH BIRTHDAY LUNCHEON

Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland)—Recently I had a wonderful afternoon at the East Maitland RSL NSW Memorial Hall celebrating the 88th anniversary of the East Maitland RSL Sub Branch Women's Auxiliary and the Life Membership of Mair Fullerton. It was an important day for the Branch with RSL NSW President Ray James OAM and RSL NSW Auxiliaries Coordinator Pauline James OAM in attendance. I joined Ray and Federal Member for Paterson Meryl Swanson MP and East Maitland RSL's Patron Peter Blackmore OAM as they unveiled the life buoy from the recently decommissioned HMAS Maitland which was so beautifully mounted by Tom Grieves. Long serving Secretary Neil Cromarty OAM also received an RSL Quilt in recognition of his long years of service. It was such a wonderful afternoon and I thank all the attendees, but especially the members of the Auxiliary as this was a major fundraiser for them in their work to support veterans.

CASS MOON FESTIVAL CELEBRATIONS

Mr JIHAD DIB (Lakemba)—There is always a great sense of community at Moon Festival Celebrations, and I was glad to join CASS Care at Bankstown on Wednesday 31st August along with my colleagues Tania Mihailuk MP, Mayor Khal Asfour and Deputy Mayor Bilal El-Hayek. There was plenty of singing and dancing. Luckily, everyone was spared from my dancing! I want to thank CASS who has been providing social and community services to our multicultural community since 1981, catering the needs from cradle to seniors, including services in home ageing, residential aged care, disability, settlement and health, childcare, vocation, and training. CASS is now serving over 5,000 families every week and they have a team of over 500 staff members and more than 300 active volunteers working together to provide services and activities. Thank you, Mr Henry Pan OAM, for establishing the organisation and Dr. Bo Zhou for your leadership as Chairperson of CASS. To the

Chinese, Vietnamese and Korean Australians who are celebrating the Mid-Autumn Festival, I hope that the full moon brings you prosperity, wealth and good luck. This year's festivities celebrate the diversity of a community I am so proud to serve.

MUSLIM YOUTH DIALOGUE AT AL NAWAWI CENTRE

Mr JIHAD DIB (Lakemba)—On 19 August I participated in a Muslim Youth Dialogue held by the Al Nawawi Centre in Chester Hill, a conversation between admirable leaders and youth in the Australian Muslim community. I would like to thank the Grand Mufti, Dr Ibrahim Abu Mohamed and Sheikh Ahmed Kasem for hosting this event. Dr Abu Mohamed emphatically reiterated the role of youth as the future leaders in our community. We were also joined by Captain Mona Shindy, the third woman to serve on an Australian Warship and one of just 100 Muslims in the Australian Defence Force. She spoke about inclusion, acceptance and integration of Muslim people in the Australian Navy, as well as initiatives to include halal food options on ships, and the headscarf to be permitted as uniform for military personnel. I spoke about my experiences as a community leader and politician, telling them to be proud of their beliefs and heritage and not shy away from participating in all aspects of life. The future of the Australian Muslim community is in good hands and I would like to thank all those who participated in this important evening.

VICTORY IN THE PACIFIC LUNCHEON

Mr JIHAD DIB (Lakemba)—On 15 August I was joined by my friend Councillor Karl Saleh OAM to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Victory in the Pacific day at the Lakemba RSL sub-branch. This momentous day marked a bittersweet end to The Second World War, when the Emperor of Japan accepted the Allies' ultimatum to surrender. This meant an end to six scarring years of war that claimed the lives of 72,814 Australians, with over 30,000 taken as prisoners. I pay my respects to all those who served our nation during the Second World War. They made the ultimate sacrifice, and those who returned were forever scarred by the physical and psychological trauma endured from battle. We must do better to support our veterans. I note the ongoing work by my Federal Labor counterparts in implementing the various recommendations of the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran's Suicide. I want to particularly acknowledge and thank the President of Lakemba RSL Sub-Branch, Ann Garland OAM, and Secretary of Lakemba RSL Sub-Branch, Tim McCaw, for their ongoing efforts in organising commemorations for those returned service men and service women in our community.

JAMES COOK BOYS TECHNOLOGY HIGH SCHOOL

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER (Rockdale)—I acknowledge and congratulate the entire team at James Cook Boys Technology High School – the principal, staff, students and P&C, for their efforts and initiatives in contributing to the school's development. Varied events have showcased their efforts, such as a fund-raising sausage sizzle at the local Bunnings in Rockdale, through to producing a beautiful selection of fresh fruits and vegetables in the school garden thanks to the efforts of the staff and the Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths [STEM] students; from the official opening of the JCBTHS's Band Club to the successful hosting of the immersive Robotics program, where the students power up their STEM learning in a fun, hands-on way with students of several local primary schools, consequently building a great connection with the next generation of secondary students. It truly is a joy to watch everyone working together towards the school's progress and I commend all involved for their dedication and effort.

ICON EYEWEAR

Mr MARK COURE (Oatley—Minister for Multiculturalism, and Minister for Seniors)—I acknowledge ICON Eyewear as the winners of the of the St George Local Business Awards. Located in Hurstville, this wonderful local family business was founded in 1992 as MDM Eyecare Centre by husband-and-wife optometrists, Michael Mihailidis and Maria Dimitratos. Michael and Maria have served our local community for 30 years. First at Westfield Hurstville, before moving in 2002 to their current home at the corner of Park Road and Cross Street in Hurstville. Speaker, ICON Eyewear's commitment to excellence in the field of optometry is second to none, offering a range of services including pathology management, advanced eyecare and CASA examinations for pilots. All extremely important services many of us rely on. Michael, Maria and the team they have built over the last 30 years show the incredible talent in the St George community and I am thrilled they have been acknowledged as the winners of the St George Local Business Award. Speaker, I again congratulate ICON Eyewear on their win at the Local Business Awards and wish them the best into the future.

PENSHURST LIBRARY 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr MARK COURE (Oatley—Minister for Multiculturalism, and Minister for Seniors)—I acknowledge the Penshurst Library, which recently celebrated its 50th Anniversary. Seeing more than 10 million book loans over the last 50 years, the Penshurst Library has become an important, local institution for all within

the community. Opening in 1972 with a collection of 7000 books, community demand for the service has continued to grow over the years. Penshurst Library received a total overhaul in 2012 which saw a complete refresh and modernisation of the space. It is now one of the sleekest libraries in the local area. The library provides fantastic support for both young children and the elderly, encouraging them to get involved in activities that are specifically designed and tailor-made to enhance skills. These activities are all organised by the wonderful staff, who have demonstrated continual dedication to Penshurst Library and of-course, their local community. I would like to personally thank each one of them for the fantastic work they do. I hope that this treasured local institution serves the community for another 50 years and longer!

JOHN MAGUIRE

Mr MARK COURE (Oatley—Minister for Multiculturalism, and Minister for Seniors)—I pay my respects to a wonderful member of the St George and Sutherland shire community, the late John Maguire, who passed away peacefully at age 77. John was perhaps best known for his achievements on the sporting field, playing 137 first grade games for the Cronulla Sharks. He captained the team to the semi-finals and was described as a "tremendous football talent" who was an invaluable contribution to the Sharks. Not only was John an exceptional football player, but he was also a wonderful educator. He taught at schools throughout the local area. He was deputy principal both Marist College Penshurst and Marist College Kogarah, where I remember him very well. Was one of the teachers that I most admired. He later went on to become principal of De La Salle College, Cronulla, from 1996-2004, where my wife is currently teaching. John was cherished for his humility, his kind and caring nature and his love for teaching. He will be dearly missed, and I send my deepest condolences to his wife Maria, and family. May he rest in peace.

EDWARD FERGUSON LEAVING CEO ROLE AT THE NORTHERN SUBURBS FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore)—I thank Edward Ferguson for his service as Chief Executive Officer at the Northern Suburbs Football Association. Edward recently announced that he would be leaving his position in October. Edward has been involved in the Association for almost a decade and has served as CEO for three years. His passion for football and dedication to the Association has seen strong participation figures, increased retention, and higher levels of engagement from the community. With a core focus on engagement, Edward has seen the Association through new initiatives such as the Skellern Cup, Youth Coach Development Program, the Club Coach Coordinator program, and Club Presidents Workshops. I do not doubt that Edward will have a lasting impact on the Association as he steps down from this position, leaving the Association in a place of strength. I also want to congratulate Edward on the new role he will be moving to at Football NSW as Head of Football & Strategy. I wish him the very best as he takes up this exciting position.

DAME MARIE BASHIR PEACE AWARDS 2022

Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore)—I had the privilege of hosting the Annual Dame Marie Bashir Awards again this year and handing out certificates to the exceptional young women nominated in 2022. The National Council of Women NSW Dame Marie Bashir Awards honours the example long-time member Dame Marie Bashir set. These awards recognise the significant contribution to social justice that these young women make, promoting harmonious relationships and peace in their school and community. The awards are open to all girls in years 10 – 12 in New South Wales Schools who have demonstrated a passion for social justice and work to bring the community together. I want to congratulate all the award recipients, thank them for their compassion and advocacy in their local communities, and wish them all the best in their future endeavours. Thank you to NCW NSW President Julie Morris, MC Anne Sheehan, this year's Awards Convener, Sally Fennell, and committee member Jacinta Fennell for their hard work in bringing this awards ceremony together and their commitment and advocacy for women's rights.

NORTHS JUNIORS REPRESENT AUSTRALIA AT CHILDREN'S GAMES IN BIRMINGHAM

Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore)—I recognise the incredibly talented young locals who represented Australia at the fifty-fifth International Children's Games in Birmingham as part of the North Sydney Team. They competed in three-by-three basketball and are all currently playing for the Northern Suburbs Basketball Association. The International Children's Games had over fifteen hundred athletes participating from sixty cities around the world. I congratulate Erika Finney from Cammeraygal High, Georgia Ell from Loreto Kirribilli, Porsha Paredes and Cassidy Thomas from Monte Sant' Angelo. Congratulations to Kody Warrington and Ed Johnston from Scots, and Nick Riley and Oscar d'Almeida from Shore School. All players have represented NSW at junior levels but were relatively new to the three-by-three format and were excited to get into the fast-paced game. I would also like to acknowledge their Sydney Supersonics coaches Mike Golding and Ben Killen, both highly ranked three-by-three players. They all represented themselves and our local community proudly.

DILLY DOGGY DAY OUT

Mr NATHANIEL SMITH (Wollondilly)—The Dilly Doggy Day out, got tails wagging for the first time in two years after the event was forced to cancel due to COVID. Dog lovers and their four-legged friends were able to enjoy a range of activities held at the Picton Sportsgrounds on the 21st of August. The Wonderdogs, a group of border collies, were the special guest performers of the day. They gave brilliant demonstrations for the crowd, reminding everyone just how smart and talented dogs can be. There was a range of other great activities, including agility displays from the Wollondilly All Breeds Kennel Club, a pet photo booth and free microchipping of dogs and cats. A big thank you to all those involved in bringing back the Dilly Doggy Day Out- it was paws-itively amazing!

INTERACT CLUB- BOWRAL HIGH SCHOOL

Mr NATHANIEL SMITH (Wollondilly)—The Bowral High School's INTERACT club has been busy the past few years with initiatives to help support the local community. With guidance and support provided by its sponsor, the Bowral-Mittagong Rotary Club, the Bowral High School's INTERACT club has persevered through the Pandemic and its restrictions. The club has been involved in environmental activities, as the motivated students led a school-wide recycling initiative where plastic bottles were donated to Wombat Care Bundanoon. The proceeds from the bottles are used by Wombat Care to fund mange medicine for our wombat population. Another impressive project of the club is the Domestic Violence bags, where students have been packing bags full of essential items to be donated to victims of domestic violence. It is exciting to see the young people in my electorate so involved in the community to help those who are vulnerable. Congratulations to the INTERACT club at Bowral High School for your great work!

MATER DEI SCHOOL

Mr NATHANIEL SMITH (Wollondilly)—The Mater Dei School is worthy of recognition for their constant hard work in serving the disabled community. The Mater Dei School is a catholic school for kindergarten to year twelve who have mild to moderate intellectual disabilities. Based on the Benedictine spiritual framework, the school espouses beliefs and values centred on the dignity of each person, with stewardship and inclusion at the forefront of their approach to education. I was pleased to attend the Mater Dei Foundation Dinner that was held on the 10th of September at the Campbelltown Catholic Club. It was great to share in the school's biggest annual fundraising event. The night was a success and was made even more enjoyable by the performances of Mater Dei students and NextPath young adults who displayed their range of talents. Thank you to the committee that led the dinner: Jim Marsden, John Adam, Kevin O'Keefe, Kristen Green, Greg Copeland, Bryson Shafer, Nadine Fitzpatrick and Tim Knapp.

WENTWORTH SHOW COMMITTEE

Mrs HELEN DALTON (Murray)—Today I recognise and congratulate the hard-working dedicated Wentworth Show Society Committee of 2022, hosting the show on 27 & 28 August. The 135th Wentworth Show was a "True Country Show" with Horse competitions, Dog Trials and Jumps, Sheep, Cattle, Shearing, Poultry, and the children were entertained at the popular Animal Nursery and Environmental educators. The Food and Wine Marquee was popular showcasing many varieties to taste and purchase. The new Wentworth Showgrounds Community Pavilion came alive with entries in Flowers, Cookery, Needlework, Art & Photography, Produce & Preserves, Fruit & Vegetables and much more. For a community with a little more than 2,000 residents, there were more than 6,000 attendees on the first day alone, with great social cohesion and wonderful reviews. On behalf of the electorate of Murray I wish to congratulate and thank the Wentworth Show Committee, all 28 of you, under the Presidency of Sholto Douglas on a well presented and fabulous "True Country Show".

WALLY LAMONT- RANKINS SPRINGS

Mrs HELEN DALTON (Murray)—Today I recognise Wally Lamont of Rankins Springs for his achievements and contributions to the community. Wally has been involved in a variety of committees and clubs within Rankins Springs and has a strong passion for playing rugby league for the Rankins Springs Dragons. Wally has supported the Dragons for years, whether it's playing, transporting players to and from games, coaching or helping with fundraisers, Wally always finds a way to help. He founded the first Rankins Springs Dragonette's female Rugby League team and coached them to be runner up in their first grand final. Wally is very proud of the tiny town and has always been driven to promote it as a tourist attraction, being instrumental to the creation of the Birds of the Bush festival, drawing tourists from all over Australia. His dream to start an art gallery to attract travellers passing through Rankins Springs came to fruition as Wally's Junk Art Studio. Wally always thinks of others before himself and is the first person to welcome someone to the town. It's my pleasure to honour Wally today."

JEANNINE DELEMARE

Dr JOE McGIRR (Wagga Wagga)—Wagga Wagga Base Hospital's pharmacy has said goodbye to a much-loved team member. Jeannine Delemare arrived in Wagga Wagga in 1977 and wrote to Wagga Wagga Base Hospital to enquire whether there may be any positions for a pharmacist. A graduate of Sydney University, Jeannine was a welcome addition to the team, and stayed on for 45 years until her retirement. She was Chief Pharmacist from 2005 to 2018. Jeannine had made one prior attempt at retiring. However, the rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine meant pharmacists were needed and she soon received a call. Her skills saw her travelling the Murrumbidgee region as part of the vaccination outreach teams. Jeannine will be dearly missed by the team, who recall not only her leadership and professionalism, but also her caring attitude and willingness to share advice when asked. I can personally attest that Jeannine was a wonderful work colleague and a great asset for our health services. I commend Jeannine on her 45 years of service to the patients and staff of Wagga Wagga Base Hospital and wish her all the very best as she moves into the next phase of her life.

SHOALHAVEN BUSINESS CHAMBER AGM

Mr GARETH WARD (Kiama)—I acknowledge the Shoalhaven Business Chamber who held their annual general meeting on Thursday 29th September 2022 at the Bomaderry Bowling Club. The Shoalhaven Business Chamber Committee includes the following office bearers: President Jemma Tribe, Vice President John Lamont, Treasurer Renee Knight, Secretary Hayley Byrne, Committee Members: Miranda Packer, Kristen Russell, Sally Latham, Jamie McAinsh, Raj Ray, Phil Guy and Sian Ludlow. I acknowledge and thank the office bearers for their hard work and commitment to our local community. It promises to be an exciting twelve months ahead and I know that Shoalhaven Business Chamber do a fantastic job in advocating on behalf of local businesses across our region.

JAMBEROO RED CROSS FUNDRAISING EFFORTS

Mr GARETH WARD (Kiama)—I congratulate the Jamberoo Red Cross which has been awarded The Patterson Cup for raising the most money of the 175 branches in New South Wales. With the cancellation of their annual car show and family day, the Branch missed out on a possible \$11,000, which is what they raised from the 2019 events. But despite the setback, they raised \$52,600 in the financial year through their monthly stall at the Jamberoo Village Markets, weekly raffle at Club Jamberoo, Election Day stall and their Bunnings sausage sizzle and cake stalls. I would also like to acknowledge President Barbara Adams and Vice-President of Jamberoo Red Cross Amanda Large. The money raised by Jamberoo Red Cross has been directed to the 2022 flood appeal and internationally to the Ukraine crisis, as well as to supporting ongoing programs in the community, such as Young Parents, Telecross, Leaner Driver and Save A Mate.

COCO BUTCHER FROM KIAMA

Mr GARETH WARD (Kiama)—After three years off due to injury, Kiama's Coco Butcher has come back stronger than ever, earning a spot to run for NSW in the 2022 Australian All Schools Track and Field Championships. Coco and her father, Chick, had a goal for Coco to make it to the State, but with a second place win she has is one of two chosen to head to the Australian Championships in Adelaide to compete in the Under 14 100 metre. To surpass that goal has been really amazing for her. A lot of the other girls compete all year round, but for Coco to just go back, get through to the finals and place, it is a great outcome. One of Coco's last competitions was in the 2019 Primary Athletics Championships held in Darwin where she placed third in the 100 metre, second in relay, and fifth in the 200 metre. Since Coco started athletics at eight years old, her goal has been to continue running at state finals until 16, and then move across to the National Women's Rugby League. The Championships begin on 9th December 2022.

MICHAEL WATERHOUSE

Mr ALEX GREENWICH (Sydney)—I pay tribute to the outstanding community contribution of Michael Waterhouse who steps down as President of Saving Moore Park, a community group he founded to advocate for the park's protection and enhancement. His passionate dedication and cooperative approach earned him trust and respect across the political spectrum. He was instrumental in successful campaigns to legislate a date to remove parked cars and stop plans to build stadia on Moore Park, and has developed a community vision for the park. I thank Michael for his untiring work and wish him well for his future.

BRIAN SHERMAN

Mr ALEX GREENWICH (Sydney)—With sadness I commemorate the amazing contribution of Paddington resident Brian Sherman. Brian was a patron of the arts and a voice for animals. With his daughter Ondine, he set up Voiceless, an organisation advocating for animals including through law and education. Voiceless defended all animals including those raised on cruel factory farms. Brian remained inspiring during his

battle with Parkinson's, sharing his experience through a memoir. Brian used his achievements and experiences to make the world a better place. On behalf of the Sydney electorate, I pass on my condolences and thanks to his family.

DAYS FOR GIRLS WAGGA WAGGA CHAPTER

Dr JOE McGIRR (Wagga Wagga)—It was an honour to be present recently with the Days for Girls Wagga Wagga Chapter, as they celebrated 10 years of providing sustainable and effective feminine hygiene solutions to girls and women worldwide. The work these volunteers do empowers women all over the world, and responds to a real need. Congratulations to Catherine Harvie, who kickstarted Days for Girls in Wagga Wagga, and her team on a decade of commitment. Congratulations as well to all of the 96 chapters across Australia for the work they do, with volunteers aged from their 90s down to children, supplying kits to women in many overseas countries. Catherine has travelled extensively and found, in the past, that young girls often asked her for disposable pads for menstruation. In handing out the kits, Days for Girls volunteers are also able to provide education to girls who are starting menstruation, their families and broader communities. This does much to address the issue of stigma and empower women. Days for Girls is also now providing women with the skills to start and operate their own businesses and this is seeing an even greater use of their kits.

ST MARTIN'S COLLEGE, WAGGA WAGGA

Dr JOE McGIRR (Wagga Wagga)—It was a pleasure to attend the recent 30th anniversary celebrations of St Martin's College. St Martin's is a self-catered residential college for students studying on campus at Charles Sturt University in Wagga Wagga. Congratulations to everyone associated with St Martin's on this great milestone, but particularly to Bill Anscombe and James Hamilton, who received service awards. Mr Anscombe, the current chair of the board, has directed and served Saint Martin's College for three decades. He took up the role of chair after the founding administrators moved on and filled a gap, which turned into a continuing role as the leader of the enterprise through several heads of college. Mr Hamilton has served the board as treasurer of St Martin's for almost 20 years. When the former treasurer resigned, Mr Hamilton was asked to fill in as treasurer for a six-month period while a search was undertaken for a new treasurer. To the college's enormous gratitude, 20 years later that search for a new treasurer has never been completed. My congratulations to both Mr Anscombe, Mr Hamilton and staff of St Martin's College, along with current and former residents, on reaching this milestone.

MISCHIEF KITCHEN

Ms YASMIN CATLEY (Swansea)—I acknowledge Mischief Kitchen on winning the Excellence in Tourism and Hospitality Award at the 2022 Lake Mac Business Excellence Awards. The event was held in July, at Belmont 16 Footers, to recognise and celebrate Lake Macquarie's diverse range of local businesses and the great work they do in supporting our local community. Mischief Kitchen is a family friendly cafe in Belmont that offers a unique space with great coffee, quality food, and a fun atmosphere for all ages. I know that the Swansea community raves about Mischief Kitchen and the great service and experience they provide, with locals often meeting there for a cuppa and a bite to eat with their family and friends. Winning the Excellence in Tourism and Hospitality Award is a testament to the business, given that approximately 100 companies and individuals entered the awards. I congratulate Mischief Kitchen on winning the Excellence in Tourism and Hospitality Award at the 2022 Lake Mac Business Excellence Awards, and wish them all the best for the future.

THE LAKES SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB

Ms YASMIN CATLEY (Swansea)—I acknowledge Leeaane Longford, Nikki Fitzsimmons and Rylie Allen, who are members of The Lakes Surf Life Saving Club board relay team, who won the Surf Sports Team of the Year at the Surf Life Saving Central Coast Awards of Excellence. The Awards were held to recognise the achievements of the Central Coast's volunteer lifesavers during the 2021-22 season. Leeaane, Nikki and Rylie are outstanding athletes who consistently strive for success at competition level. I know that they are also great role models for our up and coming lifesavers. In addition to their competition success, Leeaane, Nikki and Rylie also play a great part in ensuring our beaches are safe for all to enjoy. I congratulate Leeaane, Nikki and Rylie on receiving the award. I would also like to acknowledge all of the Central Coast surf life savers who were recognised at the event.

KYLA RENES

Ms YASMIN CATLEY (Swansea)—I acknowledge Kyla Renes of Caves Beach on her recent sporting achievements. Kyla is just 14 years old and has been competing against some of our nation's greatest surfers in surfing competitions across New South Wales and Queensland. Recently, Kyla came first in the Under 16s Junior Regional Titles in Newcastle. She also placed third in the Under 16s Girls Final at the Woolworths Junior Shortboard State Titles. With this result, Kyla has now qualified to be part of the NSW Junior High Performance Program and represent NSW at the Australian Junior Surfing Titles at Stradbroke Island through Surfing NSW.

A further competition highlight for Kyla this year was gaining the wildcard entry to compete in the Lake Mac City Pro Junior Surfest. As a result, she was recognised by Westfield Kotara receiving the Surfest 2022 Encouragement Award. It is obvious from her achievements that Kyla is a hard working young athlete, who I am sure we will see competing on the world stage in the near future. I congratulate Kyla on her achievements.

VICKI RACITI

Mr GREG PIPER (Lake Macquarie)—I acknowledge Vicki Raciti of Wangi Wangi for her tireless work and dedication shown after severe weather devastated parts of NSW. Our state recently suffered heartbreaking blows from storm and flood damage and left many people struggling to rebuild. After the recent flooding in Lismore, Vicki coordinated the collection, management, and delivery of donated supplies to help families in need. Furniture, food, and a variety of other household goods were collected from locals in Lake Macquarie and delivered by Vicki herself to Lismore for those who urgently required it. Vicki's own home became a bustling drop-off centre for these much-needed items as people in the community dug deep to give what they could to help. Vicki serves on the board of Wangi Wangi RSL Club and has always shown a dedicated commitment to helping others. Without members of the community like Vicki, many would still be struggling to provide for their families following the devastating damage caused by the floods. I acknowledge and thank Vicki for her incredible work to provide for families in the Northern Rivers area, and to her local community.

CARLY SHIELS AND LUKE MARKS

Mr GREG PIPER (Lake Macquarie)—I acknowledge the fundraising efforts of two of Lake Macquarie's inspiring young residents, Carly Shiels and Luke Marks. Carly from Wangi Wangi and Luke from Speers Point displayed incredible dedication and hard work during their recent trip to Uganda where they worked closely with KAASO school, home to 448 school children and 47 staff. The school, in desperate need of new beds for their students, were extremely lucky to have Carly and Luke coordinate the raising of \$19,555 to provide beds that will serve the school for many years to come. Carly and Luke have spent time volunteering in Uganda to support their sponsor child who attends KAASO school by building beds and helping the local community there. The heart and passion shown by these two young people serves as an example to everyone that we can all extend the hand of friendship to help those in greater need than ourselves. The kindness and selflessness shown by Carly and Luke is something they should be immensely proud of, and I am certainly proud to have these two incredible young philanthropists in my electorate.

WESTERN REGION ACADEMY OF SPORT WINNERS

Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS (Dubbo—Minister for Agriculture, and Minister for Western New South Wales)—The Western Region Academy of Sport (WRAS) recently held their annual presentation evening, recognising some of their high achieving and dedicated athletes, and acknowledging the valuable contribution of their volunteers and supporters. The Dubbo electorate was strongly represented with Alesha Bennetts and Halle Potter from Mudgee both being recognised with separate awards in the category of Squad Athletes of the Year. An award recognising the highest level of sporting achievement among the WRAS athletes. Joshua Bywater from Dubbo was awarded the Chairman's Award for Excellence. This award recognises athletes who excel in their sporting endeavours while also succeeding in other aspects of their life, including academic and leadership areas. Lara Winterton and Jazzy Gordon, both from Dubbo, received the Coaches Award for the greatest level of improvement and dedication in their chosen sport of basketball. The Strength and Conditioning Award, an award for athletes demonstrating commitment to their gym session, went to Riley Taylor from Mudgee, and Millie Sutcliffe from Dubbo who also received a Coaches Award. Congratulations to all 320 athletes and those involved in the WRAS, and a special congratulations to Alesha, Halle, Joshua, Lara, Jazzy, Riley and Millie.

ALESHA BENNETTS AND MILLIE SUTCLIFFE

Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS (Dubbo—Minister for Agriculture, and Minister for Western New South Wales)—I recognise the outstanding achievements of Alesha Bennetts and Millie Sutcliffe. At the recent Western Region Academy of Sport (WRAS) Annual Presentation evening both young ladies received major awards for 2022. Alesha was named WRAS Athlete of the Year for 2022. She won 3 Gold Medals at the Little Athletics Regional Championships for 300m hurdles, 100m Sprint, 200m Sprint and Silver in the 400m Sprint. She was then selected to represent NSW at the National Athletics Championships, winning Gold in the 400m Sprint and 400m Hurdles, and went on to represent Australia at the Oceania Athletics Championships where she won Gold in the 400m Hurdles and Gold in the 4 x 400m Hurdles Relay. Millie was recognised for her 'outstanding achievement by an Aboriginal or Torres Strait islander athlete'. Over the past 12 months Millie's achievements have included Captaining NSW at the National Indigenous Basketball Tournament, being named in the All Star 5, being selected in Basketball NSW State Performance Program (U16) and the Western Region team for Combined High Schools Basketball. Congratulations Alesha and Millie on your outstanding achievements!

25TH NORTHERN MINING & NSW ENERGY DISTRICT MEMORIAL SERVICE

Ms JODIE HARRISON (Charlestown)—It was an honour to stand alongside a number of my parliamentary colleagues and union officials and members at the 25th Northern Mining and NSW Energy District Memorial Service in Cessnock on Sunday, 11 September. So much work has gone into the restoration of the Jim Comerford Memorial Wall, named for one of the union's most respected leaders, and it stands as a wonderfully fitting location to host a memorial service for the lives lost in mining. The memorial wall, which was opened by Paul Keating in 1996, also features a miner's lamp and a bust of Jim, who passed away in 2006 at the age of 93. It has recently been refreshed and updated now bears 1793 names—all miners lost in the Northern District coalmines and mining leases since 1801. The youngest person memorialised was just eleven years old when he died at Plattsburg in 1883. He was named Robert Irving. I would like to pay my respects once again to all those who lost their lives in the mines, their families and descendants, and thank those who follow Jim's example in standing up for the safety of workers.

GABRIELLE STACEY

Ms JODIE HARRISON (Charlestown)—When Gabrielle Stacey joined her local Landcare group, the fantastic Fern Creek Landcare, she joined working sessions involving five or six volunteers all over the age of fifty. In her mid-twenties and studying horticulture at university, Gabrielle worked to rejuvenate the group, using social media marketing to bring in a number of younger recruits. The total number of active volunteers has swollen from 30 to over 100, with another 500 following the group on social media. With Gabby's help, the median age of Fern Creek Landcare's membership has dropped significantly—and long-term co-ordinator, founder and Charlestown community stalwart Peter Dalton has been able to pass the leadership of the group over to a safe pair of hands. Gabby and Peter recently made a video together which was shown at the National Landcare Conference, which showcased their extraordinary intergenerational friendship. Gabby believes that the Landcare approach to environmental stewardship and care has enormous benefits for young people, helping to transform frustration with environmental concerns into positive action. Congratulations to Gabby on all she has achieved so far—and I'm sure this only the beginning.

NRLW GRAND FINAL

Ms JODIE HARRISON (Charlestown)—On Sunday 2 October, the Newcastle Knights took on the Parramatta Eels in the NRL Women's Premiership Grand Final—and an after extraordinary performance, they walked away champions. The final score of 32-12 might suggest a dominating performance against an outmatched opposition, but that wasn't the case: it was a neck-and-neck struggle, with some early fumbles giving the Eels the first try of the match. But by half-time, wingers Kiana Takairangi and Emmanita Paki and back-rower Romy Teitzel had scored tries, putting Newcastle in a formidable 14-6 lead. Two minutes into the second half, Tamika Upton—who went on to be named player of the match—took the Knights to an 18-6 lead. But the momentum went back and forth over the course of the match: the Eels scored another try in the fiftieth minute, reinvigorating the side, before Newcastle scored three tries in the final ten minutes of the game. Kiana got another try in the 63rd minute; Jesse Southwell scored in the 67th; and Yasmin Clydesdale sealed a commanding win in the 70th minute. Congratulations to these extraordinary women and their teammates. They have done Newcastle proud.

SENIORS FESTIVAL AT ST VINCENT'S CARE SERVICES HEATHCOTE

Mr LEE EVANS (Heathcote)—The first ever Seniors Festival at St Vincent's Care Services Heathcote (formally John Paul Village) was a great success. There was fun for all ages with live music, food trucks, market stalls, local student artwork, an animal farm, guided tours and senior information stalls. I enjoyed meeting with local residents as well as catching up with the Federal Member for Hughes Jenny Ware MP and many friends. I commend St Vincent's Care Services for organising this fantastic event for the community and I look forward to attending the Seniors Festival in the future.

KU-RING-GAI MALE CHOIR – MCAA FESTIVAL

Mr JONATHAN O'DEA (Davidson)—The Male Choirs Association of Australia [MCAA] was formed in 2007 by 11 male choirs in NSW and the ACT. It will present a Choral Festival on 30 October, after 2 years of delay due to Covid-19. The Festival named "Friendship in Song" will be held at Sydney Town Hall. I am delighted to acknowledge, as a Friend of the Ku-ring-gai Male Choir (KMC), that Dr Ken Wade, the KMC Secretary, has helped to organise this event. It will be directed by Paul Jarman, and showcase 200 people, including from the KMC. I wish everyone involved with this event an enjoyable and successful Festival.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF LIONS CLUBS IN AUSTRALIA

Mr JONATHAN O'DEA (Davidson)—48,000 Lions Clubs operate in over 200 countries around the world. Where there's a need, there's a Lions Club. Last month I enjoyed a tree planting event, organised by the

St Ives and Turramurra Lions Clubs at the St Ives Arboretum, to celebrate 75 years of Lions Clubs in Australia. Also attending were many Lions Club members and Ku-ring-gai Council representatives, including Mayor Jeff Pettett and Councillor Christine Kay. Lions Australia is now the largest service club organisation in Australia. Our first Lions Club was formed in Lismore in 1947. Just in the last year, Lions Clubs in Australia raised millions of dollars to support a range of community needs. St Ives Rotary Club recently celebrated their 50th Charter Anniversary and I thank all its members who continue to give their time and service caring for their community. I believe a caring community is a vibrant community and I thank Lions Clubs members from all over the world for their selfless work serving others.

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST SESQUICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

Mr JONATHAN O'DEA (Davidson)—On 18 September I attended the Celebration of St John the Evangelist Sesquicentennial Celebration Service in Gordon. The Service was presided by Anglican Archbishop Kanishka Raffel, with the attendance of two former rectors. Reverend Robert Happer, who commenced his Ministry in February 2021, was also in attendance. I am pleased to acknowledge the capable team involved at St John's Gordon for their dedication.

MR RYDER EDWARDS

Mrs WENDY TUCKERMAN (Goulburn—Minister for Local Government)—Today I recognise Mr Ryder Edwards. Ryder is a Trinity Catholic College student and plays basketball for the Under 16 Moss Vale Magic team. Ryder's basketball talent and skills were highlighted, when selected to play in the Under 16 Australian Junior Championships in Perth in July. Ryder participated in several trial weekends seeing him selected in the Under 16 NSW Country Team who went on to play eight games over seven days at the Junior Championships. His team saw a balanced outcome of four wins and four losses. This is a remarkable outcome considering the team was competing against highly skilled teams from across Australia. Holding a sense of pride and acknowledgement for his peers, the Moss Vale Basketball Association and the support of his family, Ryder has been well able to demonstrate his intrinsic and learnt skills to play this level of basketball. I congratulate Ryder on his commitment and dedication to the sport and for his selection to play at this elite level and wish him all the very best in his future undertakings.

SIMON MITCHELL AND DANIELLE SMITH

Mrs WENDY TUCKERMAN (Goulburn—Minister for Local Government)—Today I recognise Simon Mitchell and Danielle Smith. Simon and Danielle from Goulburn have captured a truly remarkable piece of history through the restoration of ex-Southern Aurora Carriages that they now utilise to provide Vintage Rail Journeys through regional NSW. Simon and Danielle have worked hard behind the scenes to make this all possible, purchasing their first group of carriages in 2017, totalling now to seventeen carriages. Initially undertaking the restoration work themselves, Simon and Danielle were able to employ four long-term unemployed individuals, accessing the Restart Grant Program in 2019. The carriages required rigorous repairs and cleaning whilst maintaining the classic and historic features. The first tour being the Golden West Rail Tour was all planned and sold out for April 2020, however the COVID lockdowns prevented this from occurring. Excitedly though, five tours have been undertaken since this time, with the next two tours already planned for August to take in the Riverina. I congratulate Simon and Danielle for their initiative, commitment and dedication to this restoration work and the wonderful journeys and opportunities that they present to the community.

MS COURTNEY FLACK

Mrs WENDY TUCKERMAN (Goulburn—Minister for Local Government)—Today I recognise Ms Courtney Flack. Ms Flack was a former student at Mulwaree High School who has now completed two bachelor's degrees, graduating from Sydney University. Ms Flack was inspired by her English and drama teacher whilst a student at Mulwaree High School, steering her into a career of teaching. Full of inspiration and passion for teaching, Ms Flack demonstrated that her own ongoing conscientious enthusiasm for learning was steadfast being rewarded with the Headfort School Prize for her results. Ms Flack is now teaching at Mulwaree High School, which is a wonderful benefit for students attending there now, as Ms Flack is determined to inspire future generations. I sincerely congratulate Ms Flack on her achievements and wish her every success in her educative role and her aim to motivate and enthuse current and future students to strive and reach their goals.

LIFELINE CENTRAL WEST

Mr PHILIP DONATO (Orange)—I acknowledge the dedication of volunteers at Lifeline in Orange who are part of the Lifeline Central West network. Both volunteers and staff in Orange are committed to save lives every day, and are part of the vital network where each year 1 million Australians reach out for help in their darkest hour. Any hour of the day or night volunteers are on the phones at the Orange office as part of a 10,000-strong Australia wide group of volunteers. With some suicide prevention experts predicting an even greater

demand on Lifeline due to growing cost of living pressures combined with other challenges faced many Australians, the work of Lifeline volunteers will continue to provide a safe space for people to reach out for help. Supported by an excellent training system, the crisis supporters on the phones are well equipped to provide compassionate and empowering support to help seekers.

ORANGE PRESCHOOL

Mr PHILIP DONATO (Orange)—I recognise the Orange Preschool for nurturing, educating and developing their young students, aged 3-5 years. The Orange Preschool operates each weekday, with 12 staff members supporting the preschool's day-to-day function. Two dedicated teachers provide continuity of education and development of their students, and each of the teaching staff have a large workload with a ratio of one staff member per 10 students, catering for 40 students per day. The Orange Preschool presently care for the children of 110 local families. Like most preschools, the Orange Preschool is at full capacity and there is a long waiting list for families wishing to enrol their children for vital education and a crucial time in growth and development. I acknowledge the important roles preschool teachers and staff play in maximising the education and development of young children. The crucial service they provide enables parents to enjoy a more balanced life, participate in the workforce and enhancing the economy. Preschool educators are overworked, underpaid, undervalued and often unrecognised for the important work they do at a critical stage of development for the children in their care. I appreciate their dedication to the vital work they all perform.

HUMSAM

Ms SONIA HORNERY (Wallsend)—The Hunter Malayalee Samajam, known as HUMSAM, is a non-profit, non-religious community cultural organisation based in Newcastle. The Malayali community of the Newcastle region formed into an informal group several years ago, meeting during Onam and Christmas to share memories of their home state, Kerala, in India's south. The group has grown bigger since its founding and is now a mainstay of the Newcastle community. Not only do they assist local Malayali, but they invite the broader community to share in their wonderful festivals—and, in the early stages of the COVID-19 lockdown in 2020, organised deliveries of food to vulnerable people. This was when I first got to know the Malayali community, and I have since learned to much about the community. They are such wonderful contributors to local community life. My thanks to HUMSAM for everything they have done for the Wallsend community, and to recognise the 2019-2021 HUMSAM leadership team, including president Binoy Thomas, secretary Binu Cheppala Jose, treasurer Abraham Keepurathu and committee members Dr. Ambareesh Mohan, Roshaun Anil, Divya P Damodaran, and Anitha Paul. I look forward to continuing to work with this fantastic organisation and the wonderful Malayali community.

NEWCASTLE KNIGHTS – NRLW GRAND FINAL

Ms SONIA HORNERY (Wallsend)—I convey my congratulations to the Newcastle Knights Women for their outstanding season and their 32 – 12 win against Parramatta Eels in the NRLW Grand Final. The Knights were arguably the underdogs given a disappointing result in last years season and facing off against a very threatening Parramatta side that had just thrashed undefeated Sydney Roosters in the Semi Finals. However, our Knights Girls brought it home with a ferocious display, stunning the Eels with seven tries and two conversions, including a try and conversion from rookie of the year Jesse Southwell. Following the uplifting win, several people I've spoken to since were in such a state of jubilation that they didn't even care to watch the Men's Grand Final. Savouring the victory of our girls was more than enough for them. Newcastle Knights supporters have had precious little to be excited about since 2001 and this Newcastle side have continued the fine tradition of being one of only two clubs that has never lost a grand final in which it has participated. Well done girls, you've done us all so proud!

LAMBTON JAFFA'S FC – NPL FINAL

Ms SONIA HORNERY (Wallsend)—I congratulate Lambton Jaffa's Football Club First Grade squad for their success in the National Premier League Northern New South Wales district grand final at Newcastle's Number 2 Sportsground. The Jaffa's outplayed Maitland FC and overcame them to win one – nil with a goal by Kale Bradbery in the 51st minute against a 10-man Maitland following a first half sending off. I wish to extend my congratulations to the entire squad as well as the coach, Shane Pryce and all the Lambton Jaffa's community who stood by the team all season. I also wish to extend my congratulations to the Lambton Jaffa's Under 18's side who edged out Edgeworth Eagles FC 2-2 and taking it out with a tight penalty shootout. We know that football clubs and sporting teams are only ever as good as the many volunteers who step up behind the scenes to make the season happen. It is terrific to see local teams from the Wallsend electorate take out such wonderful honours and walk away with the NPL Northern NSW trophy!

LEE ESTENS – VARIETY CLUB

Mr ADAM MARSHALL (Northern Tablelands)—I recognise Mrs Lee Estens OAM for her twenty-some years raising over more than \$1.5 million for ill children through the Variety Club, changing the lives of so many families in need. Variety, the Children's Charity helps children and their families with financial support for things like wheelchairs, specialist equipment, therapy, and medical supplies when they can't afford it. Lee has faithfully joined Variety Bashes in her easily identified 1964 Mercedes decorated with everything rural promoting the Children's Charity, Moree and rural Australia. Lee's personal experience with her ill son led to her annual Moree Golf Days, raising valuable donations to contribute to Variety Club. This year, Lee takes her grandson on her 20th Variety Bash. I congratulate Lee on the huge success of her many Variety Golf Days which have contributed to helping sick children in need. I commend Lee on her commitment to Variety Club and the enormous effort it takes to organise the Moree Variety Golf Days and take part in the Variety Bash.

2022 EKKA – PLC ARMIDALE

Mr ADAM MARSHALL (Northern Tablelands)—I recognise PLC Armidale Year 9 boarder, Lily McCosker who placed second in the 2022 Ekka Stud Beef Young Junior Judges event. Being Lily's first time at the Ekka, it didn't stop her from battling off 78 competitors in her category. Having lived on a farm her whole life, her passion for cattle grew which encouraged her to be part of the cattle team at PLC. The Ekka taught Lily took some life lessons noting that there is always room for improvement and working hard is important. I congratulate the PLC Armidale cattle team taking home some remarkable results, both for the quality of stud animals from the college's cattle team managers' Lagoon Red Roll Stud in which the students raised and led, and the effort of the individual cattle team across several disciplines including parading, leading, and judging. I commend Lily for her sharp-witted judging and the cattle team for their efforts. I also commend college team managers Tim Light and Briony Looker for their dedication and efforts which allowed Lily and the PLC Armidale cattle team to attend the event.

SHARON BAKER – NAROO AGED CARE MANAGER

Mr ADAM MARSHALL (Northern Tablelands)—I recognise Ms Sharon Baker, Manager of Naroo Aged Care where she acknowledges the honour to be given the responsibility of caring for those who have gone before us and contributed to our own well-being in this time of plenty. Sharon ensures her residents have the best possible from nutrition and Maggie Beer inspired recipes to social outings, stimulating activities, celebrations and exercise. The staff at Naroo want residents to live a happy and fulfilling life and realise how important it is that their residents retain important connections to the community. Naroo is open to visitors, and volunteers not only help with outings and activities but offer further interesting contacts. I congratulate Naroo Aged Care Manager, Ms Sharon Baker and her staff for providing the best possible standard of care available in the Northern Tablelands. I commend the compassion and dedication of Sharon's team and their appreciation of the residents of Naroo Aged Care as valued individuals.

HARBORD

Mr JAMES GRIFFIN (Manly—Minister for Environment and Heritage)—I congratulate the Harbord Harlequins under 12s side. Recently their two under 12s sides we named champions. Congratulations to the Blue B Comp plate champions and Gold A Comp cup winner. This a significant achievement for the boys and a true testament to their skill and hard work. Further I would like to thank the parents and coaches for all the hard work they do. Congratulations and best of luck for next season.

HAYDEN WASHINGTON

Mr JAMES GRIFFIN (Manly—Minister for Environment and Heritage)—I extend my congratulations to Hayden Washington who notched up his 100th game in the Maroon and White representing the Manly Wolves AFL side. Hayden debuted for Manly at 18, although he is Sydney's shortest ruckman, he has had a legendary career so far, including two premierships medallions, and the Rising Star Goal Kicker in 2013. Hayden is known around the club for his massive voice and energy as well as his selfless service to the club. Congratulations again to Hayden and best of luck for the rest of the season.

DURAL ROTARY CLUB

Mr RAY WILLIAMS (Castle Hill)—I take this opportunity to recognise the unfortunate disbanding of the local Dural Rotary Club due to a lack of membership. For 70 years the club has contributed to fundraising causes both at a local level, as well as contributing to foundations with a global outlook. The club were frequently seen raising money at the BBQ, both at the local Bunnings, and Glenorie Woolworths. The club were also able to, in 2020, secure 8000 masks donated through one of their members, which the club then distributed to local aged care homes. These are just some examples of the tremendous work achieved by local rotary clubs, who

contribute greatly to my local area. It is community volunteers like those who join rotary clubs who are the backbone of their communities, and help make The Hills the best place to live in NSW. I would like to acknowledge the hard work of all involved with the club over the last 70 years, including George Truelove, the current President. Whilst we are all sad to see the club go, we can celebrate what was a great 7 decades of community service.

ROY BAXTER

Mr RAY WILLIAMS (Castle Hill)—It is with great sadness that I inform the house of the passing of Roy Baxter, a local transport industry business owner, community member, friend and one of Castle Hill's favourite sons. Roy got his start in the transport industry in the 1940's, operating a truck carrying business, then a hire car business in Castle Hill. There were no taxis in the district at the time, so Roy would ferry people around, assisted greatly by his introduction of the two-way radio in 1956, the first in the district, albeit after an extended fight with the transport department. Originally driving Ford's, then Holden's, Roy would soon turn to the bus industry. Roy purchased the Glenorie Bus Company from George Deaman's widow; George having founded the company in the 1920's with horse drawn buses. Roy fixed up the buses himself, putting in diesel engines and giving them a new paintjob. Roy would then purchase half of the Dural Bus Company, before founding 'Baxter's Bus Lines' in 1981 with his son, Garry. Together, they operated bus routes in Western Sydney for the last 40 years. Roy was a giant of the Western Sydney transport industry, and he will be sorely missed.

DOUBLE BAY DIAMOND NETBALL LUNCH

Ms GABRIELLE UPTON (Vaucluse)—On Friday 26 August, I joined the Double Bay Diamond's Empowerment through Sport Lunch at the Cruising Yacht Club in Darling Point, along with over 70 of the Club's supporters. The Club was formed in 2013 by Gabby Brennan a teacher at Double Bay Public School who wanted to provide school-aged girls in the Eastern Suburbs with another option for out of school team sports. The Club which competes in the Randwick Netball Association Winter Competition and is now one of the largest sporting clubs in the Eastern Suburbs providing elite-level training to the developing netballer through their partnership with High Performance Netball. They have an amazing 35 teams and over 300 members. I congratulate the Club leadership including President Stephen Freund, Vice-President Shannon Donato, Secretary Gabby Brennan, Treasurer Melanie Frederiksen, Coaching Coordinator Donna Johanson, Website designer Olivia Wright, Member Protection Officer Catherine McGill and merchandise officers Georgia Powell and Deborah Thompson. Thank you for your wonderful community work and helping keep our young people fit and active.

CHRIS PLANER MP LIAISON OFFICER CANCER COUNCIL

Mr EDMOND ATALLA (Mount Druitt)—I recognise Mr Chris Planner who is a member of my electorate, for his volunteer work with the Cancer Council to support and educate the community about cancer research. Chris underwent extensive surgery after being diagnosed with a facial tumour at the age of 25. He struggled for many years socially and physically following the surgery. Chris said that his life turned around when he started to work with Life Education, and he now works with the Cancer Council which is comprised of 70 per cent volunteers. Chris also teaches Community Services at TAFE assisting many people who have struggled with similar experiences to those he has confronted. I commend Chris for his hard work and dedication to assist those who suffer with cancer.

SOUTHCOAST HEALTH AND SUSTAINABILITY ALLIANCE [SHASA] - ELECTRIC VEHICLE EXPO

Dr MICHAEL HOLLAND (Bega)—On behalf of the Bega electorate I recognise the Southcoast Health and Sustainability Alliance and congratulate them on their successful Electric Vehicle Expo that was recently held in Batehaven on October 1. As part of their Electrify Everything campaign to help reach net zero emissions by eliminating household use of fossil fuels, this South Coast first was a roaring success with an estimated 800 to 1000 people in attendance, some even coming from as far away as Bega, the Shoalhaven and Canberra. The Expo brought together several vendors and local EV owners to give residents and visitors an opportunity to learn more about electric vehicles – cars, scooters, and bikes as well as lawn mowers and outboard motors. I would like to thank SHASA for organising this fantastic event and for engaging with community service providers and residents to help educate and increase the uptake of electric vehicles in our region. Congratulations on a fantastic Expo and I hope to see this great event return in the future.

RIVER OF ART FESTIVAL

Dr MICHAEL HOLLAND (Bega)—I offer my congratulations on behalf of the Bega electorate to the organisers and volunteers who made this year's River of Art Festival possible. The event was held over 10 days and two huge weekends, spanning across the Eurobodalla. The festival included over 90 exhibitions, workshops, open studios, music, and performances, culminating with their Luminous: Art After Dark event held in the Moruya

Riverside Park. Luminous: Art After Dark was a spectacular end to the festival with their laser and light show springing from the waters of the Moruya River. This event not only provided artists an opportunity to showcase their works, but also provided local businesses with a much-needed boost following the continued effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. I would also like to congratulate Ms Freya Job on taking out the River of Art Prize for 2022 with her two works 'Lightening Strike' and 'Firestorm' which were inspired by the Black Summer Bushfires. I would like to thank everyone who worked tirelessly to pull off such a remarkable event and I look forward to attending the festival for many years to come.

SASH – OPENING CEREMONY

Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect)—It was a pleasure to officially open the new Small Animal Specialist Hospital [SASH] facility at Prospect. SASH is one of Australia's leading veterinary hospital networks. It provides a broad range of specialist and emergency medical care for dogs, cats, and other companion animals which we cherish. This state-of-the-art facility has high quality equipment, on par with that of a human hospital, and will boost local employment with over 70 specialists, veterinarians and nurses joining the team. It is so great to see firsthand the wonderful care which the staff provide to the patients at this hospital, nurturing them with the love and support they deserve. Thank you to Drs Justin Wimpole, Sandra Nguyen, and the rest of the staff for a very warm welcome at this site. I also acknowledge the many guests who were there to attend the official opening of this facility including Dr Kate Adams from Bondi Vet. Congratulations to SASH on the successful opening of this veterinary hospital. Thank you for choosing the Electorate of Prospect to open this new facility. I look forward to supporting the hospital and its staff here for many years to come.

ROYAL LIFE SAVING NSW

Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect)—On Monday 19 September 2022, it was insightful to meet with Michael Ilinsky, Chief Executive Officer, Royal Life Saving NSW to discuss the National Drowning Report, recently released, specifically concerning Western Sydney. Unfortunately, the NSW Fatal Drowning Data for the financial year of 2022 is the highest it has been in 20 years. Western Sydney remains one of the regions with the highest number of drowning incidents in NSW and current trends suggest that these figures are only going to worsen as we approach the summer season. 'Inland drowning' deaths total 56 per cent 744 of all NSW drownings since 2002. This is especially the case for Western Sydney. Waterways, lakes, rock fishing and even swimming pools pose a threat those in our community who lack sufficient swimming skills. The NSW Government must invest in further education for swimming to reduce inland drownings occurring in Western Sydney. This is very important as we approach the summer season. Thank you for visiting me Michael. I am committed to working with Royal Life Saving NSW to lower the rate of drowning. The crucial work of Royal Life Saving NSW to keep our community safe is greatly appreciated.

DUSSEHRA EXHIBITION – GRANVILLE

Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect)—It was a pleasure to be invited to attend the Dussehra Exhibition in Granville, hosted by you U Creations, on Sunday 18th September 2022. Dussehra is a major Hindu festival celebrating the victory of good over evil. It also marks the beginnings of preparations for Diwali, the festival of light, which is celebrated twenty days afterwards. This exhibition was a remarkable showcase of Hindu culture and it was fantastic to learn more about the festival of Dussehra, its customs, as well as significance to the Hindu faith. Importantly, the exhibition also promoted the multiculturalism found within our Western Sydney community. This was achieved through the many holding stalls displaying cultural costumes, jewellery, kids wear, and traditional food. The promotion of women at this exhibition was also a highlight. The Women in Business Forum was also a great feature of this event, encouraging more women to be involved in the business community, inspiring them to meet their potential. Thank you to Urmi Talukdar, Founder, U Creations for inviting me to this event. I am looking forward to attending exhibitions celebrating Dussehra in the future.

BEAR BIT

Mr JAMES GRIFFIN (Manly—Minister for Environment and Heritage)—On Friday 5 August the NSW Parliament hosted the finals of the 13th Bearpit public speaking competition. Students from twelve primary schools across Manly spoke. The bearpit was first held in 2009 and was the brainchild of former Balgowlah North Primary School Principal Vicki Treble and former member for Manly Mike Baird. The Bear Pit includes class, year and school level competitions to develop public speaking, writing and critical thinking skill for students in the Manly Electorate. All 24 of the speakers were fantastic, demonstrating public speaking skills well beyond the years. I would like to extend a special congratulations to Aliyah Gannon of Manly West Public School who won the stage two competition and runner up Matisse Moreau of St Marys Catholic School. Further congratulations to Ella Barnett of Manly West Public School who won the stage three competition and runner up Sophie Mooring from Balgowlah Heights public school. I cannot even begin to share how proud I am of all the students. They did an amazing job, and our future is in safe hands.

**The House adjourned, pursuant to standing and sessional orders, at 23:11 until
Wednesday 12 October 2022 at 9:30.**